

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH

(ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON)

Staffed by the Josephites since 1952

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 21, 2024



4600 REED ROAD, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77051-2857
Parish Office: 713.738.2311 Fax: 713.738.3337
Emergency Contact: 409.963.5633 CCE: 713.731.2775
Parish Hall: 713.731.2725 SVdP Food Pantry: 713.731.2716
WEB Address: <http://www.sfxhouston.com>
E-MAIL: stfrancishou@sfxhouston.com
Parish Office Hours: Tues-Wed 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Fri 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.; Closed on Mon & Thur
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/StFrancisXavierCatholicChurchHouston> YouTube: St. Francis Xavier Houston

MISSION STATEMENT

We, with the grace of the Holy Spirit, proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ as expressed in the beliefs and traditions of the Holy Roman Catholic Church. Through a passion for righteousness and consciousness of duty to God, we uphold the faithful worship of God in our mission to our church family and the Sunnyside Community.

PASTOR:

Vy. Rev. Michael Thompson, SSJ

DEACONS:

Michael V. Jenkins
Darryl K. Drenon

Frank J. Laugermann (Retired)

PARISH SECRETARY

Shirley M. Foreman.....x113

DIR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Unella Baber.....x103

ADULT FORMATION (RCIA)

Deacon Michael V. Jenkins

SVdP FOOD PANTRY

Curtis Jones 713.731.2716

CONTRIBUTIONS/MEMBERSHIP

Agnes Thompson

HALL MANAGER

Hilton S. Williams 713.542.0120

PLANT MANAGER/MAINTENANCE

Curtis Jones

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Sat: Vigil 5:00 p.m.

Sun: 7:30 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Weekday: 7:00 a.m.

First Friday: 7:00 a.m.

Holy Days: 7:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m.

CONFESSIONS

One (1) hour before Weekend Masses or by appointment

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:

First Friday: 7:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

CHOIR REHEARSALS:

Adult Choirs

Wednesdays: 6:30p.m.

Thursdays: 7:00p.m.

Youth Choir

4th Saturdays: 12:00 Noon

CHOIR DIRECTORS:

Jerry Givens 281.772.9276

Daniel Guerrero 281.723.9948

Mikayla Peugh

BIBLE STUDY/ADULT CATHECHISM:

SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

VISITATION OF THE SICK

Communion for the sick and shut-in is available. Please call the parish office to make arrangements.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Please call the parish office for information. Preparation classes are required for parents and godparents. Classes are held on the 1st and 2nd Thursdays of the month from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Call the Parish Office to register for the class.

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Please contact a priest a minimum of six months prior to your proposed wedding date.

WELCOME VISITORS/NEWCOMERS

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MASS INTENTIONS		
SAT	04/20/2024	5:00PM
	<i>People of the Parish</i>	
SUN.	04/21/2024	7:30AM
	<i>Terry Johnson Siblings (D)</i>	
	Theresa Baltrip	
SUN.	04/21/2024	10:00AM
	<i>Jermaine Walker (D) – Theresa Chambers</i>	
MON.	04/22/2024	NO MASS
	<i>Wesley Wiltz (D)</i>	
	Anna R. Wiltz & Family	
TUE.	04/23/2024	NO MASS
	<i>Patrick Nwokobia (D)</i>	
	The Nwokobia Family	
WED.	04/24/2024	NO MASS
	<i>Vivian Willis (D) – Annette Willis</i>	
THUR	04/25/2024	NO MASS
	<i>Linda Austin (D) – Liz Wiley</i>	
FRI	04/26/2024	NO MASS
	<i>Clara Curry (D) – Kenneth & Mable Dyer</i>	
SAT	04/27/2024	5:00PM
	<i>Dcn Albert Henry (D) – The Family</i>	



Karl Antoine the Brother of Odessa Broussard, and **Stephenson Joseph Garrick, Jr.**, the Nephew of Paul Garrick, Jr, passed away recently. Eternal Rest Grant unto their souls.

Alfred Joseph Robair, Jr the Brother-in-Law of Rev. Henry Davis, SSJ passed away on April 6, 2024, one day before his 58th birthday. A Funeral Mass was celebrated on April 19th in New Orleans, LA. Eternal Rest Grant unto his soul.



Father Thompson will be on vacation beginning Monday, April 22nd thru Friday, April 26th. There will be no morning Masses this week. Be assured that all Mass Intentions scheduled for this time period will be made during Father Thompson's private Mass on the scheduled day. Please pray for Father's safe travels and return.

