

# ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH

(ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON)

*Staffed by the Josephites since 1952*

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 8, 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](mailto: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

4<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.sfxhouston.com)

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**MASS INTENTIONS**

<b>SAT</b>	<b>09/07/2024</b>	<b>5:00PM</b>
	<i>People of the Parish</i>	
<b>SUN.</b>	<b>09/08/2024</b>	<b>7:30AM</b>
	<i>Randel Sinnette (L) – Marie White</i>	
<b>SUN.</b>	<b>09/08/2024</b>	<b>10:00AM</b>
	<i>Ben &amp; Elizabeth Wheeler (D) – Liz Wiley</i>	
<b>MON.</b>	<b>09/09/2024</b>	<b>7:00AM</b>
	<i>Theresa Lazard (D) - The Archer Family</i>	
<b>TUE.</b>	<b>09/10/2024</b>	<b>7:00AM</b>
	<i>Joyce Sinegal (D)</i> Kenneth & Mabel Dyer	
<b>WED.</b>	<b>09/11/2024</b>	<b>7:00AM</b>
	<i>Kristina M. Chaney (D)</i> Family & Friends	
<b>THUR</b>	<b>09/12/2024</b>	<b>7:00AM</b>
	<i>Clarence Senegal (D)</i> Kenneth & Mabel Dyer	
<b>FRI</b>	<b>09/13/2024</b>	<b>7:00AM</b>
	<i>Kristina M. Chaney (D)</i> Family & Friends	
<b>SAT</b>	<b>09/14/2024</b>	<b>5:00PM</b>
	<i>Wesley Wiltz (D)</i> Anna R. Wiltz & Family	



Donald Abraham, Den Alfred Abram, Akaycia Addison, Azielee Addison, Kayne Addison, Nathan Addison IV, Mary Jane Albert, Farrell Anderson, Clara Barras, Chandra Bass, Marline Bassett, Hazel S. Brown, Augustina Buckman, Tommy Burton, Amber Byas, Julius Cadoree, Nancy Calvin, Nathaniel Campbell, Thelma & Robert Carmouche Sr, Sterling Certenberg, Victor Charles, Dalton Cooper Jr, Frank Davis Sr, Rev. Henry Davis SSJ, Marlene Davis, Lois Epps, James Joseph Forbes, Jr, Lawrence Frank, Latoya Gallow, Anthony Gobert, Betty Goodwin, Stella Goodwin, Beulah Hadrick, Gilbertine Haley, Mary Hamilton, Alvin J. Hebert, Donald Henderson, Anthony Hicks, Crystal Jackson, Natalie Johnson, Brooke Joseph, Shirley Ann Joseph, Kennedy Family Members, JoAnn LaSane, Roy Lee, Hilary Ledet, Deacon Edward Levine, Hazel Lewis, Laurenzia Lewis, Stella Linden, Jimmie Mack, Eugene Mallery, Charles Martin, Shannon Martin, Florence McChristian, Diane Miles, Jerome Miles, Dorothy Milstead, Cookie Mooring, Pat Mouton, 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, Mary Richard, Elise Richmond, John & Christine Roberts, Wilson Robertson, Louis Robinson, Oliver Rose, Brian Russell, Grace Russell, Vy. Rev. Michael K. Saah-Buckman SSJ, Mary Sias, Joyce Smith, Joyce Stagg, James Stelly, Jeffery Steptoe, Mackenzie Swanks, Kennedi Swanks, Erma Taylor, Melvin Thomas, Gemma Walcott, Agnes Williams, Bernadette 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.**

**TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**



Today we hear the story of a miracle in which Jesus performs a healing in a very intimate way. He draws a deaf and mute man away from the crowd, puts his fingers in his ears and, having spat on them, touches his tongue as well. Jesus is here with us in an intimate way as well. He has been just as close to us since we were baptized, when the priest or deacon touched our ears and mouth as well. He is with us as we gather in his name, in his very Body and Blood in the Eucharist we consume, and in each other. Listening to the readings today, let us realize that the One who healed in such a way is intimately close with us too, wherever we are.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

- **Sunday – September 8**  
*23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
Isaiah 35:4-7  
Psalm 146:7-10  
James 2:1-5  
Mark 7:31-37
- **Monday – September 9**  
*Saint Peter Claver, Priest*  
1 Corinthians 5:1-8  
Psalm 5:5-6, 7, 12  
Luke 6:6-11
- **Tuesday – September 10**  
1 Corinthians 6:1-11  
Psalm 149:1-6, 9  
Luke 6:12-19
- **Wednesday – September 11**  
1 Corinthians 7:25-31  
Psalm 45:11-12, 14-17  
Luke 6:20-26
- □ **Thursday – September 12**  
*The Most Holy Name of Mary*  
1 Corinthians 8:1-7, 11-13  
Psalm 139:1-3, 13, 14, 23-24  
Luke 6:27-38
- **Friday – September 13**  
*Saint John Chrysostom, Bishop, Doctor of the Church*  
1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-27  
Psalm 84:3-6, 12  
Luke 6:39-42
- **Saturday – September 14**  
Numbers 21:4-9  
Psalm 78:1-2, 34-38  
Philippians 2:6-11  
John 3:13-17



As a parish, we strive to be good stewards of our resources. Many families have moved away from envelopes and are now using Faith Direct to fulfill their generous stewardship commitments to our parish and the wider church through electronic donations. Help us to reduce our envelope and postage expense and at the same time support us in a secure and convenient way by enrolling with Faith Direct. It's easy to get started. Here are the ways to sign up:

- Visit [www.faithdirect.net](http://www.faithdirect.net) Code: **TX632**,
- Call Customer Service at **866-507-8757**
- Text "Enroll" to **281-949-7600**

May God bless your generosity.

