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THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 23, 2025



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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

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PASTOR:

Vy. Rev. Michael Thompson, SSJ

DEACONS:

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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

4th Saturdays: 12:00 Noon

CHOIR DIRECTORS:

Jerry Givens 281.772.9276 Michael Stevenson 832.884.6543 Mikayla Peugh



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.

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



MASS INTENTIONS

SAT. 03/22/2025 5:00PM People of the Parish SUN. 03/23/2025 7:30AM Ezzard Sam (D) – Gracie Sam & Family SUN. 03/23/2025 10:00AM Tommy Reed (L) – Special Intention 7:00AM TUE. 03/25/2025 Beverly Fransaw (L) – Special Intention WED. 03/26/2025 7:00AM The Goodwin Family (L) Stephanie Goodwin THUR 03/27/2025 7:00AM *Monique Clark (D)* – Tywanna Navy 7:00AM FRI 03/28/2025 John C. Davis (D) – Tywanna Navy SAT 03/29/2025 5:00PM Joseph & Earlene Duplechaine (D)



The Duplechaine Family

Outdoor Stations of the Cross
(In the Prayer Garden)

Every Friday during Lent 5:30pm

Laetare Sunday(Wear Rose/Pink)
March 30

Palm Sunday – April 13

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

Holy Thursday – April 17

Mass6:00pm

(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

LAETERE SUNDAY

Next Sunday is the halfway mark of the Sundays of Lent. This Sunday is known as *Laetare* Sunday for the first word of the Entrance Antiphon "Rejoice" (IS 66:10-11); it is a Sunday of joy. The celebrant has the option to wear rose-colored vestments. You are invited to wear pink or rose next Sunday.



Donald Abraham, Akaycia Addison, Azielee Addison, Kayne Addison, Lauren Addison, Nathan Addison IV,

Zaneta Addison, Mary Jane Albert, Clara Barras, Chris Bobb, Hazel S. Brown, Tommy Burton, Julius Cadoree, Nancy Calvin, Nathaniel Campbell, Dalton Cooper Jr, Shelton Dartez, Frank Davis Sr, Rev. Henry Davis SSJ, Marlene Davis, Dalton & Julia Dean, Sterling Certenberg, Lois Epps, Lawrence Frank, Paul Garrick Jr, Lloyd Gibbs, 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, Levan Ledet, Kayson Lester, Hazel Lewis, Laurenzia Lewis, Eugene Mallery, Mr. Martin, 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, 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.

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



who am am," God proclaims to Moses from the burning bush. In saying this, God claims to be existence itself—as the one who simply is. Jesus further

reveals his Father in the parable we hear in the Gospel: God is prepared to cut down the unfruitful fig tree but is also willing to give it another change to bear fruit. We sing of this aspect of God in the responsorial psalm: "The Lord is kind and merciful." Let this refrain comfort us as we hear of those who were unexpectedly and tragically struck down.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK Sunday – March 23

3rd Sunday of Lent Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15 Psalm 103:1-4, 6-8, 11 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12 Luke 13:1-9

Monday – March 24

2 Kings 5:1-15 Psalm 42:2-3; 43:3-4 Luke 4:24-30

☐ Tuesday – March 25

The Annunciation of the Lord
Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10
Psalm 40:7-11
Hebrews 10:4-10
Luke 1:26-38

Wednesday – March 26

Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9 Psalm 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20 Matthew 5:17-19

■ Thursday – March 27

Jeremiah 7:23-28 Psalm 95:1-2, 6-9 Luke 11:14-23

Friday March 28

Hosea 14:2-10 Psalm 81:6-11, 14, 17 Mark 12:28-34

Saturday March 29

Hosea 6:1-6 Psalm 51:3-4, 18-21 Luke 18:9-14



6 th – 10 th CCE Classes	о.оорш
March 29	9:30am
PreK – 5th CCE Classes	
March 31	6:00pm
6 th – 10 th CCE Classes	

April 5......9:30am

PreK - 5th CCE Classes



March 31 – 9th & 10th Grades Jeremiah Training in the Harris Center April 12 – 10th Grade Confirmation Retreat in the Harris Center Auditorium 9:00am-3:00pm

CATHOLIC FAMILY NIGHT AT THE ASTROS

New York Mets vs. Houston Astros on Saturday, March 29 at 6:10pm

Location: Daikin Park – 501 Crawford St Get ready for an evening filled with faith, family, and fun! Join us for Catholic Family Night, where the faith community comes together to support the Steps for Students tuition assistance fund benefiting Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. We have reserved special seating to ensure a fantastic game experience. For tickets, go to https://fevo-enterprise.com/event/CatholicFamilySteps.



