

# ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH

(ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON)

*Staffed by the Josephites since 1952*

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

APRIL 6, 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, 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

Closed for Restructure

## 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

4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays: 12:00 Noon

## CHOIR DIRECTORS:

Jerry Givens 281.772.9276

Michael Stevenson 832.884.6543

Mikayla Peugh

## 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>04/05/2025</b>	<b>5:00PM</b>
<i>Deacon Albert Henry (D) - The Family</i>		
<b>SUN.</b>	<b>04/06/2025</b>	<b>7:30AM</b>
<i>Mable Lee Chavis (D)</i>		
<i>The Edward Ray Chavis Family</i>		
<b>SUN.</b>	<b>04/06/2025</b>	<b>10:00AM</b>
<i>People of the Parish</i>		
<b>TUE.</b>	<b>04/08/2025</b>	<b>7:00AM</b>
<i>William Rodney Pradia (D)</i>		
<i>Ariann Marie Pradia</i>		
<b>WED.</b>	<b>04/09/2025</b>	<b>7:00AM</b>
<i>Lloyd Eubanks (D) - Tywana Navy</i>		
<b>THUR</b>	<b>04/10/2025</b>	<b>7:00AM</b>
<i>Beverly Fransaw (L) - Special Intention</i>		
<b>FRI</b>	<b>04/11/2025</b>	<b>7:00AM</b>
<i>Mary C. Green (L) - Red R. Simpson</i>		
<b>SAT</b>	<b>04/12/2025</b>	<b>5:00PM</b>
<i>J.C. James (L)</i>		
<i>Evonne Cummings Thompson</i>		



Donald Abraham, Akaycia Addison, Azielee & Nathan Addison IV, Emmoree Addison, Kayne Addison, Lauren Addison, Zaneta Addison, Mary Jane Albert, Clara Barras, Chris Bobb, Hazel S. Brown, Tommy Burton, Julius Cadoree, Nancy Calvin, Nathaniel Campbell, Dalton Cooper Jr, Shelton Darte, Frank Davis Sr, Rev. Henry Davis SSJ, Marlene Davis, Dalton & Julia Dean, Sterling Certenberg, Lois Epps, Lawrence Frank, Paul Garrick Jr, Anthony Gobert, Betty Goodwin, Stella Goodwin, Beulah Hadrick, Mary Hamilton, Alvin J. Hebert, Donald Henderson, Anthony Hicks, Diane Houston, Crystal Jackson, Angela Johnson, Deacon Irvin Johnson, Natalie Johnson, Brooke Joseph, Shirley Ann Joseph, Serral Landry, JoAnn LaSane, Barbara Laugermann, Hilary Ledet, Hazel Lewis, Laurenzia Lewis, 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, Alan Pryor, 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, LaTanya Schooler, Kevin Simon, Joyce Smith, Joyce Stagg, Jeffery Steptoe, Mackenzie Swanks, Kennedi Swanks, Erma Taylor, Joann Thomas, Melvin Thomas, Gemma Walcott, E. W. Ward, Herbert White, Agnes Williams, Patricia Williams, Theresa Williams, Eddie Rean Wilson, Terrell Wilson, Janice Woods, Alberta Zenon and all the sick and shut-in in our parish family.



**JOSEPH THOMPSON**  
1998-2025



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

Every Friday during Lent

5:30pm

**Palm Sunday - April 13**

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

**Holy Thursday - April 17**

Mass .....6:00pm

(No Morning Mass)

**Good Friday - April 18**

Outdoor Stations..... 3:00pm

Good Friday Service.....4:00pm

(No Mass)

**Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil)**

**April 19**

Mass.....8:00pm

(No 5:00pm Mass)

**Easter Sunday - April 20**

Regular Mass Schedules

7:30am and 10:00am

**FIFTH SUNDAY  
OF LENT**


*I want to know Christ  
and the power of his  
resurrection.*  
Philippians 3:10, NIV

Even as the Israelites reall their rescue from Egypt, Isaiah pleads with them to notice that God has rescued them once again, leading them out of the desert of exile. Paul confesses to the Philippians that his faith in the Lord is more important than anything else he has. In the Gospel, Jesus saves the life of the adulterous woman, rescuing her from certain execution and giving her a new chance at life by forgiving her. Truly, as we sing in the psalm, the Lord has done great things for us.

