

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH

(ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON)

Staffed by the Josephites since 1952

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 8, 2024



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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 (OCIA)

Deacon Michael V. Jenkins

SVdP FOOD PANTRY

Mandy Wheatfall 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 (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

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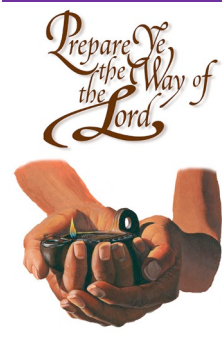
Save the number as a contact in your mobile phone for easy giving.

MASS INTENTIONS		
SAT.	12/07/2024	5:00PM
<i>Living Family Members</i>		
Wanda Johnson		
SUN.	12/08/2024	7:30AM
<i>People of the Parish</i>		
SUN.	12/08/2024	10:00AM
<i>Tory Holdman (L) – M. Chaney</i>		
MON.	12/09/2024	
(Pastor's Private Mass)		
<i>Cornelia Denise Pickney (D)</i>		
M. Chaney		
TUE.	12/10/2024	7:00AM
<i>Kristina M. Chaney (D)</i>		
Family & Friends		
WED.	12/11/2024	7:00AM
<i>Kristina M. Chaney (D)</i>		
Family & Friends		
THUR	12/12/2024	7:00AM
<i>JoAnne Henderson (L) – Henderson</i>		
FRI	12/13/2024	
<i>Wesley Wiltz (D)</i>		
Anna R. Wiltz & Family		
SAT	12/14/2024	5:00PM
<i>Joseph & Earlene Duplechaine</i>		
The Duplechaine Family		



Donald Abraham, Akaycia Addison, Azielee Addison, Kayne Addison, Lauren Addison, Nathan Addison IV, Mary Jane Albert, Clara Barras, Mike & Beverly Bedford, Hazel S. Brown, Tommy Burton, Amber Byas, Julius Cadoree, Nancy Calvin, Nia Camp, Nathaniel Campbell, Sterling Certenberg, Dalton Cooper Jr, Frank Davis Sr, Rev. Henry Davis SSJ, Marlene Davis, Dalton Dean Jr, Julia Dean, Lois Epps, Edward & Millie Etienne, Lawrence Frank, Latoya Gallow, Paul Garrick Jr, Anthony Gobert, Betty Goodwin, Beulah Hadrick, Mary Hamilton, Mason Harrison, Alvin J. Hebert, Clyde Henderson, Donald Henderson, Anthony Hicks, Diane Houston, Samuel Houston, Tommy Guillory, Jr., Crystal Jackson, Natalie Johnson, Brooke Joseph, Shirley Ann Joseph, JoAnn LaSane, Freda Lawdins, Roy Lee, Hilary Ledet, Hazel Lewis, Laurenzia Lewis, Jimmie Mack, Eugene Mallery, Charles Martin, Shannon Martin, Florence McChristian, 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, Michael Pierre, Mildred Pierre, Marcelle Prevost, Melody Ratcliff, Effie Rems, Mary Richard, Elise Richmond, John & Christine Roberts, Louis Robinson, Oliver Rose, Brian Russell, Grace Russell, Vy. Rev. Michael K. Saah-Buckman SSJ, Kerry Samuels, Joyce Smith, Joyce Stagg, James Stelly, Jeffery Steptoe, Mackenzie Swanks, Kennedy Swanks, Erma Taylor, Melvin Thomas, Gemma Walcott, Agnes Williams, Patricia Williams, Terrell Wilson, 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.**

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Who better than John the Baptist to guide us during this season of preparation for Jesus' coming? Today we see John travel throughout the region proclaiming a baptism of repentance and recalling the prophecy of Isaiah. Baruch's prophecy, which we hear in the first reading, echoes Isaiah as well. All three trumpet God's mercy and forgiveness as they envision the coming of the Lord. Let us heed their call.



