

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH

(ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON)

Staffed by the Josephites since 1952

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

FEBRUARY 22, 2026



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Emergency Contact: 409.963.5633 CCE: 713.731.2775
Parish Hall: 713.731.2725 SVdP Conference: 713.731.2716
WEB Address: <http://www.sfxhouston.com>
E-MAIL: stfranchishou@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:

Very Rev. Michael Thompson, SSJ

DEACONS:

Michael V. Jenkins

Darryl K. Drenon

Frank J. Laugermann (Retired)

SACRISTAN

Orell Dargin

PARISH SECRETARY

Shirley M. Foreman.....x113

BOOKEEPER

Stacie Boisseau.....x109

DIR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Unella Baber.....x103

ADULT FORMATION (OCIA)

Deacon Michael V. Jenkins

Tierra Ledet

ST VINCENT de PAUL CONFERENCE

Erica Smith

CONTRIBUTIONS/MEMBERSHIP

Agnes Thompson.....x107

OFFICE ASSISTANT

Hope Jackson

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

4th Saturdays: 12:00 Noon

CHOIR DIRECTOR:

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 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

GIVE without Cash or Check TEXT-TO-GIVE

Text \$ amount to 281-949-7600



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

MASS INTENTIONS		
SAT	02/21/2026	5:00PM
	<i>People of the Parish</i>	
SUN	02/22/2026	7:30AM
	<i>Deliverance & Protection for the Charles Family (L) – Cynthia Charles</i>	
SUN	02/24/2026	10:00AM
	<i>Very Rev. Michael L. Thompson, SSJ (L)</i> In Thanksgiving	
TUE	02/24/2026	7:00AM
	<i>Lisa Presley (D)</i> James & Bonnie Jefferson	
WED	02/25/2026	7:00AM
	<i>Very Rev. Michael L. Thompson, SSJ (L)</i> Special Intention	
THUR	02/26/2026	7:00AM
	<i>Deliverance & Protection for the Charles Family (L) – Cynthia Charles</i>	
FRI	02/27/2026	7:00AM
	<i>Deliverance & Protection for the Charles Family (L) – Cynthia Charles</i>	
SAT	02/28/2026	5:00PM
	<i>Betty Goodwin (L)</i> The Goodwin Family	



Donald Abraham, Akaycia Addison, Azielee & Nathan Addison IV, Emmoree Addison, Kayne Addison, Lauren Addison, Zaneta Addison, Mary Jane Albert, Joseph Alcendor, Clara Barras, Ivy Bobb, Hazel S. Brown, Tommy Burton, Julius Cadoree, Nancy Calvin, Nathaniel Campbell, Taja Chiles, Dalton Cooper Jr, Frank Davis Sr, Rev. Henry Davis SSJ, Marlene Davis, Dalton & Julia Dean, Atrica Dozier, Mary Duplechain, Lois Epps, Paul Garrick Jr, Anthony Gobert, Valerie Williams Goode, Betty Goodwin, Stella Goodwin, Beulah Hadrick, Mary Hamilton, Demeteria Headspeth, Cheryl & Eric Henderson, Donald Henderson, Anthony Hicks, Diane Houston, Al Jackson Jr, Crystal Jackson, Angela Johnson, Deacon Irvin Johnson, Natalie Johnson, Brooke Joseph, Serral Landry, JoAnn LaSane, Barbara Laugermann, Hilary & Patricia Ledet, Hazel Lewis, Laurenzia Lewis, Nona Mayberry, Eugene Mallery, Charles Martin, Shannon Martin, Donald May, Diane Miles, Cookie Mooring, Debbie Morris, Very Rev. William Norvel SSJ, Carolyn Ollison, Angela Pena, Cynethia Pichon, Margie 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, Very Rev. Michael Saah-Buckman SSJ, Kerry Samuels, Kevin Simon, Joyce Smith, Jamilia Sonnier, Maria Spencer, Joyce Stagg, Jeffery Steptoe, Mackenzie Swanks, Kennedi Swanks, Erma Taylor, Melvin Thomas, Gemma Walcott, Herbert White, Agnes Williams, Patricia Williams, Terrell Wilson, Janice Woods, Alberta Zenon and all the sick and shut-in in our parish family.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

On the first Sunday of Lent, we are reminded how easy it is to succumb to temptation. We are faced with it every day and it seems magnified during Lent. Today, we hear how Adam and Eve gave in to temptation while Jesus resisted it. Jesus found strength in the word of God, which he used effectively to outduel the devil in the desert. Let us listen now to God's powerful word, aware that Jesus' use of it to resist temptation enables us to share in his righteousness.

