

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH

(ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON)

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Staffed by the Josephites since 1952

MARCH 17, 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	03/16/2024	5:00PM
<i>Earlene & Joseph Duplechaine (D)</i> The Duplechaine Family		
SUN.	03/17/2024	7:30AM
<i>Elmer W. Archer (D)</i> – The Archer Family		
SUN.	03/17/2024	10:00AM
<i>Kristina M. Chaney (D)</i> Family & Friends		
MON.	03/18/2024	7:00AM
<i>Donald & JoAnne</i> – Special Intention		
TUE.	03/19/2024	7:00AM
<i>People of the Parish</i>		
WED.	03/20/2024	7:00AM
<i>Sylvia Robertson (D)</i> – Tywana Navy		
THUR	03/21/2024	7:00AM
<i>Shirley Foreman (L)</i> – Tywana Navy		
FRI	03/22/2024	7:00AM
<i>Kristina M. Chaney (D)</i> Family & Friends		
SAT	03/23/2024	5:00PM
<i>Austin Ozili Nwokobia (D)</i> The Nwokobia Family		



Please Pray for...

Donald Abraham, Don Alfred Abram, Mary Jane Albert, Hattie Blackmon, Savannah Blackwell, Darryl Breedlove, Hazel S. Brown, Michael 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, Paul Garrick Jr, Anthony Gobert, Betty Goodwin, Rose Guidry, Beulah Hadrick, Alvin J. Hebert, Donald Henderson, Jennifer Johnson, Brooke Joseph, Shirley Ann Joseph, Kennedy Family Members, Ann & Leo Kennerson, JoAnn LaSane, Roy Lee, Hilary Ledet, Hazel Lewis, Laurenzia Lewis, John Logan, Eugene Mallery, Charles Martin, Shannon Martin, Mary Matthews, Diane Miles, Dorothy Milstead, Cookie Mooring, Vy. Rev. William L. Norvel SSJ, Michele Nwokobia, 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, Joyce Smith, Joyce Stagg, James Stelly, Jeffery Steptoe, Mackenzie Swanks, Kennedy Swanks, Erma Taylor, Melvin Thomas, Gemma Walcott, Agnes Williams, Patricia Williams, Janice Woods, 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. **After 30 days, please call the office to remain on this list.**

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, 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, Joffre Lander

Marines: Reginald Ward

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Jesus said to her,
"I am the resurrection
and the life."
John 11:25

Before we hear Jesus call Lazarus forth from the tomb, Ezekiel prophesies of the day that God will open the graves of the faithful and put a new spirit within them. Paul writes to the Romans that the Spirit of Christ will give new life to those who live in the spirit. All of this sets us up for one of the most dramatic accounts in any of the Gospels outside Christ's Passion: the raising of Lazarus from the dead. May God's word inspire us to embrace a new life in the Spirit.

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- **Sunday – March 17**
5th Sunday of Lent
 Jeremiah 31:31-34
 Psalm 51:3-4, 12-15
 Hebrews 5:7-9
 John 12:20-33
- **Monday – March 18**
Saint Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop & Doctor of the Church
 Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62
 or 13:41-62
 Psalm 23:1-6
 John 8:1-11
- **Tuesday – March 19**
Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 2 Samuel 7:4-5, 12-14, 16
 Psalm 89:2-5, 27, 29
 Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22
 Luke 2:41-51
- **Wednesday – March 20**
 Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95
 (Psalm) Daniel 3:52-56
 John 8:31-42
- **Thursday – March 21**
 Genesis 17:3-9
 Psalm 105:4-9
 John 8:51-59
- **Friday – March 22**
 Jeremiah 20:10-13
 Psalm 18:2-7
 John 10:31-42
- **Saturday – March 23**
Saint Turibus of Mogrovejo, Bishop
 Ezekiel 37:21-28
 (Psalm) Jeremiah 31:10-13
 John 11:45-56

