

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

Archdiocese of Galveston– Houston

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St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church



St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT, CYCLE B



UNLESS A GRAIN OF WHEAT FALLS TO THE GROUND, IT REMAINS JUST A SINGLE WHEAT; BUT IF IT DIES, IT PRODUCES MUCH FRUIT.

John 12:24

TRIDUUM AND EASTER SUNDAY

March 29: Holy Thursday, Celebration of the Lord's Supper 7:00pm

March 30: Living Stations of the Cross at 12:00nn
The Lord's Passion 7:00pm

March 31: Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil 8:00pm



STATIONS OF THE CROSS SCHEDULE FRIDAY EVENINGS AT 7:00PM

- February 16: Instrument of Peace and Elshaddai
- February 23: Audio-Visual, Liturgical Movement, Ushers, Art & Environment, Second Family Care Team, and Altar Society
- March 2: Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist and Sisters in the Spirit
- March 9: Lectors, CCE teachers and candidates, Stewardship, and Associate Missionaries of St. Paul
- March 16: Hope, Love & Joy, Samaritan Ministry and Hospitality
- March 23: Knights of Peter Claver, Ladies, Jr. Knights & Daughters, and the Youth Ministry
- March 30: Living Stations of the Cross at 12 Noon
- March 26: Penitential Service at 7:00pm

Need information and don't know who to call?
Here is a listing of our Ministry leaders who are always willing to help!

Altar Servers

Ronald Berard
713-299-4024

Altar Society

Mary Robertson
832-790-8124

Audio/Visual

Bonita Taylor
713-252-2028

Bazaar Committee

Mary Robertson
713-631-3124

Daughters of Divine Love

832-445-0241

Catholic Continuing Education

713-672-7773

El Shaddai Ministry

Milabel Garing
713-480-7223

Environment & Sacred Space

Abel Rodriguez
713-658-5198

Extraordinary Ministers

of the Eucharist
Dr. Clarice Campbell
713-455-6753

Faith Alive Youth Ministry

Kory Goodly 713-598-9402
Dzondria Jones 936-223-6992

Finance Council

Adrian F. Sloan
(281) 831-8572

Hope, Love, & Joy Seniors

Ella Ledet
713-927-1073

Hospitality

Frances Baldwin
713-674-1629

Knights of Peter Claver

Council #231
Grand Knight David Livings
832-724-8977

Knights of Peter Claver

Ladies Auxiliary Court #231

Grand Lady
Linda Mathis
281-590-6042

Lectors

Dorothy Webb
713-956-9401

Liturgy Committee

Matt Matthews
832-423-9335

Liturgical Movement

Dena Lavigne
832-245-1846

Minister of Music

Matt Matthews
832-423-9335

Pastoral Council

David Livings
832-724-8977

Samaritan Ministry/Funeral Repast

Mary Robertson
832-790-8124

Second Family Care Team

Rita Bernard
713-631-1753

Sisters in the Spirit

Evelyn Wright
713-385-6607

Social Ministry/Food Pantry

Mr. Lester White, Sr.
713-672-7773
or cell 832-656-3242

St. Francis of Assisi School Board

Gene A. Phillips, Sr.
281-370-1757

St. Francis of Assisi School Office

Cristelia Tijerina
713-674-4517

Stewardship Committee

Dr. Dena Downey Garret
281-358-8210

Ushers

Wilford Victorian
713-633-7977

Parish Office –713-673-7737

Fr. Martin Eke, MSP, Pastor—706-442-2483

Deacon Ignatius Joseph (Rtd) - 281-745-3005

Deacon Michael St. Julian— 713-256-8657

Mrs. Tawana Fulmer, School Principal-713-674-4517

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Mass	5:00 pm
Sunday Mass	8:00 am
Sunday Mass	11:00 am

Tuesday	6:00 pm
Wednesday	7:00 am
Thursday	7:00 am
Friday	7:00 am

1st Saturday of the Month 8:00 am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

By appointment only, call Fr. Martin (706) 442-2483

ADORATION

Tuesday 5:00 pm 1st Saturday of the month 7:00 am

BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday 7:00 pm

BAPTISM

For Infants: Baptism Preparation (Parents & Godparents), contact Parish Office one month prior to getting the child baptized.

For Children, ages 6-15, Youth, and Adults contact Parish Office. Youth and adult Baptism is done on Easter only.