NEXT WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION

Next week, our parish will take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection. Funds from this collection provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, and bring Christ's love and mercy to vulnerable people here and abroad. Next week, please give generously to the collection and reveal Christ's love to those most in need. Learn more at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.

FISH FRY! Every Friday During Lent

11:00am - 6:00pm

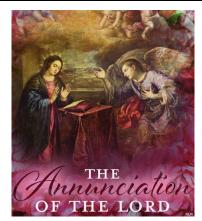
Call (713) 731-2725 to place your order.
FISH DINNERS
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Extra Side Orders.....\$2.00
Cake......\$1.00

Drinks......\$1.00



DONATIONS ARE NEEDED GREEN BEANS (gallon size)

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CAKES (a day or two prior)
Monetary Donations are Welcome
We will do the shopping for you.
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SUPPORT!



SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

The Church celebrates the **Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord** on Tuesday, **March 25**th. This feast celebrates the wondrous event that binds God and humanity forever. Christ the Word who becomes the Son of Mary, is enfleshed in her womb, making Mary the Mother of God. The liturgy celebrates the beginning of God's new redemptive work and recognizes Mary as the "new Eve", the obedient and faithful woman who generously agreed to be a participant in God's plan of salvation. May we imitate her generous and trusting commitment when she gave herself fully to God's mysterious ways.

In-person Mass attendance on Saturday, March 15th and Sunday, March 16th was **478** and the 7:30am Sunday Mass Livestream received **58** 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 are generous with all of our gifts; nurture and develop them to return with increase. "He said to the gardener, 'For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none." - Luke 13:7 We can all be like the barren fig tree at times. Do you cling to what you have, or do you generously share with others? How will you respond when God asks you what you have done with all the gifts He has given you? Remember, not only are we called to be generous; we are called to develop and nurture our gifts; and return them with increase. We are called to be generous with all of gifts; especially the one that means the most to you.

Lest Cry Out with JOY THE LORD!

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, and join our mission to be Christ's hands and heart in our community.







Some reflections inspired by online copyrighted commentaries and homilies

Third Sunday of Lent (Year C)

March 23, 2025

As we enter the Third Week of Lent, we continue on our journey of repentance in preparation for the approach of the Celebration of Easter that commemorates the glorious Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Knowing that Jesus triumphed over the temptations in the desert, we are reminded that we too can triumph through our living faith in Jesus Christ as he is Transfigured before the disciples. The Father, implore us to listen and pay close attention to Jesus on our Journey of Life.

Therefore, today, it is appropriate to look at the nature of sin. By understanding how offensive it is to the eyes of God, we are then equipped with sufficient knowledge to decide if we will walk in His Holy ways or if we will reject His Divine grace in exchange for the sinful path of life.

First of all, I must ask, is there such a thing as a good sin? To answer that question, one must know the definition of sin. Sin is a transgression an offense against God. It is a crime against God! Why is it a crime against God? It is a crime against God because it is a rejection of God's Holy ways. Sin is the outcome of one's decision to have "his way" or "no way!" That is why a sin is a crime against God.

Now, I ask, is there such a thing as a good crime? Is one crime better than another? Is an assault on someone better than a robbery? Is adultery better than murder? Is lying better than stealing? Is disobedience better than being a party to an abortion?

During today's reading of the Gospel, Jesus addressed the nature of sin. He asked, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way, they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?" "Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them - do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem?"

What did Jesus answer? He said, "No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did." In other words, a sin is a sin! There is no such thing as a big sin versus a small sin. Nor is there such a thing as a good sin versus a bad sin. A sin is a sin! If you offend God, then you have offended God! You cannot walk away and say, "I did not offend God because it was a small sin." Nor can you say, "It is no big deal because it was a small sin." A sin is a transgression against God. To sin is to offend God, to reject His holy ways!

During today's Gospel Reading, Jesus gave a parable about the fig tree. Why did this parable immediately follow after Jesus explained that sin is offensive to God, that it deserves severe punishment? It is because Jesus wanted to point out the sin of indifference, the sin of neglect of one's responsibilities towards God.