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1956-2024



Passion Play Practice:

Mar 17th – After the 10:00am Mass

Mar 18th – 6:00pm

Mar 29th – 10:00am

Mar 18th6:00pm

6th-10th Grades

Mar 23rd9:30am

Pre-K – 5th Grades

Mar 25th6:00pm

6th-10th Grades

Mar 29th3:00pm

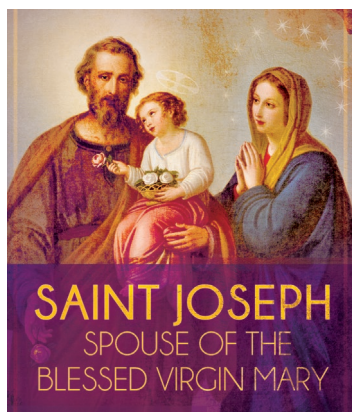
Good Friday Passion Play

Mar 30th

NO CCE CLASSES – Holy Saturday

Apr 1st

NO CCE CLASSES – Easter Monday



SOLEMNITY OF ST. JOSEPH

St. Joseph has two feast days on the liturgical calendar. The first is **March 19—Joseph, the Husband of Mary**. The second is **May 1—Joseph, the Worker**. On March 19th, we celebrate the holiness in the midst of unpredictable fatherhood. We first meet Joseph when he discovers his betrothed is pregnant...and not by him! St. Joseph does not know who the father is (yet), but he knows the punishment for adultery is death. He decides to divorce Mary quietly, and thus save her life. When an angel appears to reveal that Mary is pregnant by the Holy Spirit, St. Joseph trusts his dream and marries her. As a new foster father, Joseph must help his wife give birth in a stable. Later, he needs to escape the threats to his son's life by immigrating with his family to a foreign land. We know that St. Joseph is faithful, brave, and willing to sacrifice for those he loves. On the solemnity of St. Joseph, we don't merely celebrate a carpenter, we celebrate a hero!



William Chretien, Brother of Clara Barras, passed away on March 8, 2024. Funeral arrangements are pending. Eternal Rest grant unto his soul.

Janice Matthews, Cousin of Nancy Calvin, passed away on March 12, 2024. Funeral arrangements are pending. Eternal Rest grant unto her soul.

FISH FRY!
Every Friday During Lent

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

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 Cake.....\$1.00
 Drinks.....\$1.00



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 CAKES (a day or two prior)
 Monetary Donations are Welcome
 We will do the shopping for you.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



Ministers of Hospitality will meet on Tuesday, **March 19th**, at **2:00pm** in the Harris Center Auditorium.



Fun Day for 55+
 The 55+ Club will host a fun day with lunch and a trip to the movies for members on Thursday, **March 21st**.

ATTENDANCE

In-person Mass attendance on Saturday, March 9th and Sunday, March 10th was **462**. Please join us via YouTube Livestream, or bring a friend to come worship with us in the church.

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, as God's chosen people, we may accept and follow God's plan to generously share our time, talent and treasure with others. "I will be their God and they shall be my people." - Jeremiah 31:33 What does it mean to be God's people? It means we recognize that everything we have and everything we are belongs to God. We aren't "owners" of anything, we are merely "stewards" of the gifts God has given us. It means we are willing to use our gifts and our lives to care for our family, our neighbors and for people we don't know, just as God cares for each of us.



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
 - Daily Mass
 - Airport Taxes, Security & 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.



What has to die in your life in order for you to bear God's fruit?

Deacon Darryl K. Drenon

As we near the end of our Lenten season, we find in today's Gospel reading that Jesus is acknowledging the realization of what perfect obedience to His mission was going to mean.

He says that "**The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified**". He means that, now it is time that His glorification will come through His death.

He goes on to say that "**Amen, Amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit.**"

Now, I am not a farmer, but it's my understanding that if you place a seed in the ground, it begins to decay. It begins to be one with the earth, begins to fall apart, and then, all of a sudden, just when it's about to disintegrate and become nothing, BOOM, life comes out of it.