MARRIAGES

A minimum of six months preparation is required. Contact the pastor before setting the date.

FUNERALS

The death of a loved one can be a trying and unpredictable time. Before any arrangements are made for funerals, please call the parish office to schedule a time to meet with the pastor.



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT, CYCLE B

Our Parish Vision

We envision a caring, loving community of men, women and children who possess a genuine Christian concern for one another, a unified family where the members, aware of God’s presence in each of them and led by His spirit are able to work, pray and play together; a faith filled community where gospel values are studied, lived, nurtured, shared and celebrated; a community of individuals and groups traveling together on a common faith journey; a community harmoniously working for the kingdom; a community that is active in service and evangelization.

Reflection

Today’s Gospel reading is taken from the Gospel of John. We are reading much further into John’s Gospel than we have for the past two weeks. Chapter 12 of John’s Gospel is a preparation for the beginning of the passion narrative to follow. Jesus has just raised Lazarus from the dead—an important sign in John’s Gospel, which inspired many people to believe in Jesus. This event also marks the turning point in Jesus’ conflict with the Jewish authorities. John’s Gospel tells us that the Sanhedrin met after this event and made plans to kill Jesus. In the 12th chapter of John’s Gospel, Jesus is anointed at Bethany and enters Jerusalem in triumph. We again see evidence of the significance of the raising of Lazarus to this event; John reports that the crowds also gathered to see Lazarus.

Following his triumphant entry into Jerusalem, Jesus predicted his suffering, death, and Resurrection and prepared his disciples to believe in the salvation that his death would accomplish. Using the metaphor of the grain of wheat, Jesus presented the idea that his dying would be beneficial. He also taught that those who would be his disciples must follow his example of sacrifice. This theme will be repeated in John’s account of the Last Supper, when Jesus washed the feet of his disciples as an example of how they must serve one another.

The final section of today’s Gospel might be read as John’s parallel to the agony in the garden. Unlike the Synoptic Gospels, the Gospel of John does not record Jesus’ anguished prayer in the garden of Gethsemane before his arrest. Although comparable words are found in today’s reading, Jesus gives a confident response to the question he raises when asking God to save him from his impending death. After announcing his conviction that it is for this purpose that he came, a voice from heaven speaks, as if in answer to Jesus’ prayer. This voice, like the one heard at Jesus’ baptism and at Jesus’ Transfiguration—events reported in the Synoptic Gospels but not in John’s Gospel—affirms that God welcomes the sacrifice that Jesus will make on behalf of others. In John’s Gospel, Jesus teaches that this voice was sent for the sake of those who would believe in him.

In today’s Gospel, we also hear Jesus speak about the cosmic framework against which we are to understand his passion, death, and Resurrection. Through his death and Resurrection, Jesus conquered Satan, the ruler of this world. In this way the world is judged, but the judgment is not condemnation. Instead, through Jesus’ dying and rising, salvation is brought to the world.

(From Lectionary Resources - RCL Benziger)

PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may

not so much seek to be consoled, as to console;

to be understood, as to understand;

to be loved, as to love;

for it is in giving that we receive;

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen.

Sacrificial Offerings

Weekly Contributions March 11, 2018

5: 00 p.m. Mass	\$ 1,078.00
8:00 a.m. Mass	\$ 1,563.00
11:00 a.m. Mass	\$ 1,360.35
Here’s My Dollar	\$ 28.00
Second Collection	\$ 488.00
Total	\$ 4,517.35

God Loves a Cheerful Giver”

2 Corinthians 9:7

Thank you for your generosity!

Mass Intentions



Saturday, March 17, 2018 **5:00 p.m.**

† **Joseph Williams** requested by Mary Robertson All

Sunday, March 18, 2018 **8:00 a.m.**

† **Joseph Williams** requested by Mary Robertson

† **Donald Norman** requested by Shirley Norman

Sunday, March 18, 2018 **11:00 a.m.**

† **Joseph R. Bellard** requested by Theresa Bellard

† **Sam Kately Jr.** requested by Augustine Dauphine

† **Caroline Dauphine** requested by Augustine Dauphine

Tuesday, March 20, 2018 **6:00 p.m.**

† **Joseph Williams** requested by Mary Robertson

† **O’Neil Roberts** requested by Cassaundra Johnson

Wednesday, March 21, 2018 **7:00 a.m.**

All Parishioners Living and Deceased

Thursday and Friday Private intention **7:00 a.m.**

Announcements

DISASTER RELIEF HOTLINES

American Red Cross (800) HELP-NOW
 FEMA’s Federal Disaster (800) 621-FEMA
 Dept. of Health & Human Services (877) 696-6775
 Texas Legal Services Ctr. (800) 622-2520
Houston Bar Assoc. Lawyer Ref. (713) 237-9429

