

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH

(ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Staffed by the Josephites since 1952

MARCH 10, 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

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

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MASS INTENTIONS		
SAT	03/09/2024	5:00PM
<i>Deceased Family Members</i> Wanda Johnson		
SUN.	03/10/2024	7:30AM
<i>Kristina M. Chaney (D)</i> Family & Friends		
SUN.	03/10/2024	10:00AM
<i>People of the Parish</i>		
MON.	03/11/2024	7:00AM
<i>Sophia Biagas Hunt (D) - Patrica Session</i>		
TUE.	03/12/2024	7:00AM
<i>Helen Kennison (D) - Tywana Navy</i>		
WED.	03/13/2024	7:00AM
<i>Living Family Members</i> Wanda Johnson		
THUR	03/14/2024	7:00AM
<i>Kristina M. Chaney (D)</i> Family & Friends		
FRI	03/15/2024	7:00AM
<i>Herbert Goodwin, Jr. (D)</i> The Goodwin Family		
SAT	03/16/2024	5:00PM
<i>Earlene & Joseph Duplechaine (D)</i> The Duplechaine Family		

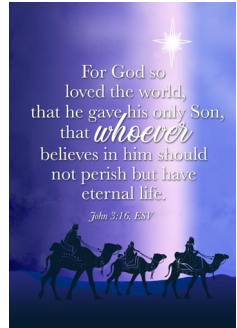


Donald Abraham, Dcn Alfred Abram, Mary Jane Albert, Felicia Baul, Hattie Blackmon, Savannah Blackwell, Hazel S. Brown, Kenyatta Brown, Michael Brown, Robert Brown, Augustina Buckman, Tommy Burton, Amber Byas, Julius Cadoree, Margaret Cadoree, Nancy Calvin, Nathaniel Campbell, Sterling Certenberg, Dalton Cooper Jr, Foley Davis, Frank Davis Sr, Rev. Henry Davis SSJ, Judy Davis, Marlene Davis, Lois Epps, Allison & Stanley Eskine, Barbara Forte, Lawrence Frank, Anthony Gobert, Betty Goodwin, Tristian Gore, Rose Guidry, Alexander Guillory Jr, Angel Guillory, Geraldine Guillory, Beulah Hadrick, Alvin J. Hebert, Donald Henderson, Jennifer Johnson, Brooke Joseph, Gregory Joseph, Shirley Ann Joseph, Kennedy Family Members, Ann & Leo Kennerson, JoAnn LaSane, Roy Lee, Hilary Ledet, Dcn Edward Levine, Hazel Lewis, Laurenzia Lewis, John Logan, Jimmie Mack, Eugene Mallery, Charles Martin, Shannon Martin, Mary Matthews, Diane Miles, Dorothy Milstead, Bahattin Mizrak, Cookie Mooring, Yusuf Muwwakkil, Vy. Rev. William L. Norvel SSJ, Carolyn Ollison, Cynethia Pichon, Percy Pichon Sr, Robin Pichon-Mosley, Catherine Pierre, Mildred Pierre, Marcelle Prevost, Melody Ratcliff, Elise Richmond, Wilson Robertson, Oliver Rose, Brian Russell, Grace Russell, Vy. Rev. Michael K. Saah-Buckman SSJ, Lillie Sims, Joyce Smith, Joyce Stagg, James Stelly, Jeanette Steptoe, Mackenzie Swanks, Kennedi Swanks, Erma Taylor, Melvin Thomas, Gemma Walcott, Agnes Williams, Patricia Williams, Jamee Wilson, Jamie Wilson, Rockale Wilson, Janice Woods, Gail Young, 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.

Lord, we pray for all our current 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-Camp, Xavier Henry, Randolph J. Navy III, Anthony N. Russell **Air Force:** Samuel Houston, Roderick Jones, Joshua Creeks, Joffe Lander **Marines:** Reginald Ward

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT



Our readings today invite us to make a choice. Centuries before Christ the people of Judah chose to turn away from God and Jerusalem was allowed to be destroyed. But the psalmist pleaded

that the people never forget the holy city. Jesus tells Nicodemus that those who prefer darkness to light condemn themselves, but those who live in the truth come to the light, where we can do the good works that Paul says flow from God's grace. May God's word inspire us to live in the truth of our faith, where God offers us everlasting mercy and love.

