

# ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH

(ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON)

*Staffed by the Josephites since 1952*

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

AUGUST 24, 2025



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, SSI

## 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 (OCIA)

Deacon Michael V. Jenkins

## SVdP FOOD PANTRY

Closed for Restructure

## CONTRIBUTIONS/MEMBERSHIP

Agnes Thompson

## HALL MANAGER

Hilton S. Williams 713.542.0120

## PLANT MANAGER/MAINTENANCE

Curtis Jones/Eugene Wilson

## WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Sat: Vigil 5:00 p.m.

Sun: 7:30 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

## WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Weekday (Tue - Fri): 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

## 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)



## GIVE without Cash or Check



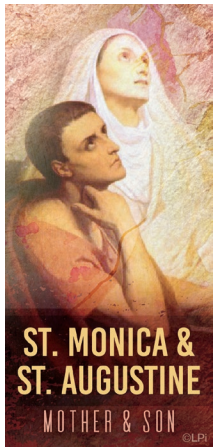
*Save the number as a contact in your mobile phone for easy giving.*

**MASS INTENTIONS**

<b>SAT</b>	<b>08/23/2025</b>	<b>5:00PM</b>
<i>R.L. Henderson (D)</i> The Henderson Family		
<b>SUN</b>	<b>08/24/2025</b>	<b>7:30AM</b>
<i>Kristina M. Chaney (D)</i> Family & Friends		
<b>SUN</b>	<b>08/24/2025</b>	<b>10:00AM</b>
<i>People of the Parish</i>		
<b>TUE</b>	<b>08/26/2025</b>	<b>7:00AM</b>
<i>Gilbert Bonhomme (D)</i> J. Henderson		
<b>WED</b>	<b>08/27/2025</b>	<b>7:00AM</b>
<i>Agnes Williams (L)</i> – Tywana Navy		
<b>THUR</b>	<b>08/28/2025</b>	<b>7:00AM</b>
<i>Judy Simon (D)</i> – Tywana Navy		
<b>FRI</b>	<b>08/29/2025</b>	<b>7:00AM</b>
<i>James &amp; Leatrice Gary (D)</i> Deborah G. Scott		
<b>SAT</b>	<b>08/30/2025</b>	<b>5:00PM</b>
<i>Russell J. Robinson (D)</i> Annie J. Robinson		



**Charles Nash** passed away on August 14, 2025 at the age of 81 yrs. A Funeral Mass was celebrated on Saturday, August 23, 2025. *Eternal rest grant unto his soul, O Lord, and perpetual light shine upon him.*



This week we celebrate two saints, a mother and son: **St. Monica** and **St. Augustine**. As a young Christian woman, St. Monica was married to a pagan. Early in their marriage, he was bitter and critical. After nearly 20 years, Monica's holy example led to his conversion to Christianity. In the meantime, Augustine was a teenager beginning to live a wild life of self-indulgent excess. This lifestyle would continue into his adulthood. Like with her husband, Monica prayed and fasted for the conversion of her son. Augustine met another future saint, the bishop Ambrose of Milan, who greatly influenced his perspective on life. Augustine was baptized a Christian! Augustine later became a bishop and one of the most influential thinkers in Christian history. How's that for the power of patience and intercessory prayer?