Our Pastor's Birthday
Wednesday, February 25th



BETTY JEAN YOUNG
1934 - 2026

EASTER CANDLE SPONSOR
This is the candle that is lit at the Easter Vigil Mass, and also during Baptisms throughout the year, signifying new life in Christ. The cost of the candle this year is **\$185.30**. Please contact the Parish Office if you would like to sponsor this candle.

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Sunday – February 22**
First Sunday of Lent
Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7
Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17
Romans 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19
Mt 4:1-11
- Monday – February 23**
St. Polycarp, Bishop & Martyr
Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18
Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15
Mt 25:31-46
- Tuesday – February 24**
Isaiah 55:10-11
Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19
Mt 6:7-15
- Wednesday – February 25**
Jonah 3:1-10
Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19
Luke 11:29-32
- Thursday – February 26**
Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25
Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 7-8
Mt 7:7-12
- Friday February 27**
St. Gregory of Narek
Ezekiel 18:21-28
Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7, 7-8
Mt 5:20-26
- Saturday February 28**
Deuteronomy 26:16-19
Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8
Mt 5:43-48



February 23.....6:00pm
6th – 10th CCE CLASSES-Lenten Prayer Service

February 28.....9:30am
PreK – 5th CCE CLASSES-Prayer Service

March 2.....6:00pm
6th – 10th CCE CLASSES-Lenten Prayer Service

2025-2026 OCIA CLASSES

February 22.....6:00pm
Rite of Election

Texas Education Freedom Accounts (TEFA) - Choose Catholic Schools

Registration is now open. Parents must apply by **March 17** application period. Sign up to receive information on applying at www.choosecatholicschools.org/TEFA



Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

The St. Francis Xavier St. Vincent de Paul Conference will meet on Tuesday, **February 24th**, at 2:00pm in the Harris Center Auditorium. The Conference will host the District Meeting here on Saturday, **February 28th**, from 2:00pm to 4:30pm in the Parish Hall. A Commissioning Ceremony will take place at the 5:00pm Mass following the meeting.

A Simple Way to Give This Lent

Lent is a sacred season of prayer, sacrifice, and generosity. As we prepare our hearts for Easter, we are invited to reflect on the blessings God has given us and how we can share them with others. One meaningful way to live out this Lenten call is through eGiving.

eGiving is a simple, secure way to give online, making it easy to support our parish all year long. Please consider eGiving to support our parish and sustain ministries, programs, and services that strengthen our community and serve those in need every day.

It's easy to get started. Here are the ways to sign up:

- Call ParishSOFT Customer Service at 866-930-4774 option 6
- Scan the QR code
- Text "Give" to 281-949-7600

Thank you and may God bless your generosity.



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Lenten
Worship
Schedule

*Outdoor Stations of the Cross
(In the Prayer Garden)*

*Every Friday during Lent
5:30pm*

Holy Week

Palm Sunday – March 29

CCE Passion Play.....10:00am

Holy Thursday – April 2

**Mass6:00pm
(No Morning Mass)**

Good Friday – April 3

**Outdoor Stations..... 3:00pm
Good Friday Service.....4:00pm
(No Mass)**

*Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil)
April 4*

**Mass.....8:00pm
(No 5:00pm Mass)**

Easter Sunday - April 5

**Regular Mass Schedules
7:30am and 10:00am**

ATTENDANCE

In-person Mass attendance on Saturday, February 14th and Sunday, February 15th was **421**. The Sunday Livestream received **61** views. Please join us via YouTube Livestream or bring a friend to come and 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 prune ourselves of earthly things and nurture and develop heavenly things. "It is written: 'The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve.'" Matthew 4:10 Tempted between the riches and power of this world and service to God, Jesus chose service to His Father. If we wish to truly follow Jesus, we, too, must decide to turn away from worldly power and riches and put God at the center of our lives. Lent is our time to prune ourselves of earthly things and develop and nurture heavenly things. Lent is time to repent and let go of the other "gods" we have put before God.

FISH FRY!

Every Friday During Lent

11:00am – 6:00pm

Call (713) 731-2725 to place your order.

FISH DINNERS

(Catfish/Trout).....\$20.00



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CAKES (a day or two prior)

Monetary Donations are Welcome

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WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!!!!

