ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH

(ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON)

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

JANUARY 7, 2024



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Parish Hall: 713.731.2725

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

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., 12:15pm

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

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.

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

To register, call or come by the parish office or visit our website at:www.sfxhouston.com





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Donald Abraham, Dcn Alfred

MASS INTENTIONS

SAT. 01/06/2024 5:00PM Hal Tracy Bobino (D) - Family & Friends SUN. 01/07/2024 7:30AM People of the Parish SUN. 01/07/2024 10:00AM U.L. Louis Biagas (D) – Patricia Session SUN. 01/07/2024 12:15PM Lealer Joan Craig (D) The Mayon Family MON. 1/08/2024 10:00AM Howard Prescott (L) Florence McChristian & Wanda Johnson TUE. 1/09/2024 7:00AM Joseph Duplechaine (D) The Duplechaine Family WED. 1/10/2024 7:00AM Michele Anderson Nwokobia (L) The Nwokobia Family THUR 7:00AM 1/11/2024 Herbert Goodwin, Jr (D) The Goodwin Family FRI 1/12/2024 7:00AM Jessica Willis (D) Bernadette Williams & Family SAT 1/13/2024 5:00PM

2024 MASS INTENTIONS

Jeanette Haller (D) – Pat Hebert

Why do Catholics offer Masses for the dead? When we die in God's friendship we eventually go to Heaven, but if we haven't properly atoned for certain sins we must be purified. Matt. 5:48 – Jesus says, "be perfect, even as your heavenly Father is perfect." We are only made perfect through purification, and in Catholic teaching, this purification, if not completed on earth, is continued in a transitional state we call purgatory. The guidelines in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston allows for only one (1) Mass Intention per Mass. Many of the dates that you have requested for Mass Intentions in 2024 could not be accommodated under these stipulations. We have moved your Intentions to the next available date. Remember, the Mass is offered for your loved one even if you are not in attendance. New Mass Intention Forms will be available on the Parish Website soon.

MASS SCHEDULE CHANGE!

Please note that we will discontinue the 12:15pm Mass beginning Sunday, February 4, 2024.



Abram. Akavcia Addison, Azielee Addison. Kayne Addison, Nathan Addison IV, Alexis Alfred. Kellv Batiste, Savannah Blackwell, Hazel S. Brown, Augustina Buckman, Amber Byas, Julius Cadoree, Margaret Cadoree, Nancy Calvin, Sterling Certenberg, Dalton Cooper Jr, Frank Davis Sr, Rev. Henry Davis SSJ, Marlene Davis, Lois Epps, Annabelle Fontenot, Paul Albert Forbes, Barbara Forte, Lawrence Frank, Charlotte Gilbert, Anthony Gobert, Betty Goodwin, Angela Levine Green, Beulah Hadrick, Mary Hamilton, Mason Harrison, Alvin J. Hebert, Donald Henderson, Floyd Henderson, Anthony Hicks, Crystal Jackson, Natalie Johnson, Brooke Joseph, Shirley Ann Joseph, Kennedy Family Members, JoAnn LaSane, Roy Lee, Pat Ledet, Hazel Lewis, Hilary & Laurenzia Lewis, Jimmie Mack, Eugene Mallery, Charles Martin, Shannon Martin, Diane Miles, Dorothy Milstead, Cookie Mooring, Vy. Rev. William L. Norvel SSJ, Carolyn Ollison, Betty Patrick, Angela Pena, Cynethia Pichon, Percy Pichon Sr, Robin Pichon-Mosley, Catherine Pierre, Mildred Pierre, Marcelle Prevost. Melody Ratcliff. Richmond, John & Christine Roberts, Oliver Rose, Brian Russell, Grace Russell, Vy. Rev. Michael K. Saah-Buckman SSJ, Steven Singleton, Joyce Smith, Joyce Stagg, Jeanette Steptoe, Mackenzie Swanks, Kennedi Swanks, Erma Taylor, Craig Temple, Melvin Thomas, Gemma Walcott, Marie White, Agnes Williams, Patricia Williams, Jamee Wilson, Jamie Wilson, Rockale Wilson, Terrell Wilson, Janice Woods, and all the sick and shut-in in our parish family. Call the Parish Office when you and/or a family member are ill, in the hospital, or having surgery. After 30 days, please call the office to remain on this list.