**Please Pray for...**  
Donald Abraham, Akaycia Addison, Azielee & Nathan Addison IV, Emmoree Addison, Kayne Addison, Lauren Addison, Zaneta Addison, Mary Jane Albert, Joseph Alcendor, Vea Barksdale, Clara Barras, Ivy Bobb, Hazel S. Brown, Tommy Burton, Julius Cadoree, Nancy Calvin, Nathaniel Campbell, Sterling Certenberg, Dalton Cooper Jr, Frank Davis Sr, Rev. Henry Davis SSJ, Marlene Davis, Dalton & Julia Dean, Mary Duplechain, Lois Epps, Lawrence Frank, Paul Garrick Jr, Anthony Gobert, Betty Goodwin, Stella Goodwin, Beulah Hadrick, Mary Hamilton, Mason Harrison, Alvin J. Hebert, Cheryl Henderson, Donald Henderson, Anthony Hicks, Diane Houston, Al Jackson Jr, Crystal Jackson, Angela Johnson, Deacon Irvin Johnson, Natalie Johnson, Brooke Joseph, Shirley Ann Joseph, Serral Landry, JoAnn LaSane, Barbara Laugermann, Elon Lawdins, Freda & Shirley Lawdins, Hilary Ledet, Hazel Lewis, Laurenzia Lewis, Eugene Mallery, Charles Martin, Shannon Martin, Donald May, Florence McChristian, Diane Miles, Jordan Mills, Dorothy Milstead, Cookie Mooring, Vy. Rev. William L. Norvel SSJ, Carolyn Ollison, Angela Pena, Cynethia Pichon, Percy Pichon Sr, Robin Pichon-Mosley, Catherine Pierre, Michael Pierre, Mildred Pierre, Marcelle Prevost, Melody Ratcliff, Effie Rems, Elise Richmond, John & Christine Roberts, Louis Robinson, Oliver Rose, Brian Russell, Grace Russell, Vy. Rev. Michael K. Saah-Buckman SSJ, Kerry Samuels, Mary Sias Kevin Simon, Joyce Smith, Joyce Stagg, Jeffery Steptoe, Mackenzie Swanks, Kennedy Swanks, Erma Taylor, Melvin Thomas, Gemma Walcott, Mary Ward, Herbert White, Agnes Williams, Patricia Williams, Eddie Rean Wilson, Terrell Wilson, Janice Woods, Alberta Zenon and all the sick and shut-in in our parish family.

**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:** Sade Beck, Wadie Troy Butler, Patrick Clay Jr, Kalah A. Guidry, Angel Guillory, Kerry Hubbard, Kory Hubbard, LaTroy King, Gary Christian Robertson, Anthony Lamar Smith II **Navy:** Alvin Balthazar, Debreanna Brown, Jermaine Ceaser, Kevin Crockett, Alexander Guillory Jr, Courtney Harris, Nia D. Hawkins-Camp, Xavier Henry, Anthony N. Russell **Air Force:** Samuel Houston, Roderick Jones, Joshua Creeks, Joffre Lander **Marines:** Reginald Ward

**TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

God reveals to Isaiah that people from far and wide will be welcomed to the holy city, Jerusalem. The psalmist also invites people of every nation to glorify God. Centuries later, Jesus affirms that people from every point of the compass will be welcomed into the kingdom of God. That having been said, getting in is not easy and some will be sent away. May we embrace God's discipline, in the spirit in which it is explained in the second reading today, recognizing that it is offered out of God's great love for us.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK****■ Sunday – August 24**

*Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Is 66:18-21

Psalm 117:1-2

Heb 12:5-7, 11-13

Luke 13:22-30

**■ □ Monday – August 25**

*Saint Louis;*

*Saint Joseph Calasanz, Priest*

1 Thes 1:1-5, 8-10

Psalm 149:1-6, 9

Matthew 23:13-22

**■ Tuesday – August 26**

1 Thes 2:1-8

Psalm 139:1-3, 4-6

Matthew 23:23-26

**□ Wednesday – August 27**

*Saint Monica*

1 Thes 2:9-13

Psalm 139:7-12

Matthew 23:27-32

**□ Thursday – August 28**

*Saint Augustine, Bishop,*

*Doctor of the Church*

1 Thes 3:7-13

Psalm 90:3-5, 12-14, 17

Matthew 2:42-51

**■ Friday August 29**

*The Passion of Saint*

*John the Baptist*

1 Thes 4:1-8

Psalm 97:1, 2, 5-6, 10-12

Mark 6:17-29

**■ □ Saturday August 30**

1 Thes 4:9-11

Psalm 98:1, 7-9

Matthew 25:14-30





## CCE REGISTRATION

CCE Registration for the 2025-2026 school year will be accepted as follows:  
**Tuesdays, 8/26-9/16, 9am-4:30pm**

**Wednesdays, 8/27-9/17, 9am-4:30pm**

**Fridays, 8/29-9/19, 9:00am-3:00pm**

**Sat & Sun, 8/23-8/24-After all Masses**

Registration forms are available in the Vestibule of the Church, the Harris Center and the Parish Website ([www.sfxhouston.com](http://www.sfxhouston.com)). Classes will begin on Monday, **September 22nd** at **6:00pm** for Jr High and High School Students and on Saturday, **September 27th** at **9:30am** for Pre-K and Elementary Students. Call the CCE Office at (713) 731-2775 for additional information.