**READINGS  
FOR THE WEEK**

■ **Sunday - April 6**

*5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent*

Isaiah 43:16-21

Psalm 126:1-6

Philippians 3:8-14

John 8:1-11

■ **Monday - April 7**

*Saint John Baptist de la Salle, Priest*

Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30,

33-62 or 13:41-62

Psalm 23:1-6

John 8:12-20

■ **Tuesday - April 8**

Numbers 21:4-9

Psalm 102:2-3, 16-21

John 8:21-30

■ **Wednesday - April 9**

Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95

(Psalm) Daniel 3:52-56

John 8:31-42

■ **Thursday - April 10**

Genesis 17:3-9

Psalm 105:4-9

John 8:51-59

■ **Friday April 11**

*Saint Stanislaus, Bishop, Martyr*

Jeremiah 20:10-13

Psalm 18:2-7

John 10:31-42

■ **Saturday April 12**

Ezekiel 37:21-28

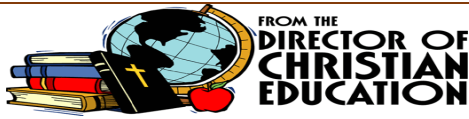
(Psalm ) Jeremiah 31:10-13

John 11:45-56

**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





April 7.....6:00pm  
6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> CCE Classes  
Passion Play Practice  
April 12.....9:30am  
PreK – 5<sup>th</sup> CCE Classes  
April 14-21  
NO CCE Classes -Easter Break  
April 26.....9:30am  
PreK – 5<sup>th</sup> CCE Classes  
April 28.....6:00pm  
6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> CCE Classes



**April 12 – 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation**  
**Retreat in the Harris Center**  
**Auditorium 9:00am-3:00pm**  
**April 13 (Palm Sunday) – CCE Passion**  
**Play at the 10:00am Mass**

Journey to Second Chance MINISTRY The Journey to Second Chance Ministry will provide outreach and support to the formerly incarcerated and their families on Wednesday, **April 9<sup>th</sup>**, from 2:00pm to 6:00pm in the Harris Center Room 125. Job placement interviews, clothing & shoes, counseling, partner outreach, and notary services will be provided to help you on your JOURNEY TO SECOND CHANCE.



Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Alpha Kappa Omega Chapter and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Rho Beta Beta Chapter will host a FREE Document Shedding, E-Cycling, Tire and Paint Disposal Event on Saturday, **April 26<sup>th</sup>**, from **9:00am to 1:00pm**. The location is the shared parking lot of the Sunnyside Police Department at 3511 Reed Rd.

## ATTENDANCE

In-person Mass attendance on Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup> was **485** and the 7:30am Sunday Mass Livestream received **43** views. Please join us via YouTube Livestream, or bring a friend to come worship with us in the church.

## FISH FRY!

**Every Friday During Lent**  
**11:00am – 6:00pm**  
Call (713) 731-2725 to place your order.  
**FISH DINNERS**  
(Catfish/Trout).....\$20.00  
Extra Side Orders.....\$2.00  
Cake.....\$1.00  
Drinks.....\$1.00



**DONATIONS ARE NEEDED**  
GREEN BEANS (gallon size)  
WHOLE KERNAL CORN (gallon size)  
CAKES (a day or two prior)  
Monetary Donations are Welcome  
We will do the shopping for you.  
**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

**The St. Francis Xavier Health Ministry**  
**Health Forum and Medical Scholarship Luncheon**  
**Theme: Getting Back to the Root of Good Health**  
**Saturday, April 26, 2025**  
**10am to 2pm**  
4600 Reed Road | Houston, Texas 77051  
Doors open at 9AM | Speakers | Food | Door Prizes  
| Silent Auction | Wine-Spirit Pull  
Attire: guests are encouraged to wear African attire or dressy outfit, no baseball caps.