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

FROM 2:00PM – 6:00PM ON FRIDAYS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



Some reflections inspired by online copyrighted commentaries and homilies

First Sunday of Lent (Cycle A)

During today's Gospel Reading, we heard that Jesus fasted for forty days and He was put to the test by Satan. This reading from the Scriptures provides us with clues as to how we can overcome sin. Matthew tells us that "Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness." After fasting for forty days and forty nights, Jesus was awfully hungry. The forty days and nights may be symbolic of the 40 years in the desert when Israel endured a time of temptations and failure. Now, Jesus, the new Israel, is likewise being tempted in the desert.

In the first temptation, the devil said to Jesus, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." To this, Jesus answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

The response of Jesus mirrors a passage in the Book of Deuteronomy. "He humbled you by letting you hunger, then by feeding you with manna, with which neither appealed strange, in order to make you understand that one does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord." In His response, Jesus is showing that basic necessities should be subject to the revealed Word of God. His mission was not fulfilled by providing for basic needs but rather by proclaiming the Word that is life.

In the second temptation, quoting from the Book of Psalms, "the devil took Jesus to the holy city and placed Him on the pinnacle of the Temple." Then Satan said to Jesus, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" To this, Jesus replied, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Once more, Jesus answered by quoting from the Book of Deuteronomy, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test, as you tested Him at Massah." This Biblical response was a warning against rashness. By imposing demands upon God that God has not promised to fulfill, it is saying, "My way Lord, not Your way!" This is not the way that God has chosen to reveal Himself.

In the final temptation, the devil took Jesus to an exceedingly high mountain and showed Him all the Kingdoms of the world and their splendor. There, Satan

said, "All these I will give You, if You will fall down and worship me." Again, quoting Deuteronomy, Jesus answered with severity, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" In this last incident, Satan tempted Jesus with a secular salvation, the use of power to carry out the ends of his saving mission. By His response, Jesus placed secular mission on the level of worship of false gods. Did Jesus not say to Pilate, "My Kingdom is not from this world." Jesus also said, "The Kingdom of God is not coming with things that can be observed; nor will they say, 'Look, here it is! or 'There it is!' For in fact, the Kingdom of God is among (within) you." [Lk. 17:20-1] While the Kingdom of God is a spiritual Kingdom, Satan tempted Jesus to make it a physical Kingdom.

By now, you must have all realized that all the temptations can be summed up as temptations to power. The first temptation demanded that miraculous power be used to provide for basic material needs. The second temptation demanded that Divine power be used to produce a spectacular "sign" that would compel anyone to believe. The third temptation demanded the use of Divine power to establish a worldly Kingdom of God.

Having entered the Lenten Season, this is a time for us to review our beliefs and expectations. Do we demand that God provide for our basic needs while ignoring our spiritual needs? Do we impose demands upon God when we pray, ignoring the impact of such demands on our salvation, the impact upon those around us, and even the impact of such demands upon the Divine Will of God? There must be a balance between asking the Lord for a blessing if it is according to His Divine Will and saying, "Give me, give me, give me!" And do we have false hopes of a secular kingdom, awaiting a salvation for what will never come to pass? Are we wasting valuable time that could be applied towards our spiritual growth, and our sanctification in Christ?

Beginning our Lenten meditation this week, may we reflect on these things and ask the Holy Spirit to guide us in the truth so we may become as precious disciples to the Lord. And when we are being tempted by the devil contrary to the teachings of the Holy Catholic Church, may we raise our voices and say, "Away with you, Satan!" [Mt. 4:10J gospels.

Very Rev. Michael L. Thompson, SSJ

Lenten Revival

A Season Of Preparation



Rev. Anthony Bozeman, SSJ
Revivalist



THURSDAY, MARCH 12 AND FRIDAY, MARCH 13

6:00PM – 7:30PM

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH

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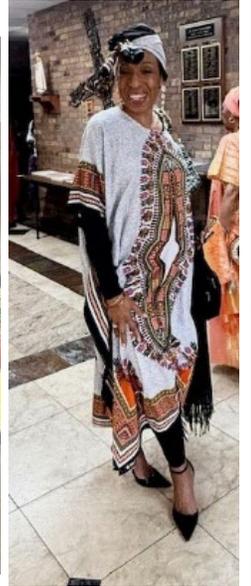
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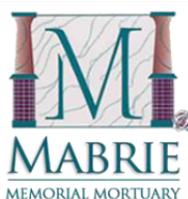
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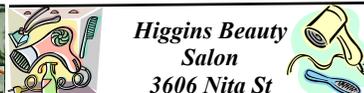
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