**August 30 – CCE Staff Business Meeting 9:00am in the Harris Center Auditorium**

## MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY FUNDRAISER



The Ministers of Hospitality will host a Wings & Fries fundraiser on Saturday, **September 6,**

**2025** and Sunday, **September 7, 2025.** Wings & Fries will be sold for **\$10.00.** Assorted Sodas & Deserts will also be available for purchase. Please come out and support our Ushers and Greeters!



Our Parish Goal this year is **\$74,300.00.** Is your pledge up to date? Please consider making your gift today! Pick up a pew envelope in the church, or go to [www.archgh.org/dsf](http://www.archgh.org/dsf) to make a donation.

## ATTENDANCE

In-person Mass attendance on Saturday, August 16th and Sunday, August 17th was 457. The 7:30am Livestream received 74 views. Please join us via YouTube Livestream, or bring a friend to come worship with us in the church.

## ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH FALL RAFFLE



**Grand Prize!**

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**5th Prize...\$300.00 Macy's Gift Card**

Tickets are **\$5.00** each. Each household is asked to buy or sell at least 2 books of 20 tickets. Pick up Raffle Books after all Masses this weekend. Call the Parish Office if you would like to receive your Raffle Books in the mail.

Go to: <https://www.church.faithdirect.net/forms/index/632> or Scan the QR Code to purchase Tickets online.



**Drawing: October 19, 2025**

**Winner Need Not be Present!**

The next Bazaar Team Meeting is scheduled for **September 2, 2025.** This is the final day to place your Volunteer T-Shirt Order.

## 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 through our good stewardship, we may build up God's kingdom here on earth and earn a place at God's eternal banquet. "For behold, some are last who will be first and some are first who will be last." Luke 13:30 Our cultural standards are different from God's standards. We often rank people by what they have, how powerful they are, or how successful they are. Jesus reminds us that God will not judge us by the same earthly standards. When God asks you, "What have you done with the gifts I have given you?" How will you respond?



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Be the face of Christ.

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SCAN HERE FOR INFORMATION



**NEXT MEETING  
AUGUST 26TH 2:00 PM**



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SEAN TEARE**

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**Saturday | September 13, 2025**

**10:00 AM – 2:00 PM**

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**Houston, Texas 77051**



**Pre-Screening Link:**

**ClearYourRecord-HarrisCounty.org**

or

**Scan the QR Code**



Free legal resources and services will be provided by Public Defenders Office, Lone Star Legal Aid, TSU East-Central Institute and the UTCL. Served by Sunnyside Clinics

For more information: (713) 274-5800 or [HarrisCountyDA.com](mailto:HarrisCountyDA.com)



Some reflections inspired by online copyrighted

## ***Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)***

The readings today are about salvation, and the question of the villager is as relevant today as when it was first posed: Will only a few be saved? And then there is the question behind the question: Will I be saved? Jesus' reply is paradoxical, seemingly absurd to us, but we expect no less from him. He says that many will try to enter the door of heaven but will not succeed.

Yet hundreds upon hundreds will come from the four corners of the globe and take their places at the heavenly banquet. His message is that salvation is meant for all; because, as we know, Jesus came to open the way to salvation for all people, for every person he created. But in the parable, there is a warning, a severe warning that we cannot presume to be saved. When we arrive at the gate of heaven the master of the house might say to us: I do not know you. And we might find ourselves pleading that we were good Catholics and did everything prescribed and yet still the master might say: I do not know you. And people from the east and the west and from the north and the south will take their places in the Kingdom ahead of us.

The message is that it is easy to deceive ourselves, easy to think that, because we have followed the rules, made the sign of the cross a thousand times, received the Sacraments prescribed, we have earned our place in heaven. We know intellectually that this could never be the case because we realize that salvation is entirely given as a gift of God. It cannot be earned; it cannot be negotiated; it can never be presumed. The key, of course, is in the simple words: "I do not know you." It is all about our relationship with God, he wants to know us, he wants to love us. We are aware that he does know us, and he does love us, the life and death of Jesus proves that this was his will. But in turn God wants us to know him and love him freely and without compulsion.