## OFFICE OF AGING

The Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston has an **Office of Aging** that serves older adults of 50+ years and their families and caregivers. If you are over 50 or caring for someone who is, we want you to know that you are seen and heard, valued and loved! This year we have begun **SAINTS University**, a learning community for faith fellowship and fun that has a full calendar of events in northern, central and southwest Houston. To find our more visit [www.archgh.org/aging/saints](http://www.archgh.org/aging/saints) or join our community by texting "Aging" to 84576.

## 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 keep God first in everything and not put other gods before God. "...For his sake I have accepted the loss of all things and I consider them so much rubbish, that I may gain Christ..." (Philippians 3:8) The first commandment says that we should not put other gods before the Lord. Sharing all of our gifts - our time in prayer, our talent in charitable works, and our treasure to support the Church helps us keep God first in everything. It helps us from putting other gods before God. It helps us from becoming a slave to our possessions. It helps us to use our gifts for the glory of God and not for the glory of ourselves.



To **Cry Out with Joy to the Lord!** is to recognize and thank Him for His abundant gifts. This joy springs from our grateful hearts and reminds us to pause and appreciate God's countless blessings – even the small, everyday miracles that reflect His love for us. As we cultivate gratitude, we create space for even greater joy in our lives. Please consider making your gift in the parish, or online at [www.archgh.org/dsf](http://www.archgh.org/dsf), and join our mission to be Christ's hands and heart in our community.

SCAN HERE TO GIVE





Some reflections inspired by online copyrighted

## **Fifth Sunday of Lent (Year C)**

### **“Neither do I condemn you!”**

We are just one week away from the Holy Week and away from our celebration of God’s love shown in the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus. For us Christians this season of Lent is a time of special grace in which we experience the presence of a personal God who cares and loves us.

Our response is to transform ourselves and live according to his will. We want to do something new and come to him in obedience and freedom. Before him, we acknowledge our weakness, and we know that he is the one who supports us and builds new relationships with us. We ought to change our lives during Lent and come closer to him.

Last Sunday, Laetare Sunday, the Church called this time on our Lenten journey, a joyful time because we continue our preparation for the future joy of Easter that approaches us bringing Christ’s blessings, mercy, and forgiveness. As we approach to the end of our Lenten journey, we are reminded of our last opportunity to cooperate with God’s mercy, in order to receive his love and grace.

Christ invites us to enter deep into his mystery and look for his unlimited love. We have today the telling of the woman caught in the act of adultery. Jesus protects her and forgives her totally, but not before asking her to reform her life. Certainly, she would choose to be his follower for through forgiveness he brought divine love in her.

There is a beautiful little thread running through the readings this weekend that I find helpful: ‘there is no need to recall the past, (the blessings of God are not all in the past), God is doing something new in this time and in this place. “IN THE MIDST OF IT ALL OUR HOPE IS IN GOD.” I think this has been the thread in all the experiences of the Lenten readings. Since our first Sunday of Jesus being tempted in the desert, we are taught to trust in God. In the Transfiguration, we come to experience God and his glory we are blessed to share in. Then we learnt that sometimes we have to allow God to cultivate us, so we can hope to bear good faithful fruit. The story of the Prodigal Son last Sunday, we know that with humility and reconciliation the Father will always welcome us to himself. In today’s teaching Jesus invites us to examine our own sins and our own hearts, before we self-righteously judge others.

The group of men, identified as ‘scribes and Pharisees’, harass and emotionally abuse a woman who had been caught committing adultery, by dragging her in a very public way to Jesus, making her stand there in full view of everybody. The gospel reading says they were trying to test Jesus; they were using the woman as a kind of bait to trap Jesus. They wanted to know, ‘Does Jesus approve the Jewish Law, as expressed in the Books of Leviticus and Deuteronomy, which says that women and men who commit adultery should be stoned?’ Even though there is no reference to the man in the story. He seems to have gotten off free, but God sees him. You see the trap for Jesus was that if he supported this particular Jewish Law, he would lose his reputation as a friend of sinners. If he rejected it, he could be depicted by his enemies as a breaker of the Law of Moses.