In the parable that Jesus told, a man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard. When the man went to look at it for a fruit, he found none on it. The tree had now been without fruit for three consecutive years. Finally, tired of that useless tree, the man told the gardener to cut it down. Upon hearing this, the gardener asked the owner to patiently wait another year during which time he would dig around the tree and put manure on it in the hope that it would bear fruit. If that helps after one year and there are fruits on it, good; if not, then it should be cut down. In the parable, Jesus was talking about those who are indifferent to their salvation. He was talking about those who refuses to live their faith in Christ by performing good works, those who reject the grace of God the Father and the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit in the Most Holy Name of Jesus.

The man who planted the vineyard is the Lord Jesus. The fig tree in the garden is one of many. We Christians each represent one fig tree. In the parable, we heard what should be done with a fig tree that does not produce any fruits after three years. It should be cut down. In other words, the life should be withdrawn from it. It should be destroyed. It should be thrown into the fire to burn until there is nothing left of it.

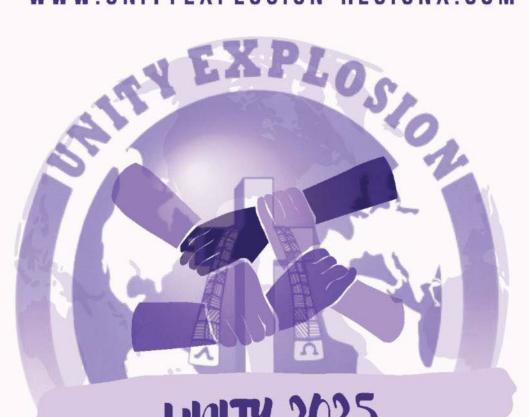
Near the end of the Reading, we heard that the gardener begged mercy on behalf of the fig tree. He promised to nourish the tree in the hope of reviving, it so it will produce fruit. Who is this gardener that begged mercy of the man? In John 15:1, we learn that God the Father is the Vine-grower. He is the One who removes every branch that bear no fruit. Jesus is the true Vine Who gives life. Unless one abides in Jesus, he cannot bear fruit because apart from Him, they can do nothing. In other words, Jesus is the Gardener.

Based on this knowledge, we learn that Jesus, acts as our Mediator who begs the Heavenly Father to have mercy on behalf of those who do not bear fruit. Jesus promises to the Heavenly Father that He will shine even more graces upon those who have become indifferent to their salvation, those who have dulled their spiritual minds in order to reject the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit. And should it be that after another year, those who have rejected God's grace continue to reject Him, then let it be that God the Father will end their fruitless lives.

Vy. Rev. Michael L. Thompson, SSJ

SAVE THE DATE

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WITY 2025
Evangelization and Liturgy Conference



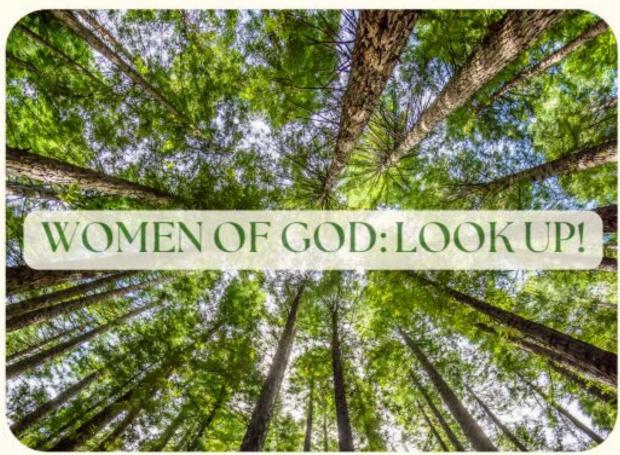
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Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston Office of the Vicar for Catholics of African Descent

Contact: Fr. Reginald Samuels info@unityexplosion-regionx.com

A Lenten Morning of Reflection for Women



Speaker: Sister Odessa Stanford SFCC

Saturday, April 5 | 8:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. | Parish Hall

As women seeking to be faithful in our call to be disciples of Jesus Christ we must "look up." This beautiful season of quiet and reflection purges us to be women of hope as each day we undo knots for those we love and for ourselves. The spiritual process is never ending and filled with challenges. We must "look up." Let us spend this time together to be encouraged, empowered and ready to exhale beyond this Lenten season.

Cost per person: \$30 by 3/25 and \$35 on 3/26 and later Registration closes April 1st.

To register and pay go to stlaurence.org/WomensMOR

Breakfast catered by La Madeleine

For more information: Mary Visser at mvisser@stlaurence.org





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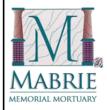


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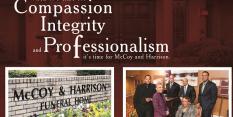
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