

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH

(ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON)

Staffed by the Josephites since 1952

PENTECOST SUNDAY

MAY 19, 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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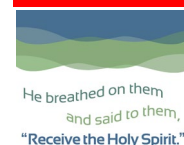
MASS INTENTIONS		
SAT	05/18/2024	5:00PM
	<i>People of the Parish</i>	
SUN.	05/19/2024	7:30AM
	<i>Luevenia Marcel-Lewis (D)</i>	
	John & Gloria Marcel	
SUN.	05/19/2024	10:00AM
	<i>Betty Goodwin (L)</i> The Goodwin Family	
MON.	05/20/2024	7:00AM
	<i>Dcn Albert Henry (D)</i> – The Family	
TUE.	05/21/2024	7:00AM
	<i>Kristina M.Chaney (D)</i>	
	Family & Friends	
WED.	05/22/2024	7:00AM
	<i>LeRoy & Elnora Boyce (D)</i> – Liz Wiley	
THUR	05/23/2024	7:00AM
	<i>Alfred O. Nwokobia (L)</i>	
	The Nwokobia Family	
FRI	05/24/2024	7:00AM
	<i>Eizabeth A.Nwokobia (D)</i>	
	The Nwokobia Family	
SAT	05/25/2024	5:00PM
	<i>Brycen J. Johnson (L)</i> – Wanda Johnon	



Please Pray for...

Donald Abraham, Dcn Alfred Abram, Akaycia Addison, Azielee Addison, Kayne Addison, Nathan Addison IV, Chandra Bass, Paul Batiste, Felecia Baul, Savannah Blackwell, Hazel S. Brown, Augustina Buckman, Tommy Burton, Amber Byas, Julius Cadoree, Nancy Calvin, Nathaniel Campbell, Sterling Certenberg, Dalton Cooper Jr, Johnathan Cummings, Frank Davis Sr, Rev. Henry Davis SSJ, Marlene Davis, Lois Epps, Annie Fontenet, Barbara Forte, Lawrence Frank, Anthony Gobert, Betty Goodwin, Beulah Hadrick, Gilbertine Haley, Mary Hamilton, Alvin J. Hebert, Donald Henderson, Anthony Hicks, Diane Houston-Hawkins, Crystal Jackson, William Jackson, Jennifer Johnson, Natalie Johnson, Brooke Joseph, Shirley Ann Joseph, Kennedy Family Members, JoAnn LaSane, Roy Lee, Hilary Ledet, Deacon Edward Levine, Aundrea Lewis, Hazel Lewis, Laurenzia Lewis, Stella Linden, Jimmie Mack, Eugene Mallery, Charles Martin, John 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, Sarah Pugh, Melody Ratcliff, Effie Rems, Elise Richmond, John & Christine Roberts, Wilson Robertson, Louis Robinson, 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, Melvin Thomas, Gemma Walcott, September Weems, Agnes Williams, Hilton "Steve" Williams, Patricia Williams, Terrell Wilson, Janice Woods, Gail Young and all the sick and shut-in in our parish family.