- READINGS FOR THE WEEK**
- **Sunday – March 10**
4th Sunday of Lent
 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23
 Psalm 137:1-6
 Ephesians 2:4-10
 John 3:14-21
 - **Monday – March 11**
 Isaiah 65:17-21
 Psalm 30:2, 4-6, 11-12, 13
 John 4:43-54
 - **Tuesday – March 12**
 Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12
 Psalm 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9
 John 5:1-16
 - **Wednesday – March 13**
 Isaiah 49:8-15
 Psalm 145:8-9, 13-14, 17-18
 John 5:17-30
 - **Thursday – March 14**
 Exodus 32:7-14
 Psalm 106:19-23
 John 5:31-47
 - **Friday – March 15**
 Wisdom 2:1, 12-22
 Psalm 34:17-21, 23
 John 7:1-2, 10
 - **Saturday – March 16**
 Jeremiah 11:18-20
 Psalm 7:2-3, 9-12
 John 7:40-53

Lenten
Worship
Schedule

Stations of the Cross
Every Friday during Lent
5:30pm
Holy Week
Palm Sunday – March 24
Holy Thursday – March 28
Mass6:00pm
(No Morning Mass)
Good Friday – March 29
Stations of the Cross..... 2:00pm
Passion Play.....3:00pm
Good Friday Service.....4:00pm
(No Mass)
Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil)
March 30
Mass.....8:00pm
(No 5:00pm Mass)
Easter Sunday - March 31
Regular Mass Schedules
7:30am and 10:00am

Today is the halfway mark of the Sundays of Lent. This Sunday is known as **Laetare Sunday** for the first word of the Introit or Entrance Antiphon *laetare* (rejoice); it is a Sunday of joy. The celebrant has the option to wear rose-colored vestments. This is also the Second Scrutiny in preparation for the baptism of adults at the Easter Vigil.



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Mar 11th & Mar 16th
NO CCE CLASSES-Spring Break

Passion Play Practice:

Mar 17th – After the 10:00am Mass

Mar 18th – 6:00pm

Mar 29th – 10:00am

Passion Play

Good Friday – Mar 29th @ 3:00pm

THIS WEEKEND'S SECOND COLLECTION

This week we take up **The Catholic Relief Services Collection** to reveal **Christ's love** to our brothers and sisters in need. This collection makes grants to six Catholic agencies that provide relief and support for struggling communities and work for peace and reconciliation among our marginalized brothers and sisters, both here and around the world. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection. Learn more about the collection at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief



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.



National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

This March, spread the word about the importance of getting regular colorectal cancer screenings, starting at age 45 years. Share the National Cancer Institute's [colorectal cancer resources](#) to help people learn about prevention, treatment, and more. Share [awareness resources](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) with your networks — and don't forget to check out [Healthy People 2030 resources](#) and [MyHealthfinder resources](#) on colorectal cancer. For more information: www.cancer.gov/types/colorectal



The Arm of ST. JUDE THE APOSTLE

is visiting the United States and is coming to the Catholic Charismatic Center at 1949 Cullen Blvd, on **March 17, 2024**.

This is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to venerate the bones of beloved St. Jude, who is the *Apostle of the Impossible*.

- Special Mass - **3:00 PM**
- Public veneration ends at **8:00 PM**

ATTENDANCE

In-person Mass attendance on Saturday, March 2nd and Sunday, March 3rd was **428**. Please join us via YouTube Livestream, or bring a friend to come worship with us in the church.

FISH FRY!
Every Friday During Lent

11:00am – 6:00pm
 Call (713) 731-2725 to place your order.