Lord, we pray for all our military service members.

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, Debreanna Brown, Jermaine Ceaser, Kevin Crockett, Courtney Harris, Nia D. Hawkins, Xavier Henry, Randolph J. Navy III, Anthony N. Russell Air Force: Roderick Jones, Joshua Creeks, Joffre Lander Marines: Reginald Ward

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



When Isaiah wrote the poem that hear we today, the Israelites had just returned from decades of exile in Babylon. Judah devastated was and left desolate. but Isaiah saw it through eyes of

faith. The magi must have seen with eyes of faith as well in order to present a newborn in a feeding trough with expensive gifts of gold, frankincese and myrrh. As members of the one body of Christ, let us listen to God's word with ears of faith, recognizing ourselve in those who come to praise and worship the Lord.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

☐ Sunday – January 7

The Epiphany of the Lord Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13 Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6 Matthew 2:1-12

☐ Monday – January 8

The Baptism of the Lord Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 or Acts 10:34-38 Psalm 29:1, 2, 3-4, 9-10 Mark 1:7-11

■ Tuesday – January 9

1 Samuel 1:9-20 (Psalm) 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-8 Mark 1:21-28

■ Wednesday – January 10

1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20 Psalm 40:2, 5, 7-10

Mark 1:29-39

Thursday – January 11

1 Samuel 4:1-11

Psalm 44:10-11, 14-15, 25-26 Mark 1:40-45

☐ Friday – January 12

1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22 Psalm 89:16-19

Mark 2:1-12

■□□ Saturday – January 13

Saint Hilary, Bishop & Doctor of the Church 1 Samuel 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1 Psalm 21:2-7

Mark 2:13-17



Pre-K -5th Grades
Jan 15th

NO CCE - MLK HOLIDAY

Jan 20th9:30am

Pre-K -5th Grades

MLK Mass



Most Rev. Daniel Cardinal DiNardo cordially invites our archdiocesan family to the 39th Annual Observance of the birthday of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The MLK Mass of Remembrance will be held Sunday, January 14, 2024, at the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, at 3:00pm, with Rev. Martins C. Emeh, J.C.L., Pastor of St. Monica Parish, as Homilist. For further information, please contact Deborah Ledet at (713) 652-8203 or dladet@archgh.org Reception to follow.



Ministers of Hospitality will meet on Tuesday, January 9th, at 2:00pm in the Harris Center Auditorium.



The SFX Prison Ministry will meet in the Harris Center Auditorium on

Wednesday, **January 10th**, at 6:00pm. Call **(713) 446-4279**, or email us for additional information:

makeitbetter4us23@gmail.com

ATTENDANCE

In-person Mass attendance on Saturday, December 30th and Sunday, December 31st was **419** and the 7:30am Sunday Mass Livestream received **80** views. Please join us via YouTube Livestream, or bring a friend to come worship with us in the church.



Alfred Greene passed away at the age of 64 yrs. Funeral arrangements are pending. Eternal rest grant unto his soul.

Dwight Wayne Stein passed away on December 19th at the age of 67 yrs. A Funeral Mass was celebrated on January 4th. The family wants to thank everyone for the support and prayers in the time of our sorrow in the sudden death of our loved one. Eternal rest grant unto his soul.



The **55+ Club** will host a Bus Trip to the Paragon Casino in Marksville, LA on Saturday, **January**

13th. The Bus will load at 6:30am and depart from St. Francis Xavier at 7:00am. We will leave Paragon at 7:00pm. Breakfast and an Afternoon snack is included. Fun Activities on the Bus will include: Bingo for cash prizes, good soul and jazz music, action packed movies and "good vibes" The Cost is \$40.00 per person. Contact: Wanda Johnson (832) 492-5088 or Julia Dean (713) 530-4877.



Thank you to **Dorothy Auzenne**, **Dorothy Scott**, **Delores Archer** & **Bertha Lewis** for preparing Christmas Gift Bags which were delivered to our Sick & Shut-in Parishioners. Your act of kindness is the true meaning of Christmas!