PENTECOST SUNDAY



Today we hear two different versions of how the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles. One takes place after Jesus has ascended to the Father. The Holy Spirit appears as tongues of fire, leading them to proclaim God's mighty acts in different tongues. In the other, Jesus himself breathes upon the apostles, gently releasing the Holy Spirit upon them. Listening to God's word, may we be reminded that the Holy Spirit comes to us and our neighbor in different ways and at different times.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- **Sunday – May 19**
Pentecost Sunday
 Acts 2:1-11
 Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34
 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13 or
 Galatians 5:16-25
 John 20:19-23 or
 John 15:26-27; 16:12-15
- **Monday – May 20**
The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church
 Genesis 3:9-15, 20 or Acts 1:12-14
 Psalm 87:1-3, 5-7
 John 19:25-34
- ■ **Tuesday – May 21**
Saint Christopher Magallanes, Priest and Companions, Martyrs
 James 4:1-10
 Psalm 55:7-11, 23
 Mark 9:30-37
- □ **Wednesday – May 22**
Saint Rita of Cascia, Religious
 James 4:13-17
 Psalm 49:2-3, 6-11
 Mark 9:38-40
- **Thursday – May 23**
 James 5:1-6
 Psalm 49:14-20
 Mark 9:41-50
- **Friday – May 24**
 James 5:9-12
 Psalm 103:1-4, 8-9, 11-12
 Mark 10:1-12
- □ □ □ □ **Saturday – May 25**
St. Bede, the Venerable, Priest, Doctor of the Church; St. Gregory VII, Pope; St Mary Magdalene
 James 5:13-20
 Psalm 141:1-3, 8
 Mark 10:13-16



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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



We are the Lord's

DSF supports sixty-four (64) ministries that no one parish can accomplish on its own. Through your donations to DSF, you fulfill the Gospel command to love your neighbor as yourself. To give on-line, go to www.archgh.org/dsf. Help us attain our parish goal of **\$69,500.00**. We are already one third of the way into the campaign!



CONFIRMATION MASS

June 22nd5:00pm



CONGRATULATIONS FIRST COMMUNION STUDENTS!

Twelve (12) CCE Students received the Sacrament of Holy Communion at the 10:00am Mass on May 5, 2024:

- Alexis Pena, Micah Guerrero, Gabryelle Pena, Ellie Amuzu, Logan Wesley, Shameka Phillips, Karter Lewis, Natalynn Garner, Javion Jones, Nora Garner, Rosa Crespo, Elizabeth Ashiru, Vy. Rev. Michael L. Thompson, Celebrant



Cyrena Adaolisa Obiozor (8mos) received the Sacrament of Baptism on Saturday, May 11, 2024. Cyrena is the Daughter of Cyril and Adaobi Obiozor. Godparents are Ebuka Anyadiegwu (Left) and Ugonna Ogbenta (Right). Deacon Michael Jenkins officiated.



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 between countries
- Daily Mass, Airport Taxes, Security Fees & Fuel Surcharges
- Transfers as per itinerary
- Transportation with luxury bus
- 4 or 5 star hotels in downtown areas
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Youth Choir will rehearse on Saturday, May 25th, at 11:30am in the Harris Center Room 125.

Beware of Scams and Fraud

Please use caution if you receive phone calls from vendors or "community" organizations that want access to the senior group in your parish. Seniors are often targets for scammers and unscrupulous individuals wishing to prey on vulnerable or unsuspecting seniors. Please feel free to refer callers to the Office of Aging before connecting them to your senior group. The Office of Aging can speak with the vendor, check credentials with the Better Business Bureau and assist your parish senior group with connecting to legitimate service organizations. The Office of Aging can be reached at 713-741-8712.

ATTENDANCE

In-person Mass attendance on Saturday, May 11th and Sunday, May 12th was 522. The 7:30am Livestream received 75 views. 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 we may generously share our God-given gifts to carry on the work of Jesus. "There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone." - 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 All of us are blessed, regardless of our own individual circumstances. God has given each of us many gifts. How we use those gifts is our gift back to God. For God's plan to work, each must do what we are called to do. Guess what? We are not all called to do the same thing! For God's plan to work you have to do what God is calling you to do and I have to do what God is calling me to do.



Lord Jesus Christ, you give us your flesh and blood for the life of the world, and you desire that all people come to the Supper of the Sacrifice of the Lamb. Renew in your Church the truth, beauty, and goodness contained in the Most Blessed Eucharist. Jesus living in the Eucharist, come and live in me. Jesus healing in the Eucharist, come and heal me. Jesus sacrificing yourself in the Eucharist, come and suffer in me. Jesus rising in the Eucharist, come and rise to new life in me. Jesus loving in the Eucharist, come and love in me. Lord Jesus Christ, through the paschal mystery of your death and resurrection made present in every Holy Mass, pour out your healing love on your Church and on our world. Grant that as we lift you up during this time of Eucharistic Revival, your Holy Spirit may draw all people to join us at this Banquet of Life. You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever.