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Catfish/Trout..... \$20.00
 Extra Side Orders.....\$2.00
 Cake.....\$1.00
 Drinks.....\$1.00

DONATIONS ARE NEEDED
 GREEN BEANS (gallon size)
 WHOLE KERNAL CORN (gallon size)
 CAKES (a day or two prior)
Monetary Donations are Welcome
 We will do the shopping for you.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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 may show our gratitude for Jesus' ultimate sacrifice by generously making sacrifices in our own lives. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son..." - John 3:16 Of all the wonderful gifts that God has given to us, the gift of His own Son is truly the greatest. How can we ever thank God for a gift like that? God does not ask us to sacrifice our own precious firstborn, but He does ask that we are grateful and generous with our God-given gifts. That we nurture and develop our gifts, and in gratitude, generously give back with increase our time in prayer, our talent in charitable works and our treasure to support the mission and ministry of our parish and greater Church.



The Lenten season fills our parish with hope and promise – opportunities abound 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. With eGiving, you can help sustain and build ministries this year that reflect the 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. Sign up today by visiting faith.direct/TX632 or calling Customer Service at **866-507-8757**. Thank you for your continued support of our parish family.

God Bless You,

Vy. Rev. Michael L. Thompson, SSJ



Do you believe (cling to, trust in, and rely on) Jesus? That's our job!

In today's Second reading and the Gospel, we have the Plan of Salvation all laid out before us. St. Paul explained to the church in Ephesus, *"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so no one may boast"* (Ephesians 2:8). In other words, it's by God's favor that we are saved and delivered from condemnation and made partakers of Christ's salvation through our faith. This Salvation is **not of our own doing**, but it is the gift of God. Our Salvation was not a result of what any one of us could do, so **no one can pride themselves in it or take credit for it**.

In the Gospel reading, Jesus tells Nicodemus (who came to Jesus at night), *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. Whoever believes in Him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God"* John 3:16-18. Jesus told this Pharisee leader and teacher that God so greatly loved the world that He gave up His only Son so that whoever believes in **(trusts and relies on) Him** shall not perish (come to destruction, be lost), but have eternal **(everlasting)** life. Jesus continued to explain that he who believes (trusts in, relies on) Him incurs no rejection or damnation. He who does not believe (rely on, trust in Him) has already been convicted. He is condemned **for refusing to let his trust rest in Christ's name**. (Cf. John 3:16-18 Amplified Bible)

Some years ago I and about six other customers were waiting for shopping carts at the entrance of a grocery store. Someone must have gone inside and told the manager because he came outside and stood with his hands on his hips looking toward

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT ^(B)

March 10, 2024

Jesus said to Nicodemus: "So must the Son Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life." John 3:14-15

the parking lot. Minutes later an attendant came pushing shopping carts back to the store. The parking lot was huge, so obviously it took him some time to bring the carts in. The manager, looking so disgusted at the subordinate, said to him, **"Jonathan, you only have one job, and that's to bring the shopping carts in from the parking lot, back to the store; and you can't do**



that right." Jonathan never said a word, he just pushed those carts back into the store for the waiting customers. I got my shopping cart and looked behind me and Jonathan was headed back to the parking lot for more shopping carts. After that day I never saw Jonathan again at that location. I don't know if the store fired him or he quit, **but that image has stayed in my mind**. When I stand and face Almighty God in judgment (cf. 2 Corinthians 5:10-11) I don't know what He will tell me. I **don't** want Him to say, **"Jenkins, you had only one job on earth, and that was to believe in My Son Jesus Christ so you could have eternal life, and you couldn't do that right."** What I want Him to say to me is, *"Well done, good and faithful servant; enter into My Kingdom that I have prepared for you!"* (Cf. Matthew 25:23, John 14:2-3).

◇◇ Dcn. Jenkins



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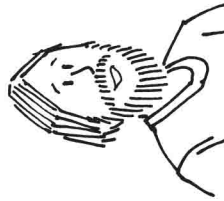



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Find the words of Jesus.