The woman was on trial, but it was really Jesus that the scribes and Pharisees wanted to put on trial. Jesus refuses to engage with this group of religious leaders on their terms. He responds to their questioning initially by ignoring them, bending down to write on the ground, in the dust. Jesus lowered himself, physically in humility. From that lowly position, he couldn’t see the woman’s accusers or the woman herself, he would have had to look up. We are being reminded that the whole of his public ministry was a lowering of himself, or as Saint Paul expresses it in his letter to the Philippians, Jesus’ emptying of himself, humbling of himself, is taking the form of a servant.

It is as if this one account of how Jesus actually treated this woman gives a clear picture of the whole meaning of the Gospel and the way approaches us in our sin and our weakness. There is no doubt about what the law at the time of Our Lord dictated as a penalty for the type of sin alleged here. Jesus, however, puts the whole relationship of sin and punishment into a new light: mercy and compassion.

In God’s eyes, the law is not just about harshness and rules but in unity with God’s loving mercy and kindness, and how we have acted in relation to that. Jesus, time and time again has reminded us that we are whole human beings, and that Jesus calls us to wholeness. So, we do not do ourselves much good if we only focus on our actions or even sins unless we see them in the broader context of who we are as humans created by God in love. It is also about love and mercy and compassion. I am sure we would all like to live out that mercy and compassion in our lives.

As I said in the beginning of Lent, it is a time when we reflect on our own relationships with God and with others. We no longer stone people to death for breaking laws, (thank Goodness), but tragically and shockingly, there are still places in the world where this type of horrific penalty still applies. And let’s face it, even in the absence of “stoning” - there are other ways of “striking people down” or destroying their career, their reputation or their lives because of their mistakes, sins and weaknesses.

We have probably all seen examples where a person’s sin or weaknesses have been thrown back in their face by others, even in situations where the sin or weakness is actually not relevant at all to the present issue at hand. A person’s faults and sins can be a powerful weapon that is used against them. It is all-too tempting for people to use a person’s sins and faults against them for their own advantage. Remember, week before last, food for thought, “we don’t throw stones when we live in glass houses”. Lent calls us to live as Jesus Christ lived: with love, compassion, and mercy for everyone and for all creation. What an enormous challenge for us Christians!

Let us pray today for a deepening of the gift of faith, hope, love and forgiveness in our lives. We pray for the gift of being able to give humble witness to our faith by speaking the truths about our faith always with compassion, love and mercy. May God help us! We certainly need God’s help and grace. May we hear the words spoken to the adulterous woman and live the words of Jesus in our lives: “Neither do I condemn you, go on your way in peace and sin no more!”