ATTENDANCE

In-person Mass attendance on Saturday, April 13th and Sunday, April 14th was **443**. The 7:30am Livestream received **102** views online. Please join us via YouTube Livestream, or bring a friend to come worship with us in the church.



Please Pray for... Donald Abraham, Dcn Alfred Abram, Akaycia Addison, Azielee Addison, Kayne Addison, Nathan Addison IV, Alexis Alfred, Felecia Baul, Savannah Blackwell, Hazel S. Brown, Augustina Buckman, Tommy Burton, Amber Byas, Julius Cadoree, Margaret Cadoree, Nancy Calvin, Nathaniel Campbell, Sterling Certenberg, Dalton Cooper Jr, Frank Davis Sr, Rev. Henry Davis SSJ, Marlene Davis, Lois Epps, Barbara Forte, Lawrence Frank, Anthony Gobert, Betty Goodwin, Audrey DeCuir Grant, Beulah Hadrick, Mary Hamilton, Alvin J. Hebert, Donald Henderson, Anthony Hicks, Diane Houston-Hawkins, Crystal Jackson, Freddy Jackson, Natalie Johnson, Brooke Joseph, Shirley Ann Joseph, Kennedy Family Members, JoAnn LaSane, Roy Lee, Hilary Ledet, Hazel Lewis, Laurenzia Lewis, Jimmie Mack, Eugene Mallery, Charles Martin, Shannon Martin, Diane Miles, Dorothy Milstead, Cookie Mooring, Vy. Rev. William L. Norvel SSJ, Carolyn Ollison, Angela Pena, Cynethia Pichon, Percy Pichon Sr, Robin Pichon-Mosley, Catherine Pierre, Mildred Pierre, Marcelle Prevost, Melody Ratcliff, Effie Rems, Elise Richmond, John & Christine Roberts, Wilson Robertson, Oliver Rose, Brian Russell, Grace Russell, Vy. Rev. Michael K. Saah-Buckman SSJ, Basharn Shanklin, Joyce Smith, Joyce Stagg, Jeffery Steptoe, Mackenzie Swanks, Kennedi Swanks, Erma Taylor, Craig Temple, Melvin Thomas, Gemma Walcott, Agnes Williams, Patricia Williams, Terrell Wilson, Janice Woods, Gail Young and all the sick and shut-in in our parish family.

Let us Know: Call the Parish Office when you and/or a family member are ill, in the hospital, or having surgery.

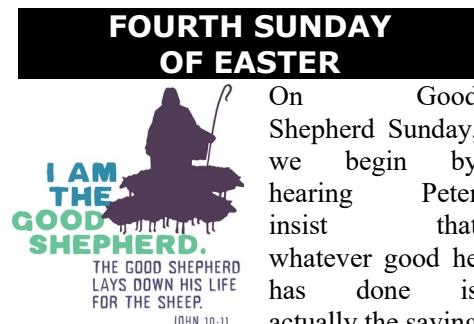
Lord, we pray for all our current military service members who put their own lives on the line every day to protect our families and our country.

Army: Barbara Baber, Sade Beck, Wadie Troy Butler, Patrick Clay Jr, Kalah A. Guidry, Kerry Hubbard, Kory Hubbard, LaTroy King, Gary Christian Robertson, Anthony Lamar Smith II, Jordan T. McCorkle, Essence L. Casteel

Navy: Alvin Balthazar, Debreaanna Brown, Jermaine Ceaser, Kevin Crockett, Courtney Harris, Nia D. Hawkins-Camp, Xavier Henry, Randolph J. Navy III, Anthony N. Russell