This is an amazing image of what it is to be transformed by God, to go through this process of surrendering to something that we don't fully understand.

Brothers and sisters, maybe there are things about surrendering that make us very frightened because we don't want to leave that which we know...to go to that which we don't know.

This is why I asked at the beginning...**what has to die in your life in order for you to bear God's fruit?**

John's Gospel reminds us that death is the gateway to new life. Death comes first. Death is not always, however, physical. Sometimes it is spiritual or emotional. We die many deaths every day. There are the deaths of relationships, marriages, hopes, dreams, careers, health, and beliefs. Regardless of what it looks like, this is not the end. Resurrection is always hidden within death. There can be, however, no resurrection without a death. The Good News today is that regardless of what in our life needs to die, God in Christ has already cleared the way forward. We have a path to follow. That path is the death of Jesus.

Jesus' death, however, is of no benefit to us if we are not willing to submit through this process of transformation and of dying to our old self.

So, you may ask, what are some examples of things that have to die in our life in order for us to bear God's fruit? What could be holding us back from being a gift to others?

Some examples of things that have to die are:

- Drugs & Excessive alcohol
- Anger or hatred
- Neglecting our parents or our children
- Strained or broken relationships with our family
- Having intimacy with someone and we are not married

- Cheating on our husband or our wife
- Our lifestyle - some of us are so busy chasing the dollar to maintain a lifestyle that we only have 1 hour for God on Sunday. Even then, it's a 'check-the-box' exercise.

There are definitely many more that I haven't mentioned but you get the gist.

So, how do YOU kill the grain of wheat to prepare yourself to be the fruit? Can you do it on your own? I don't believe so without God.

God loves us unconditionally and His grace leads us to him, not so much on OUR willpower but our willingness to listen, learn, and respond to the love of Christ that lives in our hearts.

We can kill the grain of wheat through prayer, confession, repentance, & reading God's Word. We should spend time with God in silence with a heart open to God.

Some of you may wonder...but Deacon Darryl, I live a righteous life. I don't do those things that have to be killed. I am faithful Christian, I practice the teachings of Jesus, and I live in a state of grace. Nevertheless, there could still something holding you back from responding to God's invitation to be that gift to others. Please consider these things that could be holding you back: fear and anxiety or pride and vanity.

You could have a fear of failure or fear of rejection. Fear is oftentimes ME-CENTRIC. We are more concerned about what others may think instead of what God thinks. If God is inviting us to a vocation or to be a gift, why would we let others stop us?

In Psalm 27:3, it says, "**Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear**".

- Let's say you have a beautiful singing voice. Why aren't you using your voice to sing in the choir?
- Let's say you are good with finances and have a good attention to detail. Why aren't you a counter for our weekly collections?
- Let's say you have a car and time to visit others. Why aren't you a Eucharistic minister who takes communion to those who can't attend Mass?
- Let's say you are good with your hands and know how to fix things. Why aren't you helping with the building & maintenance of the Parish or with those in your community?

These are but a few examples...

Brothers and sisters, my point is that God is calling us to model our lives after Jesus. He wants us to die to our old selves and habits in order to love others and be a gift to them.

Dying of old self won't be easy. Even Jesus said in today's Gospel that "**I am troubled now. Yet what should I say? 'Father save me from this hour'? But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour.**"

Jesus knew He was to die for our salvation. He was willing to do what God needed him to do. He surrendered and submitted to a plan that was His Father's will.

During this season of Lent, please examine your life and figure out what has to die in order for you to bear God's fruit.

It is never easy to let go of something. It is never easy to push your will aside and to seek the will of God. If you ever let go of something and you find it easy, then you are not doing it in the right way. But the Good News is...if it is done for the glory of God, you are rewarded in abundance.