Date for First Holy Communion, May 6, 2018 during 11:00 am Mass

Date for Confirmation, June 10, 2018, Mass 10:00 am

Please pray for all people of good will who have supported us with prayers and donations during this difficult time. May God bless them. Amen.



Black Catholic Males’ Retreat Weekends: Deacon Lockett, Vicar for Catholics of African Descent, and Tomie Magee, board member of Holy Name Passionist Retreat Center invite black Catholic males to men’s retreat weekends March 2-4, 9-11, 16-18, 23-25 and April 6-8. Theme: Hail to the Cross, Our Only Hope. For registration and more information please visit www.holynameretreatcenter.com or call 713.464.0211.

Archdiocesan Young Adult Day: Come and join hundreds of young adults ages 18 – 39. Let’s be the hand and feet of Christ, March 17, 2018. Time 8:00am – 3:00pm. Location: St. Dominic Chancery Auditorium 2403 Holcombe Blvd. Houston TX 77021. \$10.00 includes T-shirt and breakfast. Register online: www.archgh.org/yacm

Living Legend Award: Mrs. Norma Duhon will receive Living Legend Awards from Knights of Peter Claver – Ladies of Grace Inez Y. Bowman – Chapter 2 at Living Legend Awards Luncheon Saturday, April 28, 2018. Location: The Power Center, 12401 South Post Oak Road Houston, Texas 77045. Please contact Mrs. Norma Duhon for more information 713.253.7395.

Second Annual Priests and Seminarians Basketball Game: April 6, 2018. Strake Jesuit Competition Gym. 7:00pm. Free admission. Donations benefit St. Mary’s Seminary.

The Pontifical Announcement

Pope Francis has asked our parish to support the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, which helps Christians in the Holy Land.

Through the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, you stand in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land as a witness of peace, supporting Catholics there in parishes and schools, maintaining Christian shrines and caring for refugees in the Holy Land.

For more information about *Christians in the Holy Land*, visit www.myfranciscan.org/good-friday.

Arrows RFC, Houston's Catholic Men's Rugby Club, invites you to enjoy an evening of family-friendly Rugby! On Easter Monday, April 2, High School boys from Strake Jesuit, St. Pius X, and St. Thomas will unite as the Arrows Schoolboys to host their brothers from Fordham Prep, a Jesuit school of the Bronx, NY. Join us at Kubiak Stadium (at St. Pius X High School) for this free, fun-filled evening that includes two rugby matches and a Dinner Social to follow! For full details, visit www.arrowsrugby.com/schoolboysmatch.

Parish Office & Masses While Fr. Martin is away the parish office will be open Monday through Friday from 9:00am to 3:00pm. Mrs. Caroline Lewis will be in the office. Please visit the office or call the parish phone number within this time. Also, call Deacon Ignatius for any advice or assistance. His number is in the bulletin. There will be priests for First Saturday, weekday and Sunday Masses. All Mass times remain the same.

School News

Fish Fry Fundraiser benefiting St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School 2018 Kinder and 8th Grade Graduation Ceremonies & Receptions.

5100 Dabney, Houston, TX 77026
 Friday, March 23, 2018
 10:00 AM—Until Sold Out

Fish Dinner \$10.00
 Crawfish Dinner \$11.00
 Mixed Dinner \$12.00

Food Prepared by ABC
 (Arceneaux, Bass, & Chargois)

Vocations

Insight for Women in High School: Meet with other high school women! Build friendships and community, pray together, meet sisters and other consecrated women. Date: March 24, 2018. Time: 8:30am – 5:00pm. Location: Home of Consecrated Women of Regnum Christi, 22730 Lain Rd. Spring Texas 77379. Cost: Free. For registration and information: 713.652.8239 or vocations@archgh.org.