Air Force: Samuel Houston, Roderick Jones, Joshua Creeks, Joffre Lander

Marines: Reginald Ward



On Good Shepherd Sunday, we begin by hearing Peter insist that whatever good he has done is actually the saving work of Jesus Christ. It is by his death and resurrection that we can be healed, that we can be saved. Once rejected, Jesus has become the cornerstone. John asserts that we are all God's children. Jesus calls himself the Good Shepherd, who will even lay down his life for his sheep. Let us listen to God's word, grateful that the cornerstone of our faith is our Good Shepherd.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sunday – April 21 <i>4th Sunday of Easter</i> Acts 4:8-112 Psalm 118:1, 8-9, 21-23, 28-29 1 John 3:1-2 John 10:11-18
<input type="checkbox"/>	Monday – April 22 Acts 11:1-18 Psalm 42:2-3; 43:3-4 John 10:1-10
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tuesday – April 23 <i>Saint George, Martyr;</i> <i>Saint Adalbert, Bishop, Martyr</i> Acts 11:19-26 Psalm 87:1-7 John 10:22-30
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wednesday – April 24 <i>Saint Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Priest, Martyr</i> Acts 12:24—13:5 Psalm 67:2-3, 5-6, 8 John 12:44-50
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Thursday – April 25 <i>Saint Mark, Evangelist</i> 1 Peter 5:5-14 Psalm 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17 Mark 16:15-20
<input type="checkbox"/>	Friday – April 26 Acts 13:26-33 Psalm 2:6-11 John 14:1-6
<input type="checkbox"/>	Saturday – April 27 Acts 13:44-52 Psalm 98:1-4 John 14:7-14



Pre-K – 5th Grade CCE Classes
April 22nd6:00pm
 6th – 10th Grade CCE Classes
April 27th9:30am
 Pre-K – 5th Grade CCE Classes
April 29th6:00pm
 6th – 10th Grade CCE Classes
May 4th9:30am
 Pre-K – 5th Grade CCE Last Day!
May 5th10:00am
FIRST COMMUNION MASS



May 17, 2024 – July 16, 2024

This will be one of the largest Eucharistic pilgrimages in history. Just as crowds followed Christ throughout his earthly ministry, our nation will process with our Eucharistic Lord over 6,500 miles—through cities, along highways, and past rural towns—on his way to the 10th National Eucharistic Congress. The southern arm of the Pilgrimage will depart from the tip of Texas in Brownsville, wind around the Gulf of Mexico—an area chosen for its deep Catholic roots—and pass through the southeastern region of the United States on its way to Indianapolis for the 10th National Eucharistic Congress. On July 16, 2024, all four branches of this historic Pilgrimage will converge in Indianapolis for the 10th National Eucharistic Congress—a milestone within the Revival and a historic moment for the Church in the U.S.

Catholic Home Missions Appeal



Next week we will take up the Catholic Home Missions Appeal. Today,

nearly 40% of dioceses in the United States and its territories are unable to fund the essential pastoral work their communities need. Your support of this appeal helps them meet these faith formation and sacramental needs. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this appeal. More information can be found at www.usccb.org/home-missions.



Travel with Fr. Thompson on a Pilgrimage to Italy on Oct 13-21, 2024. We will visit Rome, Assisi, Milan, Tuscany, Florence and Venice. The cost is \$4,299.00

which includes:

- Flights from anywhere in the United States and flights between countries as per your itinerary
 - Daily Mass
 - Airport Taxes, Security Fees & Fuel Surcharges
 - Transfers as per itinerary
 - Transportation with luxury bus
 - 4 or 5 star hotels in downtown areas
 - All breakfasts and all dinners. Wine Included with all dinners.
 - All tips to driver, hotel, and tour guide
 - Guided Tours and Tour Fees
 - Luggage handling
 - Single Supplement
 - Passengers will never be expected to pay extra for anything
- To register, please contact **(855) 842-8001** or **(508) 340-9370**. You can also register online at: www.proximotravel.com.



Parking Lot Construction will begin on April 29th. We appreciate your patience during this process. Our goal is to enhance your parking experience, but this may cause temporary inconvenience. Please bear with us as we work diligently to improve the parking facilities.

Key Points:

- Construction activities may affect traffic flow and parking availability.
- Safety First: Follow any posted signs and directions from construction personnel.
- When necessary, consider using alternative parking areas.
- Thank You for your understanding as we strive to create a better parking environment for everyone.

Did you know that Catholics can make an Act of Spiritual Communion?

When unable to receive Holy Communion, pray the prayer below:

A Prayer for Spiritual Communion
My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, Come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen

Stewardship Reflection

That we take time in daily silent prayer to talk and listen for Jesus’ voice. “I am the good shepherd...and I lay down my life for the sheep...and they will heed my voice.” John 10:14-16 When you pray, do you only ask Jesus for the things that you want? Do you ever ask Jesus what He wants from you? How do you listen for His response? Many times Jesus responds in “quiet whispers” that are not so obvious. So, take time every day, in silence, to actively listen for His voice.



SAVE THE DATE

May 18, 2024 – 10:00am
St. Francis of Assisi Church- 5102 Dabney St.