God has blessed us with another New Year! You are invited to commit to giving tithes and

offerings by completing a *Call to Stewardship Intention Card.* These cards were mailed in your January Envelope packet. If you do not receive envelopes, we have cards in the vestibule of the church and the Parish Office.

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, like the Magi, we generously share our gifts with the Lord, trusting He will provide all that we need. "They fell down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." - Matthew 2:11 Notice the order of events in the Magi's visit. First, they knelt before Jesus and prayed to Him. Then they presented Him with their gifts. We, too, must take time to pray before we present our gifts to the Lord. We never know what God may be asking us to share!



The new year is filled with hope and promise as we seek to grow our vital

ministries, explore new ways to share the good news of Christ's love, and reflect His care and mercy to those in need throughout the community. To continue to make a difference in 2024, St. Francis Xavier is reaching out to our parishioners. Begin the new year with eGiving to help sustain and build ministries throughout 2024 that reflect the steadfast promise of God's love. The need is great in our community, and your generous online gifts will help people all around us. We prayerfully request that you consider signing up for eGiving from your computer, smartphone or tablet. You can set up a recurring donation or make a one-time gift by by visiting faith.direct/TX632 or calling 866-507-8757. Thank you for your continued support of our parish family. God Bless You,

Rev. Michael L. Thompson, SSJ





All Are Welcome

This Sunday we celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany. This is one of the oldest feasts in the Church Calendar. Most probably, the Church celebrated the Epiphany even before it celebrated the Nativity, at Christmas. There are three epiphanies recognized by the Church: the manifestation of the Lord to the magi, the baptism of the Lord by John the Baptist, and the first public miracle in the Gospel of John, the changing of water into wine. The Eastern Catholic Churches and the Orthodox Churches celebrate all three Epiphanies together as one event. The Western Catholic Church, the Roman Catholic Church, divides up these celebrations into three liturgical celebrations. Our focus today is on the magi. Who were these men, sometimes called kings? We don't know a whole lot about them.

The main thing we know is that they were not Jewish. And this is significant. A few days after the birth of the Lord, gentiles, pagans, were summoned to follow a star to Israel where the One that had been waited for throughout the ages was born. They followed the star because they were good people honestly seeking God's will. It must have been quite a sight when they arrived in Israel. They were foreigners, but not just any foreigners. They held positions powerful enough for them to merit an audience with Herod. Herod was troubled by their visit, and with him all of Jerusalem. Who were these men, and what did they want from their king.

They inquired not about Herod, but to give homage to the newborn king of the Jews. There was a baby out there somewhere who would replace Herod? And this is when the trouble started. The chief priests and scribes of Israel could only tell Herod about the ancient prophecy that a ruler would come from Bethlehem. If these three magi, in their own time were considered kings, and they could create such a stir in Jerusalem, imagine what it had to be like when they arrived in Bethlehem, paid respect to Herod and then went to the house by now, where Mary, Joseph and Jesus were staying. Even more amazing, these rich pagans prostrated themselves before the child Jesus and gave him gifts: gold, frankincense and myrrh. Why would rich pagans be interested in the Jewish Messiah we might ask?

This encounter happened so that the gentiles could be accepted as part of God's plan for His people. All people was to be saved beyond the consideration of the Jews alone. But the mystery that had been hidden for generations was now revealed: the gentiles were to be co-heirs with the Jews, members of the same body, co-partners in the promise of Jesus Christ, as Paul proclaims in today's second reading from Ephesians. Jesus Christ came for all people. None were to be excluded from the Grace of God that He would bring. We, Catholics, people whose very name means universal, must be careful that we recognize that all people are called to the Grace of God given by Jesus Christ. It is so easy for us to exclude people. In fact, we have been trained by our society to compartmentalize people into various groups, by race, economics, social status, gender, etc.. We are told that the Jews behave this way. The Italians that way, the Irish another way, the Americans another, and Africans another way, and the French (well they) don't behave at all, just a joke(lol). We can easily decide who belongs worshiping the Lord and who really shouldn't be there. We prejudicially decide that whole groups of people must be immoral, unworthy and shouldn't enjoy the gifts of the Church.