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



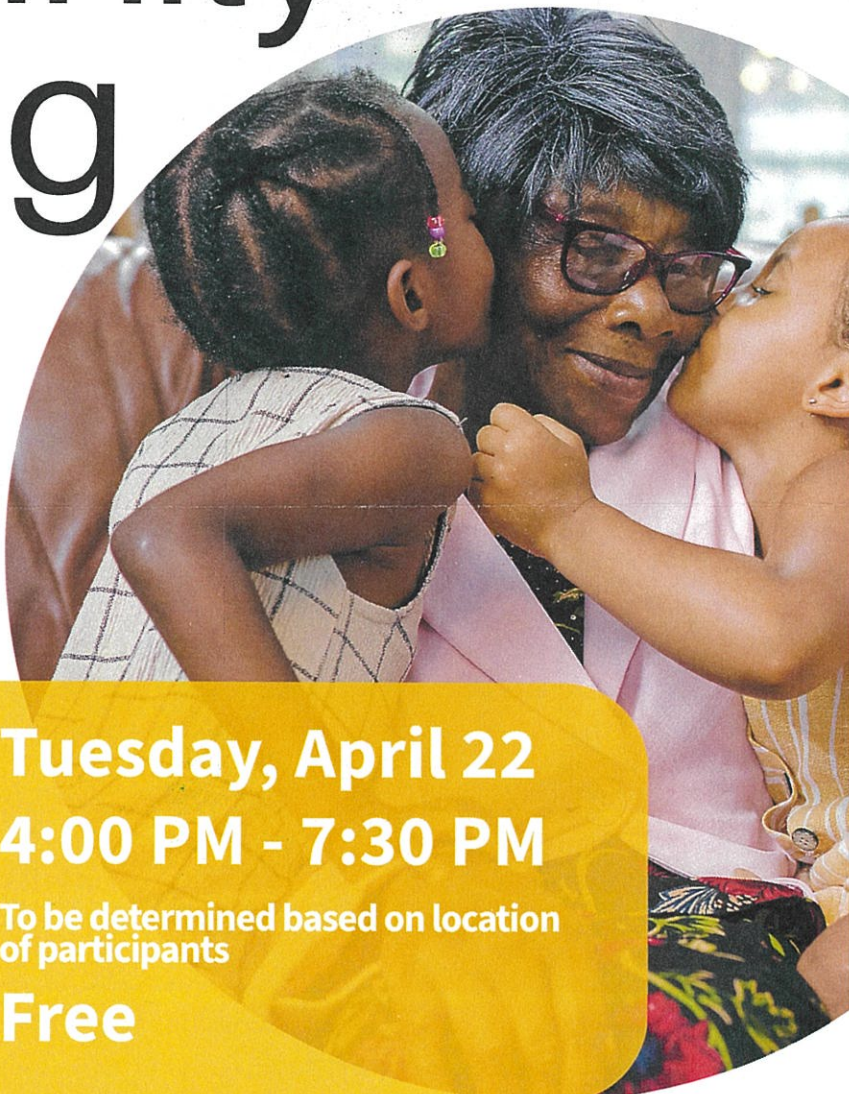


THE ARCHDIOCESE OF  
GALVESTON-HOUSTON



# Community Listening Session

**FOR FAMILY MEMBERS OF  
LOVED ONES IMPACTED BY  
DEMENTIA**



**Date:**

**Tuesday, April 22**

**Time:**

**4:00 PM - 7:30 PM**

**Location:**

To be determined based on location  
of participants

**Cost:**

**Free**

For questions, contact Kris Kerlin, Director of the Office of Aging Ministry at 713-391-2678 or email at [kkerlin@archgh.org](mailto:kkerlin@archgh.org).



Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church Call to Change Ministry

# RESOURCE FAIR

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SATURDAY | APRIL 12, 2025 | 9AM - 1PM

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3826 WHEELER AVENUE, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77004

*And my God will liberally supply (fill until full) your every need according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus, Philipians 4:19*



**This is a collaboration with the St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church Journey to Second Chance Ministry and the Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church Call to Change Ministry. All are invited to attend!**

FREE  
+ OPEN  
TO THE  
PUBLIC



REGISTER @ [WHEELERBC.ORG](https://www.wheelerbc.org)



Hop on over for our

# EASTER

Celebration and Egg Hunt at the  
Prayer Garden of St Francis  
Xavier Catholic Church

**ON APRIL 20TH**

**Time: 11:15 am to 1:30 pm**

**(Following the 10am Mass)**

**4600 Reed Rd, Houston, TX**

**Hosted by the KPC Junior Knights &  
Daughters of Court 138**

## Activities

- Egg Relay
- Music
- Yard Games
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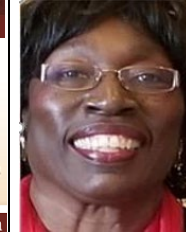
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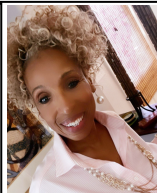


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