DEACON ALFRED ABRAM, SR
1936-2024

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTERS



DECEMBER 7-DECEMBER 8

- 5:00pm.....Helen Griffin & Karen Higgins
- 7:30am.....Michael & Jean Dozier
- 10:00am...Audrey Hill & Barbara Neal

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Sunday – December 8**
2nd Sunday of Advent
Baruch 5:1-9
Psalm 126:1-6
Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11
Luke 3:1-6
- Monday – December 9**
The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Genesis 3:9-15, 20
Psalm 98:1-4
Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12
Luke 1:26-38
- Tuesday – December 10**
Our Lady of Loreto
Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 96:1-3, 10, 11-13
Matthew 18:12-14
- Wednesday – December 11**
Saint Damascus I, Pope
Isaiah 40:25-31
Psalm 103:1-4, 8, 10
Matthew 11:28-30
- Thursday – December 12**
Our Lady of Guadalupe
Zechariah 2:14-17 or
Revelation 11:19; 12:1-6, 10
(Psalm) Judith 13:18-19
Luke 1:26-38 or Luke 1:39-47
- Friday December 13**
Saint Lucy, Virgin, Martyr
Isaiah 48:17-19
Psalm 1:1-4, 6
Matthew 11:16-19
- Saturday November 14**
Saint John of the Cross, Priest, Doctor of the Church
Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11
Psalm 80:2, 3, 15-16, 18-19
Matthew 17:9, 10-13



December 9.....6:00pm
 6th – 10th CCE Classes
 December 14.....9:30am
 PreK – 5th CCE Classes
 December 16.....6:00pm
 6th – 10th CCE Classes Christmas Party
 December 21.....9:30am
 PreK – 5th CCE Classes Christmas Party
 December 23 thru December 30
NO CCE CLASSES



Dates to Remember

December 8, 2024
 2nd Sunday of Advent

December 9, 2024
 The Immaculate Conception
 Advent Revival – 6:30pm
 Livestreamed on You Tube

December 15, 2024
 3rd Sunday of Advent
 Gaudete’ Sunday (Wear pink/rose)

December 22, 2024
 4th Sunday of Advent
 Parish Christmas Party

December 24, 2024 - Christmas Eve
 No Morning Mass
 Christmas Vigil Mass – 5:00pm

December 25, 2024-Christmas Day
 Christmas Day Mass – 10:00am



ADVENT REVIVAL AND PENANCE SERVICE

December 9, 2024
 6:30pm

Deacon Darryl Drenon will be the Revivalist for our Advent Revival and Penance Service. If you are serious about your preparation for the coming of our Lord and Savior, join us for an evening of Scripture Readings, Reflections, and Repentance. We will have the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation as we go on our Advent journey. It’s never too late to experience God’s mercy. Our Pastor, Very Rev. Michael Thompson, will hear Confessions during the Revival.

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 resist the lure of holiday advertising and instead concentrate on the message of simplicity and trust that is found in the Christmas manger scene. “And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value...” (Philippians 1:9-10) During the Christmas shopping season it is easy to get caught up in the frenzy of buying gifts. But, is that “gift” truly an expression of your love for the other person. Or, are you just fulfilling your “obligation” to give them something? To grow in friendship with someone, you need to spend time with them and learn what is of value to them. Maybe this year, buy less “stuff” and spend more time with those you love.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Please remember to use your Christmas Flowers/Decorations envelope to sponsor the Christmas Poinsettias in Honor or in Memory of your loved one. The minimum donation is **\$10.00**.



OCIA RITE OF WELCOMING

The St. Francis Xavier Parish family welcomed (Front Row L-R): Regis Penn, Shanel Alsandor & Terance Griffin, (Second Row L-R): Tierra Ladet (OCIA Instructor/Sponsor), Joseph Alsandor (Sponsor), and Kim Salinas (Sponsor) at the 5:00pm Mass on November 30, 2024, as they publicly declared their intention to continue their journey toward full communion with the Catholic Church.



Support those who have given a lifetime in the Second Collection today. Women and men religious have dedicated their lives to service—praying, teaching, and caring for those in need—usually for little or no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. Your donation provides for the essential care, medicine, and daily needs of thousands of senior women and men religious. Please give generously.

ATTENDANCE

In-person Mass attendance on Saturday, November 30th and Sunday, December 1st was **419** and the 7:30am Sunday Mass Livestream received **68** views online. Please join us via YouTube Livestream, or bring a friend to come worship with us in the church.



“CHRISTMAS - A TIME FOR GIVING”

Parishioners are invited to submit names of families in need of toys for Christmas. You may send an Email to stfrancishou@sfxhouston.com or call (713) 738-2311 and leave a message. Please provide the Parent/Guardian Name, Address and Phone Number, the Child’s Gender and Age. The age range is 2 yrs - 12 yrs and no more than four (4) names per household. The cut-off date for names is **December 13th at 10:00am**, no exceptions!