Some reflections inspired by online copyrighted commentaries and homilies

PENTECOST SUNDAY(B) May 19, 2024

In today's gospel reading, we hear of the disciples locked into a room behind closed doors out of fear. They were terrified that what Jesus' enemies did to him they might also do to them. Even though Mary Magdalene had come to them with the extraordinary news that Jesus had risen from the dead, they remained paralyzed by fear. Like the old days, Circling the wagons was the only strategy they could think of.

They needed the risen Lord to appear to them personally for that to change. When he stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you', their fear gave way to joy. When he breathed the Holy Spirit upon them, their retreating behind locked doors gave way to a going forth to preach the gospel to all nations.

Luke's version of Pentecost, which we find in today's first reading, makes much the same point. The coming of the Spirit on the disciples enabled them to communicate in a new way with the men and women of their time. The Spirit drove them out of the house in which they were sitting to preach the gospel in a way that was understandable to people of different races and languages.

We can look back on that first Pentecost as the day on which the church was founded, when a fearful group of men and women became, what Paul calls in today's second reading, the body of Christ. However, Pentecost is not simply a past event that was needed to get the church going. The church is always in need of a fresh Pentecost. Pope John XXIII at the beginning of the Second Vatican Council prayed for a new Pentecost for the church.

In his ministry, Jesus encourages us to keep on praying for the coming of the Holy Spirit into our lives. On one occasion he said, 'If you then know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him'. We need to keep on praying, 'Come Holy Spirit'.

On this great feast of Pentecost, may we truly welcome the Holy Spirit in our lives and see our great transformation, something that we probably never imagined could happen to us. We may, then, end with this Pentecost prayer:

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle them in the fire of your love.

Send forth your Spirit and they shall renew the face of the earth. Amen

We also pray for the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit

Wisdom: it is the capacity to love spiritual things more than material ones; the ability to make decisions based on God's point of view, rather than earthly realities.

Understanding: in understanding, we comprehend how we need to live as followers of Christ. A person with understanding is not confused by the conflicting messages in our culture about the right way to live. The gift of understanding perfects a person's speculative reason in the apprehension of truth. It is the gift whereby self-evident principles are known.

Counsel (right judgement): with the gift of counsel/right judgment, we know the difference between right and wrong, and we choose to do what is right. A person with right judgment avoids sin and lives out the values taught by Jesus.

Fortitude: with the gift of fortitude/courage, we overcome our fear and are willing to take risks as a follower of Jesus Christ. A person with courage is willing to stand up for what is right in the sight of God, even if it means accepting rejection, verbal abuse, or physical harm. The gift of courage allows people the firmness of mind that is required both in doing good and in enduring evil.

Knowledge: with the gift of knowledge, we understand the meaning of God. The gift of knowledge is more than an accumulation of facts; it is the ability to recognize the Truth of the Father.

Piety (reverence): with the gift of reverence, sometimes called piety, we have a deep sense of respect for God and the Church. A person with reverence recognizes our total reliance on God and comes before God with humility, trust, and love. Piety is the gift whereby, at the Holy Spirit's instigation, we give honor as is our duty to God as our Father.

Fear of the Lord (wonder and awe): with the gift of fear of the Lord we are aware of the glory and majesty of God. A person with wonder and awe knows that God is the perfection of all we desire: perfect knowledge, perfect goodness, perfect power, and perfect love.

The Holy Spirit gives us hope in a very practical way - by pouring out gifts on the faithful and encouraging each believer to use their God-given gifts.

Vy. Rev. Michael L. Thompson, SSJ



LUKE 10:2

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72

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