Let us pray that the Holy Spirit may open our eyes to discover the things we need to let go of...for the glory of God, for the shame of the kingdom of darkness, and for sanctification and salvation through Christ, our Lord.

Amen

THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE **REAL** ST. PATRICK:



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1. HE WAS NOT IRISH!

St. Patrick was born in Roman Britain then kidnapped and sold into slavery in Ireland when he was 16.



2. His birth name was Maewyn Succat. He changed his name to **PATRICIUS** after becoming a priest.

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3. After escaping slavery in Ireland and becoming a priest, he willingly returned to the country to promote Catholicism. He is now the **PATRON SAINT OF IRELAND.**

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Youth Advisory Board

Youth Leadership & Volunteer Opportunity



- Do you have a passion for mental health?
- Grades 8 - 11
- Application deadline: March 26, 2024

Center for School Behavioral Health Youth Advisory Board Member Application

Mental Health America of Greater Houston is now searching for passionate and driven teens grades 8-11 in the Greater Houston Area to join us as members of the Center for School Behavioral Health Youth Advisory Board for SY 2024-2025!

The purpose of the CSBH Youth Advisory Board is to empower youth to advocate for themselves and their peers for access to mental and behavioral health services and for social and environmental changes that support healthy mental and emotional development for youth. Mental Health America of Greater Houston is dedicated to promoting youth voice at an organizational level and to providing members with opportunities for personal contribution, professional development, and network expansion. As a member of the CSBH Youth Advisory Board, youth will be provided with a unique opportunity to:

- Gain leadership + volunteer hours
- Make a tangible impact in the community
- Use their thoughts, expertise, and experience to advocate for youth mental health
- Expand their professional network and meet people with similar interests
- Connect with and learn from state and local leaders, including other young people
- Gain valuable experience working on mental health policy, research, and communications

Advisory board meetings will be virtual, held monthly afterschool or on weekends, and last 1 to 2 hours as decided upon by the board. Please email any questions you may have to csbhinfo@mhahouston.org, or visit mhahouston.org. **The deadline to submit an application is March 26th, 2024.**

Apply here --> <https://bit.ly/438Y3GD>

Fight construction of a concrete crusher plant next to the LBJ Hospital.

Kashmere Gardens community, churches protest another polluting company

MARCH 12, 2024 By Jo Ann Zuñiga, Texas Catholic Herald



Archdiocesan director of Social Concerns, Sister Maureen O'Connell, OP, speaks during a podium protests at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Houston with other Church and community leaders, including Auxiliary Bishop Italo Dell'Oro, CRS, as the TCEQ in January permitted Texas Coastal Materials to build a proposed concrete crusher mere yards from the busy Lyndon B. Johnson Hospital public hospital and Kashmere Gardens. The leaders joined in urging the public to join in a letter-writing campaign to the governor to reverse the decision to allow yet another polluting development in the neighborhood already besieged by a dozen industries.

See full article in Texas Catholic Herald and at: <https://www.archgh.org/news-events>

On March 8, 2024, the **Office of Public Interest Counsel for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)** found that the TCEQ staff decision granting an air quality permit should be overturned because under state law the proposed plant is too close to the multi-faith chapel and the UT Medical school classrooms inside LBJ Hospital and St. Francis Assisi Catholic Church

What you can do: By April 1, ask your congregation members, family and friends to complete a letter asking Governor Abbot to tell the 3 TCEQ Commissioners he appointed to overturn their Staff's decision granting an air quality permit to build the concrete crusher next to LBJ Hospital.

To sign or download our letter to overturn the TCEQ staff decision, use the QR code below or go to www.tmohouston.org . If you sign a paper letter, leave it at your congregation or mail it to TMO or scan and email it to TMO.

Pictures are of a concrete crusher at 610 S Loop and Cullen



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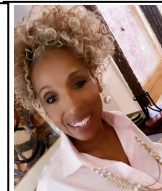
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