*Vy. Rev. Michael L. Thompson, SSJ*

**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, Angel Guillory, Geraldine Guillory, 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, Alexander Guillory Jr, 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*



Next week, we will come together for the Commitment Weekend to support the Diocesan Services Fund (DSF), which supports the 64 ministries that no one parish can accomplish on its own. Through your support, you fulfill the Gospel command to love your neighbor as yourself. **To Pledge/Pay Online visit:**  
[www.archgh.org/dsf](http://www.archgh.org/dsf)



**SFX GABRIEL PROJECT**  
**Pregnant? Need Help?**  
**Call 713-225-5826**



**CCE REGISTRATION**

CCE Registration will be accepted **Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays**, during regular Office Hours. Classes will begin on Monday **September 16<sup>th</sup>** at **6:00pm** for Jr High and High School Students; and on Saturday **September 21<sup>st</sup>** at **9:30am** for Pre-K and Elementary Students. Call **(713) 731-2775** for additional information.



**Harley Quinn Wiltz** (13yrs) received the Sacrament of Baptism on Sunday, September 1, 2024. Pictured with Father Thompson are Harley's Mother **Valencia A. Wiltz** (Left) and Grandmother **Susie Wiltz** (Right). Pictured with Harley are Godparents **Demetra Lewis** (Left) and **Omarr D. Lewis, Jr.** (Right).



**Bingo @ St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church** on Friday, **September 13<sup>th</sup>**.

Pre-sale **\$20** and At-the-Door **\$25**

Doors open at **6:00pm**; Games begin at **7:00pm**; Concessions will be available.

The **COVERALL** grand prize is **\$500.00!!!**

For tickets call **(281) 923-2961**  
Join *St. Francis of Assisi* for family friendly fun & support of the parish!

**55+ Club**

**SAVE THE DATE!**



The 55+ Club will sell Smoked Turkey Legs, Red Beans, Sausage & Rice on **October 20<sup>th</sup>** after the Sunday Masses. The cost is **\$20.00** per plate. Sodas and Water will be sold for \$1.00 and Cake for \$2.00/slice. Pre-Order at **(281) 536-8912**.



**Louis Robinson** passed away on September 1<sup>st</sup> at the age of 87 yrs. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated on **September 13<sup>th</sup>** at 10:00am. Eternal rest grant unto his soul.

**Gold and Silver Anniversary Masses**

The 2024 Wedding Anniversary Jubilee Masses honoring couples celebrating their Silver (25th) and Gold (50th) Anniversary of marriage in the Catholic Church are open for registration. The Gold Anniversary Mass is Sunday, **September 22**, at the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in downtown Houston at 3 p.m. The Silver Anniversary Mass is Sunday, **November 17**, also at the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart at 3 p.m. Registration, which is **\$40** per couple, includes an Archdiocesan certificate of each anniversary, a special issue worship aid and a commemorative pin. For more information or to register, visit [www.archgh.org/familylife](http://www.archgh.org/familylife).

**Journey to Second Chance MINISTRY**



Please join us as we prepare to open our doors to help our brothers &

sisters begin their first steps on their "Journey to Second Chance" by donating some of the most needed items:

- Toiletries - personal care items (soap, deodorant, toothpaste, combs & brushes)
- NEW packaged undergarments (Men & Women)
- Gently used Professional Clothing for Interviews and Work (Ladies suits or dresses, dress shirts and slacks. Men suits or dress shirts & slacks.

Our team will be available after all Masses to begin receiving these items.

**ATTENDANCE**

In-person Mass attendance on Saturday, August 31<sup>st</sup> and Sunday, September 1<sup>st</sup> was **408**. The 7:30am Livestream received **78** 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 grow stronger in our faith, realizing that God does not measure us by what we possess but rather by what we do for one another. "Did not God choose those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that he promised to those who love him?" James 2:5 What is more important – being rich in faith or rich in possessions? Society tells us that possessions are most important. God teaches a different lesson. When we are rich in faith, we keep God first and experience true joy and peace. When we put possessions first, we soon realize we can never have enough and happiness is fleeting. When we put faith over possessions we truly realize it is better to give than receive.