Finish the words below using these letters.
Then read the verse.

ght	en	es	ly	ne	th
tr	at	mes	h	ay	
ever	en	th	ough	as	

“Who _____ liv _____ by the _____ uth

co _____ to the li _____, so _____ at it

m _____ be se _____ plain _____ at

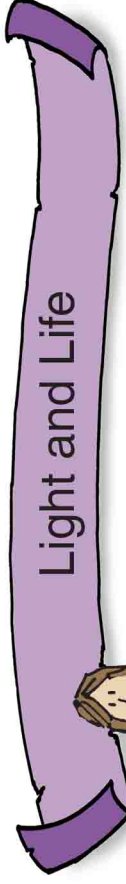
wh _____ they _____ ave do _____ h _____

be _____ thr _____ God.”

Children's Worship Bulletin™

Ages 7+

March 10, 2024 • John 3:14-21





Light and Life






If you believe in Jesus,
God promises something wonderful!
What is it?

Add and subtract words and letters.

1.  - BD +  - KI +

 - IG +  - BL = _____

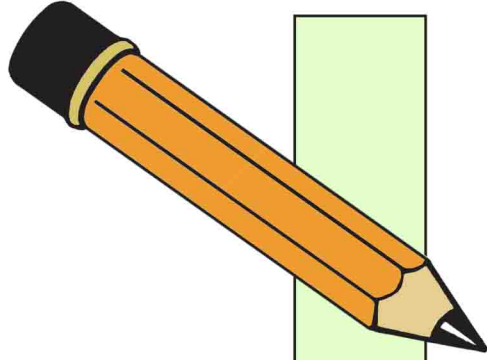
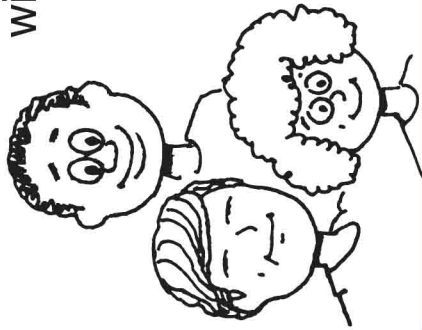
2.  - GHT +  - AN

+  - AR = _____

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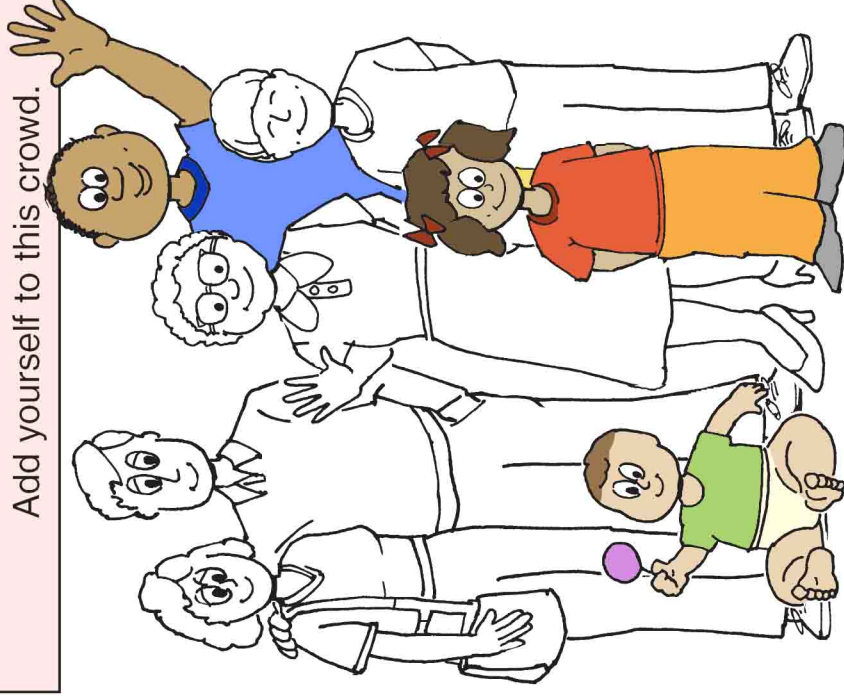
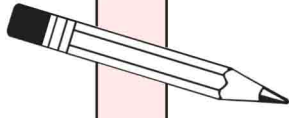
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March 10, 2024 • John 3:14-21

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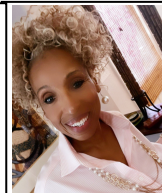


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