

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
December 25, 2016

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER



CATHOLIC CHURCH

1120 MYRTLE WALK
BATON ROUGE, LA 70802

Very Rev. Edward Chiffriller,
SSJ

Rev. Joseph Rodney, SSJ
In Residence

stfrancixavierbr.org

PARISH OFFICE:

MRS. EBONY GARNETT ~ SECRETARY

1134 JULIA STREET
BATON ROUGE, LA 70802
8:00 AM TO 3:00 PM
225.383.3479 OR 225.343.3709
FAX: 225.388.5458

EMAIL~SECRETARY@SFXC.BRCOXMAIL.COM

WEBSITE~STFRANCISXAVIERBR.ORG

REV. EDWARD CHIFFRILLER CELL: 225.571.8233

EMAIL~ PASTOR@SFXC.BRCOXMAIL.COM

OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

MR JOHN YOUNG ~ DRE 225.343.3075 EXT 212
FAX: 225.388.5458

EMAIL:SFXPSR@SFXC.BRCOXMAIL.COM

SCHOOL OFFICE:

MS. PAULA FABRE ~ PRINCIPAL

1150 SOUTH 12TH STREET
BATON ROUGE, LA 70802
7:30 AM TO 4:00 PM
225.387.6639 OR 225.387.6630
FAX: 225.383.1215

EMAIL: STFRANCISXAVIER@CSOBR.ORG

WEBSITE: STFRANCISXAVIERBR.COM

EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING CENTER (DAYCARE)

AVE' FRAZIER-HONORE~ DIRECTOR

1145 TERRACE AVE.
BATON ROUGE, LA 70802
7:00 AM TO 5:30 PM
225.387.4877

EMAIL: STFRANCISELC@BELLSOUTH.NET



MASS SCHEDULE:

SATURDAY:

VIGIL ~ 5:00 PM

SUNDAY:

8:00 AM & 11:00 AM

TUESDAY:

OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP NOVENA~ 5:00 PM

WED ~THURS:

6:30 AM IN CONVENT

HOLYDAYS:

9:00 AM & 6:00 PM

FRIDAY:

SCHOOL MASS 9:00AM

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM IS CELEBRATED ON THE 4TH SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH (NO BAPTISM DURING LENT). BAPTISMAL PREPARATION CLASS IS HELD ON THE THURSDAY BEFORE BAPTISM AT 6PM. THIS CLASS IS MANDATORY. PLEASE REGISTER AT LEAST ONE WEEK IN ADVANCE OF THE CLASS THROUGH THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE OR THE PARISH OFFICE.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION IS CELEBRATED ONE HALF HOUR BEFORE EACH WEEKEND MASS.

MARRIAGE LAW OF THE DIOCESE REQUIRES A SIX MONTH PREPARATION PERIOD BEFORE MARRIAGE.

COUPLES MUST ATTEND A PRE-MARRIAGE SEMINAR. IN THIS DIOCESE THERE ARE NO EVENING WEDDINGS ON SATURDAY IT IS NECESSARY TO SEE THE PRIEST BEFORE SETTING A DATE.

CARE OF THE SICK: PLEASE CALL THE PRIEST FOR THE SACRAMENT OF THE SICK AND /OR HOSPITAL VISITATION. IF THE SACRAMENT OF THE SICK IS CRITICALLY NEEDED, PLEASE CALL REV. EDWARD CHIFFRILLER NUMBER LISTED ABOVE OR THE CHAPLAINCY OFFICE AT THE HOSPITAL.

FUNERALS: PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE BEFORE SETTING A DATE AND A TIME FOR A FUNERAL.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES ARE EVERY SUNDAY FROM 9:30AM TO 10:30AM.