**Saturday, September 14 10a.m. Mass**

**St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church**  
**5102 Dabney St | Houston, TX 77026**  
Principal Celebrant:

Most Reverend **Italo Dell'Oro, CRS**  
Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Galveston Houston  
Homilist: Very Reverend **Michael Thompson, SSJ**  
Canonization Update from the *Sisters of the Holy Family, New Orleans*

A reception will follow in the **Parish Hall** immediately after Mass



RSVP by **September 10<sup>th</sup>** using this QR code or visit the website below

[www.archghcat.flocknote.com/signup/174962](http://www.archghcat.flocknote.com/signup/174962)



Some reflections inspired by online copyrighted commentaries and homilies

## TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME(B) September 8, 2024

*He put his finger into the man's ears and, spitting, touched his tongue; then he looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him, "Ephphatha!"—that is, "Be opened!"—And immediately the man's ears were opened, his speech impediment was removed, and he spoke plainly.*

One interesting point in this story is that the people who brought this deaf and mute man to Jesus begged Him to "lay his hand on him" so as to heal him. But what did Jesus do? Instead, He took the man away from the crowd, put His divine finger into the man's ears, touched the man's tongue with His own sacred saliva and the man was cured. At first, the act of putting your finger into someone else's ear and touching their tongue with your own saliva may seem repulsive. Normally it would be. To understand these two actions, we must understand the symbolism.

The image of a finger is used a number of times in the Scriptures to refer to God's power. In the Book of Exodus after the plague of the gnats, Pharaoh's magicians said that this was clearly done "by the finger of God" (Exodus 8:19). On the mountain when Moses received the Ten Commandments we know that it was also God's finger that wrote them (Exodus 31:18). In the book of Daniel, a finger appeared and wrote a prophetic message on a wall (Daniel 5:5). In the New Testament, Jesus cast out a demon "by the finger of God" (Luke 11:20) and in today's Gospel He healed this man's hearing with His finger. The "finger of God" is understood as the power of God and an action of the Holy Spirit. Thus, by using His sacred finger to heal, Jesus was symbolically revealing that He fully exercised the power of God and acted in perfect union with the Holy Spirit and the Father.

The image of saliva is also interesting. Perhaps you have noticed that when an animal has a wound it often licks that wound. This is a natural instinct but also one that makes sense. Saliva has a certain medicinal power of healing. It contains antibacterial agents. Therefore, since normal saliva can help heal a wound, Jesus's saliva is able to heal in a supernatural way. Recall, also, that Jesus healed a blind man

by spitting on the ground and then smearing the mud on his eyes (John 9:6).

Did Jesus need to use His finger and His saliva to heal this man? Certainly not. He could have done it with a mere thought. But He chose to use His body as an instrument of His healing power. Doing so reveals to us that Jesus' humanity became the source of unity between God and man. Even His finger and His saliva unite us to God. Everything about the Son of God in His human form dispensed grace, healing and mercy. Even that which may, at first, seem most repulsive.

Though there is much we can take from this passage, one thing that should not be missed is that if Jesus chose to use His finger and even his saliva to dispense His power, so, also, He desires to continue using the members of His Body to distribute His grace. By Baptism, you are a member of Christ's Body, the Church. You are His hands and feet, His eyes and voice, His heart and finger, and even His saliva. That last thought is very humbling. But if Jesus can use His saliva for healing, He can use you. If we can humbly understand that, then we will be better disposed to become an instrument of His divine mercy to those who need it. God is able to use us NOT because we are worthy of being used. Rather, He can use us because He has chosen to do so, even in our most humble state.

Reflect, today, upon the image of Jesus healing this deaf and mute man. If you ever feel as though God cannot use you, call to mind the way in which our Lord worked this miracle. If God can use His finger and His saliva, He certainly can use you, no matter how unworthy or sinful you may be. This miracle shows us that God can use all things for His glory for the simple reason that He is God. Humble yourself and offer yourself to God to use you as He wills. Doing so will give God the opportunity to manifest His almighty power through you.

*Reflection taken from: My Catholic Life series*

*Vy. Rev. Michael L. Thompson, SSJ*

# **Saint Francis Xavier Soul Food Dinners**

**Sponsored by the KPC Knights and Ladies**

**Saturday, Sept 14, 12:00pm-7:00pm**

**Sunday, Sept 15, 2024 (After all Masses)**



**St. Francis Xavier Parish Hall**

**4600 Reed Rd Houston, TX 77051**

**(713) 738-2311 or (713) 731-2775**

**(Will deliver orders of 10 or more, need 2 hours' notice)**

## **Menu:**

**Smothered Pork Steak, *Rice & Gravy,*  
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*and Cornbread***

**\$15 per plate**

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**Sodas & Water \$1.00**



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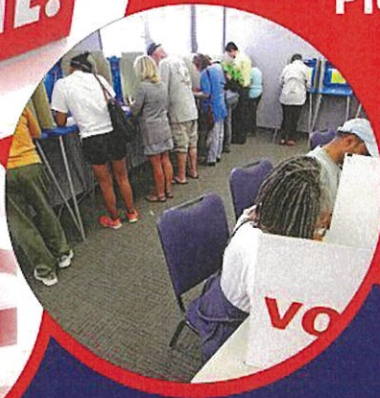


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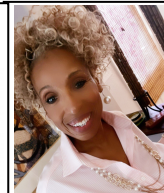


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