Discernment Gathering, Women Seeking the Road Less Traveled: March 12, April 12, and May 10. A monthly gathering for women ages 18 and older to learn about consecrated life, hosted by women religious communities of the Archdiocese at religious convents 6:00pm. For more information call 713.652.8239 or visit www.houstonvocations.com/women-seeking

Formation Day for Parish Social Ministers and Team Leaders: Empowering Caregiving Ministers Serving Older Adults. Tuesday April 17, 2018. 9:30am – 2:00pm. Speakers: Rev. James Burkart, Christ the Good Shepherd, and Vic Mazmanian & Steve Roland, Mind Heart Soul Ministry, Silverado Faith Outreach. Sponsor/Contacts for event: Mark Ciesielski / Office of Aging Ministry at mciesielski@archgh.org or 713.741.8712, Rhoda Sepulveda / Catholic Charities Parish Social Ministries at rsepulveda@catholiccharities.org or 713.874.6672. RSVP to mciesielski@archgh.org by April 6, 2018.



Reynaldo Garza, Anna Lou Demouchet, Annie Marie Joubert, Rose and Maurice Broussard, Mercedes Arline, Marie Murphy, Urma Robertson, Dorothy Meyers, Rosslyn Meyers, Blanche Andrews, Joseph Roque, Corine Beard, Lillie M. James, Mary Aguiard, Iris Charles, Gustave LaBlanc, Joseph Gallagher, Arthur Baldwin, Joel Richards, Tracy Maloney, Ralph Rielly, Bernadine Everett, Jacqueline Dukes, Melanie Jones, Anita Guillory, Ray Allen Kately, Anna Bell Lewis, and Georgianne Jefferson.

Growing in Faith Together

Homily of Fourth Week of Lent, Year B

The first reading tells us what happened to the people of Israel when they continued to sin and turned against God. They refused to listen to the prophets God sent to them. "All the princes of Judah, the priests, and the people added infidelity to infidelity...The Lord, the God of their fathers, send messengers to them ... But they mocked the messengers of God despised their warnings, and scoffed at his prophets ..." The result of this was that they moved away from God and fell into the hands of their enemies who conquered them. "Their enemies burned down the house of God, tore down the walls of Jerusalem, set all the palaces afire, and destroyed all its precious objects. Those who escaped the sword were carried captive to Babylon, where they became servants of the king of the Chaldeans ..."

After seventy years, the Persians conquered the Babylonian Empire, and surprisingly King Cyrus of Persia released the people of Israel to return to their land.

The consequence of the rejection of God by the people of Israel, as we have read in the first reading, happens to anyone and any people who turn away from God. The person or the people falls into the waiting arms of the Evil One. This explains the reasons for so much disintegration being experienced in our society and our world today. We are not expecting, in this modern time, that a country is conquered by another, and citizens of the conquered country carry off into captivity. However, many people, families, communities and countries are in spiritual captivity and enslavement caused by sin and turning away from God.

Derailed conditions which some individuals find themselves is a type of spiritual captivity and enslavement caused by sin and turning away from God. Disaffection and estrangement existing in some families due to hate and lack of love is a form of spiritual captivity and enslavement. Disaffection and estrangement are sins and turning away from God.

At the root of economic, political and refugee crises in many parts of the world are a result of sin and a turning away from God by the rulers of those countries. At the root of lack of development and poverty in some countries and continents are the sin and turning away from God by the leaders of those countries.

Jesus is the new King Cyrus, who has redeemed us and set us free from captivity and enslavement caused by sin and evil. In the fourth week of Lent, we are invited to examine ourselves to know whether we are held captive and enslaved, in anyway, by sin; and turn to Jesus to free and liberate us. Jesus says in the Gospel, "And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works are evil." Let us not be among those who prefer darkness to light.

These passages from the Bible are worth reflecting upon: "And my people who bear my name humble themselves, and pray and look for me, and turn from their wicked ways then I myself will hear from heaven and forgive their sins and restore their land" (2 Chronicle 7:14). "I do not want the wicked to die but rather that they turn from their evil ways and live" (Ezekiel 33:11). The penitential service scheduled in the parish on Monday, 26th of March, is an excellent opportunity to confess our sins and return to God.

Finally, we turn to Jesus in our prayers as we celebrate this Mass to save us from various difficulties of life: sickness, grief, stress, depression, injustice, unemployment and many other afflictions. Amen.

Fr Martin Eke, MSP