Parish Christmas Party!

St. Francis Xavier Annual Christmas Party will be held on Sunday, **December 22, 2024** after the 10:00am Mass.



SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT (c)

December 8, 2024

John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” Luke 3:3

Are you willing to pay the price to follow the Lamb?

The Dallas Cowboys' **Cee Dee Lamb** was holding out on going to training camp in 2024 because he wanted more money and a contract extension. While he missed training camp, he was fined \$40,000.00 a day. In **2023 the three-time Pro-Bowler** led the NFL in receptions with 135 catches for 1,749 yards and 14 touchdowns. He was the NFL's leading wide receiver going into week 13 of the 2024 season. He was requesting nearly \$35 million a year. One week before the start of the 2024 NFL season (August 25, 2024), the Cowboys gave Cee Dee Lamb a **four-year \$136 million** contract with the Dallas Cowboys.

Why such a massive contract? In part, the Dallas Cowboys realized they couldn't win many games without the Lamb. For 2023 they wouldn't have made it as far as they did without him. The Cowboys were willing to pay the price, for the Lamb. As Christians, can we do without the **Lamb of God**? Can we win spiritually without the Lamb? **Are we willing to pay the price for the Lamb?** Let's see if the Lamb of God is worth it.

The Lamb of God is the only one who can forgive our sins. We come into the world separated from God because of sin. *“For all have sinned and fall[en] short of the glory of God”* Romans 3:23. At the beginning of Jesus' ministry, John the Baptist pointed Him out and proclaimed, *“Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world”* John 1:29. The angels couldn't take away our sins, nor the Saints, not even the Virgin Mary, **only the Lamb!**

The Lamb of God gives us entrance into the Kingdom of God. Jesus proclaimed, *“I am the gate. Whoever enters through Me will be saved.”* John 10:9 Jesus also said, *“I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me”* John 14:6.

The Lamb of God keeps us out of hell-eternal punishment. Jesus said, *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life”* John 3:16. Revelation 7:10 declares: *“Salvation comes from our God, who is*

seated on the throne, and from the Lamb.” John the Baptist proclaimed today, *“Make straight His paths”* Luke 3:4. **How do we do this?** John answered that question for us: We must repent of our sins; which means to amend our ways of wrongdoing. Our sins are hindrances that block the path of the Lord from entering into our hearts. When we truly repent and turn our lives around, it allows for God's forgiveness to clear those hindrances, **and make straight the Lord's path into our heart.** **Repentance** is our part and the **forgiveness** of our sins is the Lamb's part. **The Lamb paid the price for us on the Cross. We should be willing to pay the price for Him, by turning away from our wickedness and following Him daily.**



I pray that we are convinced that the **Lamb of God** is worth the cost of us following Him. **On Christmas Day**, Christians around the world will celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. The Lamb who takes away the sins of the world is God's gift to humanity. In exchange, what should we give Christ for His birthday?

Romans 12:1 tells us what to give Him, *“Therefore I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, present your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.”*

The greatest present you can give the Lamb of God is YOURSELF!

◁◇ Dcn. Jenkins



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CHRISTMAS *Celebration*

Saturday | 14TH | December
7PM-12AM | 2024

ENJOY AN EVENING OF FELLOWSHIP WITH
FOOD, BAR, MUSIC, DANCING, AND LAUGHTER

Please bring an unwrapped gift

TICKETS \$35

**Christmas Attire: Denim and
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Prayer

Dear God, when I find myself doing or saying things that you would not like, help me to stop and start over.

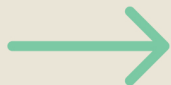
Mission for the Week

When you catch yourself being selfish, not following directions, or using hurtful words, stop. Say you're sorry, ask for forgiveness, and then try again.

Sharing the Gospel

Have you ever played a game where you asked for a "do-over" so you could try again? When John told his neighbors to be baptized, he wanted them to have a second chance. A "do-over." He wanted to give them a fresh, clean start with God.

Now color the picture!



Circle these words from today's Gospel:

BAPTIZED
FORGIVEN
ISAIAH

JOHN
DESERT
STRAIGHT

CROOKED
SMOOTH
ROUGH

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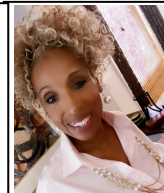


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