Unfortunately, we are poor creatures, we are easily misled, and we are world experts at deluding ourselves. We can convince ourselves that we are doing all the right things; we can convince ourselves that hours spent in prayer and in doing good to others has earned us major credit in heaven and that our place in heaven is already assured.

We completely forget that in comparison to the love God has for us anything we do is a mere nothing. We completely forget that in the great plan of God our piffling plans and projects are of no significance. We completely forget that we cannot earn or bribe our way into heaven by rosaries, novenas, prayers, and penances. What God wants from us is love and for this we need Christian hearts. We need hearts large enough to praise and glorify and bless his holy name. Hearts full of compassion for others; hearts that beat with passionate love for those nearest to us; hearts that will make enormous sacrifices without a second thought. Hearts that are filled with sorrow for the many sins we have committed, hearts that pour out appeals to God imploring him for mercy.

We can count ourselves among the privileged few. We are so fortunate to have come to knowledge of and believe in Christ and in his Church and to have heard the message of the Gospel in all its fullness. As members of the Catholic Church, we can feel proud to be in direct line with the Church of the Apostles. We know that the Holy Spirit keeps the Church faithful to the Gospel in matters of faith and morals and we feel privileged to be the inheritors of this the richest of all the Christian traditions.

We know that this greatest of all gifts brings with it heavy responsibilities. We know that we must keep faith with Christ and follow the teaching and prescriptions of the Church. We know that we have a duty to bear witness to his name in the world. We know that we have the obligation and the duty to remain faithful to all that has been handed down to us. But being the recipients of these advantages guarantees us nothing in relation to heaven. Whether we be laity, religious, priests, bishops, or popes we have no built-in advantage over anyone else. The biggest sinner could get into heaven far ahead of us if they truly repent for the gift of forgiveness.

We have received already so many wonderful gifts from God, let us pray that he will grant us that one, final and best of all possible gifts—the gift of Salvation itself.

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



# Support the good work of St. Francis Xavier directly from your IRA!

An IRA qualified charitable distribution (QCD) is an opportunity to satisfy ALL or part of your required minimum distribution!



## HOW DO I DONATE?

1

You must be **70 ½** or older to make a donation from an IRA to St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church

2

Choose **how much** to give! You can give up to \$100,000 from a Traditional or Roth IRA.

3

Inform your account manager of your wish to make an IRA contribution, complete the form and send completed form to your account manager

4

Email copy of completed form to: [stfrancishou@sfxhouston.com](mailto:stfrancishou@sfxhouston.com)  
OR mail to: St. Francis Xavier  
4600 Reed Road  
Houston, TX 77051-2857

## WHAT ARE MY BENEFITS?

Your generosity helps **strengthen** our local Church

Avoid income tax on your **required minimum distributions (RMD)** by donating directly to the Archdiocese

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stfrancishou@sfxhouston.com OR Fax: 713-738-3337 OR  
Mail to 4600 Reed Road, Houston, TX 77051-2857



Find and circle these words from today's Gospel.

## Prayer

Dear God, help me to do all that I can to grow closer to you.

## Mission for the Week

Pray to God with your family, and ask God to change your hearts so that you love him more than anything else.

## Sharing the Gospel

Heaven will be wonderful. People from all over the world will be there to enjoy God's friendship. No matter how small you feel now, you will always be important to God in heaven. Once you accept the gift of love from Jesus, you will want to change your life. You will want to spend time with God, and you will want to show love to other people. Then you can look forward to heaven.

Now color  
the picture!



JESUS  
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SAVED

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LOCKS  
KNOCK

DOOR  
FEAST  
KINGDOM

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A	K	N	O	C	K	Y	S	O	J	E
R	I	U	A	L	F	E	A	S	T	M
H	N	E	T	N	A	U	V	G	A	H
T	G	P	L	A	I	T	E	H	U	T
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N	Y	A	F	G	O	K	I	N	G	T
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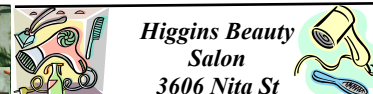
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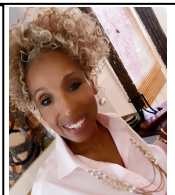


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