A Mass of Remembrance honoring Venerable Henriette DeLille, foundress of The Sisters of Holy Family of New Orleans. Principle Celebrant is Bishop Italo Dell’Oro, CRS; Homilist is Very Rev. Michael L. Thompson, SSJ. A women’s choir will provide music for the liturgy. We are currently seeking participation of female singers. The next two rehearsals are scheduled as follows:

Sunday, April 28th, 2:00pm-4:00pm
 St. Mary of the Purification
 3006 Rosedale 77004

Sunday, May 5th, 2:00pm-4:00pm
 St. Francis of Assisi
 5102 Dabney St 77026

If interested in singing, contact Barbara Brandyberg at (832) 407-2756 or bbrandyberg@gmail.com, or Angela Doucette at (713) 560-1572 or angelatdoucette@gmail.com.

Rehearsal walk-ins are also welcomed!



My Sheep Hear My Voice and They Follow Me

Happy 4th Sunday of Easter! In the Gospel today, Jesus compares Himself to a shepherd protecting His sheep, promising His disciples that He will hold them securely in His hands.

Jesus illustrates His teaching by referring to shepherds and sheep. It's about the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep.

Jesus is the shepherd and we are His sheep.

And He knows each of us by name.

And Jesus, as our Good Shepherd, is giving each of us a gift. He offers us the gift of eternal life. Jesus says, **"I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish."**

Jesus gives us eternal life by sacrificing His. Jesus serves us, His sheep. For sheep, usually it's the other way around.

You see, brothers and sisters, sheep are usually kept either to be eaten or turned into sweaters. The sheep are the sacrifice.

But Jesus doesn't have that in mind for us, His sheep. He is not leaving us to be eaten up by the world as lamb chops.

Jesus says that **"no one can take them out of my hand."**

The Good News today is that we are His. We are in His hands.

We have His love. We are in His flock.

And, as members of His flock, we must listen to Jesus' voice.

He says today, **"My sheep hear my voice, I know them, and they follow me."**

So, in order to have His gift of eternal life, we must listen to Jesus' voice and follow Him. We have to tune our minds to the sound of His voice. We must recognize Jesus' voice out of the many voices we may hear.

It reminds me of when I was young and how I recognized my mother's voice. I would be outside down the street playing with my friends and it would get late. My mother would call "Darryl!" and I knew it was her. I would stop what I was doing and run home.

So, here's the question, how do we know our Shepherd's voice? How do we know Jesus' voice?

As His sheep, there are various ways that we can hear Jesus' voice.

We can hear His voice in His Word.

In order to actually "hear" from God, we have to know some things about God's character. We have to develop an understanding of who God is, and the way He does things. He speaks to us when we read the Bible.

2 Timothy 3:16 says that all Scripture is **"God-breathed."** His Word sometimes gives us a warning, a word of encouragement, or a lesson for life.

Have you ever had something on your heart and when you opened the bible and picked a passage, it spoke to that very thing that was on your heart? It has definitely happened to me.

Another way we can hear our Shepherd's voice is through others.

We can hear Jesus' voice in the voices of those we encounter. God will use other people to try to get through to us. God may use a friend, a teacher, a parent, or someone religious, to convey His message of truth to us.

I can remember the many times God spoke to me through others. The many times God was calling me to be a Deacon, I had the validation that He was calling me through others. He sent messages to me through sermons that I heard, through people I met in public, through friends and family, and even through a Parishioner in our choir.

Another way we can hear our Shepherd's voice is through our inner voice.

Sometimes God speaks to us in the tiny voice inside of us. It could be that thought that keeps cropping up in our mind. The tiny voice could be telling us that we are not on the right path and need to go in a different direction. It could be telling us to pursue a calling that we have been resisting.

The tiny voice could be Jesus telling us to go help someone who is in need.

Some people say, "my mind told me something" which is that inner voice.

The inner voice can be, at times, tough to discern whether it is our Shepherd's voice or OUR voice. And so how do we know?

This is where prayer is important. We pray and ask God if it is His voice that we are hearing and not our own. We must pray and ask God if it's His voice we are hearing and not the world's.

And this is another way that we can hear our Shepherd's voice.

We can hear it through prayer and quiet time.

God often speaks to us through His Spirit, through prayer. Prayer is a conversation with God. We get to know God through prayer. It should be two way.

When we pray, then, we should also listen. We can listen when we have that quiet time with Him. We can pray and ask Him to speak to us. Then we have to sit still to listen.

Setting aside the quiet time to hear his voice is probably the most challenging in today's world. We always have some sort of noise going on.