Thank God no one, King Herod or the Israelite people had the right to exclude people from worshiping Jesus, Emmanuel, who is the Gift of Bethlehem and the World. In a similar way, we don't have the right to exclude people from receiving the charity of the Church. Jesus Christ brings us together as God intended, for us to be all one without prejudice, sisters and brothers in Gods' grace. We hear and respond to the profound voice of God to love one another. As we move from the Christmas season, let us resolve to be better Christians and be welcoming to all Gods people.

Vy. Rev. Michael Thompson, SSJ



St. Francis Xavier Parish Hall 4600 Reed Rd Houston, TX 77051 (713) 738-2311



Find letters in the clouds

below to fill in the blanks.

14 A (B) C (D) E (F) G (H) I (J) K (L) M (N) O (P) Q (R) S (T) U (V) W (X) Y (Z) 13

A voice from heaven said,

13 က 9/10 Ξ ω 13 "

Ŋ ω 4/5 12 2/8 ∞ 10 10/11 4/5 2 12 က 11/12 ∞ 2/9

2 Ξ ∞ 13

2/9 2/9 က 12 2/3 က 10 က 2/9 6/8

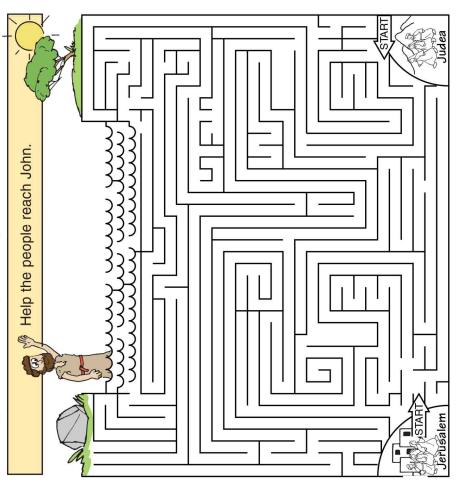


Ages 7+

January 7, 2024 • Mark 1:4-11

John the Baptizer

countryside to be baptized by John in the Jordan River. People came from Jerusalem and the Judean

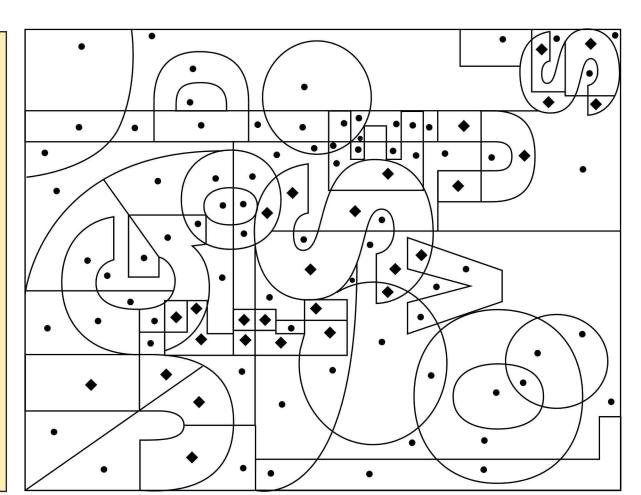






John said, "One more powerful than I will come."

Shade in the spaces with \(\Phi \) to find out who.

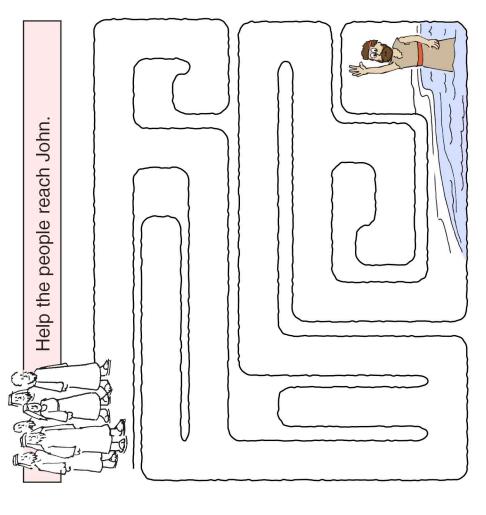




Iohn the Rant

John the Baptizer

John preached to the people.



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