- For some of us, there is always a TV or music on.
- I know some people who watch ESPN all day to keep up with sports.
- Some people watch new channels all day long to try to keep up with all of the news that our government is creating.
- For some, it's these smartphones that keep our attention.
- For some of our youth, it's video games or You Tube or TikTok .

So, if we want to hear His voice, we have to make time for Him by eliminating the 'noise'.

Brothers and Sisters, these are a few ways we can hear and **know our Shepherd's voice.**

Does God speak to all of us the same way? No, we are all unique. Are these the only ways God speaks today? No. He's a creative God. He speaks in so many ways, including through miracles, music, dreams, visions, etc.

Regardless of the way God chooses to reveal Himself or "speak" to us today, let us remember one truth. He will never contradict His Word, and the message He gives will always bring glory to God. Let us be aware today that He speaks to us and let us be ever conscious that He can use all things to communicate with us...to follow Him, the Good Shepherd. *Deacon Darryl K. Drenon*

Save
the
Date

***Black Catholic Women:
Called, Blessed, and Sent***



**WHAT: 5TH NATIONAL BLACK
CATHOLIC WOMEN'S
GATHERING**

**WHEN: FRIDAY, JULY 26 -
SUNDAY, JULY 28, 2024**

WHERE: LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

MORE INFORMATION TO COME

Join Black Catholic women from across the diaspora as we gather to identify, celebrate, energize and set an agenda to motivate intergenerational Black Catholic Women to engage our talents for becoming and forming missionary disciples active in Church and society for the glory of God and the spiritual and social liberation of Black people.

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**For more information contact NBSC Office:
NBSC@NBSC68.ORG**

Jesus said, "I am the Good Shepherd."

Find and circle these hidden objects in the picture.

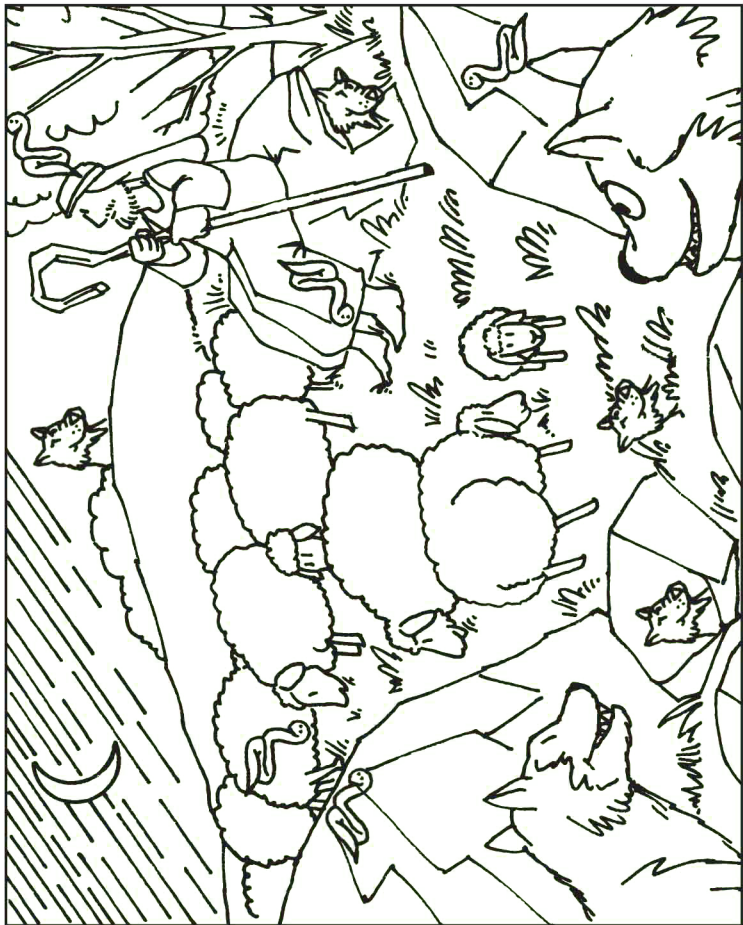


The Shepherd and His Flock

A good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep.

Count how many.

4 or 5 ? 5 or 6 ?



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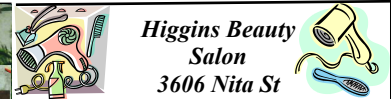
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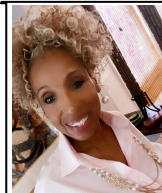


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