RCIA (RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION) CLASSES ON SUNDAY FROM 9:30A.M. TO 10:45A.M. PLEASE CALL THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE AT 225.343.3075

Welcome to St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, Baton Rouge, LA



Welcome: You enter this Church not as a stranger, but as a guest of God. He is your heavenly Father. Come, then, with joy in your heart and thanks on your lips into His presence, offering Him your love and service. Be grateful to the strong and loyal ones who, in the name of Jesus Christ, built this place of worship, and to all who have beautified it and hallowed it with their prayers and praise. Ask His blessing on those who love His house of faith as the inspiration of their labor, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit, and may that blessing rest on you, both on your going out and your coming in.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

An old joke asks, "What time is Midnight Mass?" The answer is not really obvious, since Christmas is unique in having several distinct celebrations. The readings and prayers vary greatly from hour to hour. The Vigil Mass hinges on the family heritage of Jesus and his origins. The concept of "midnight" predates clock time, and really has to do with a celebration in the hours of darkness. Years ago, it was not possible to receive Communion without fasting for a full day, so the late hour of this Mass made it possible for the people to receive. The first Mass after sunrise, the Mass at Dawn, was once known as "The Shepherds' Mass," and later Masses set aside stories of Jesus' birth to focus on the key to the day's celebration: John the Evangelist's majestic theology of Christ's identity as the Word made flesh, dwelling among us. One feast, four separate Masses. Only monasteries manage the whole round. Parishioners typically take just one entry point into the mystery. Yet there is much to savor and celebrate in the coming of Christ into the world. Christmas is not a day, but a season. You still have two weeks to send those Christmas cards before you're officially late!

Mass Intentions for December 24-27, 2016

Saturday 5:00 Arnold Domingue
By: Gina Domingue

Sunday 8:00 Eunice Bellard
By: Norma Duell

11:00 Ida E. Smith
By: The Family

Tuesday 5:00 Do Family Ancestors
By: Van Do

The Jr. Daughters: Little Flowers Court #12 are still collecting pull tabs off can drinks. "Ronald McDonald" houses are in the back of the church.

THE GIFT OF GOD'S WORD

On this day of gifts and gift-giving, it seems appropriate that we take a moment to reflect on the great gift of God's Word. Because it is creative, God's Word always points to its author, always calls us to respond. Because it is powerful, God's Word can link the sublime with the ridiculous, the transcendent with the immanent, the divine with the human. Because it is graceful, God's Word establishes a relationship of deep intimacy between us and God.

At the heart of God's Word lies a tantalizing tension between the mysterious and the mundane. In our liturgical celebration, this unresolved tension both reveals the meaning of life for us and calls us to respond, to act upon that meaning.

Once accepted and opened, the gift of God's Word is a gift that keeps on giving and keeps on calling us to give in return. It dares us to be like the gift-giver and to become gifts for others, not only at Christmas, but at every moment of life.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading - All the ends of the earth will behold the salvation of our God (Isaiah 52:7-10).

Psalms - All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God (Psalm 98).

Second Reading - God has spoken to us through the Son, the very imprint of God's being (Hebrews 1:1-6).

Gospel - The Word became flesh; from his fullness we have all received grace (John 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]).

In Bible Study we are studying Paul's Epistles Thursdays at 6:00 pm

PRAY FOR US

Geraldine Bell
Richard Camble, Jr.
Zula Comeaux
Diane Edwards
Patsy Irvin
Ora Lee Jordan
Frazier Jordan
Elizabeth Whitfield
Rosemary Daniels

Viola Landry
John Paul Moore
Loriene Perry
Martha Proctor
James Raby
Maria Rice
Whitney Robiho
Shelvia Stewart
Mary Johnson
Myrtle Moran

Walter Lewis
Catherine Murray
Joyce Decuir
Cenia Richard
Vivian LeDuff
Rebecca Nelson
Ceola Marcelle
Mildred Anderson
Charles Taylor

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December 25, 2016

PSR News

PSR WISHES EVERYONE
A
VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS!



The Nativity of the Lord December 25, 2016

The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.
— *John 1:5*



New Church Pews & Flooring

We have begun a pledge campaign to raise \$100,000 (\$60,000 pews & \$40,000 flooring) to replace our pews and flooring. In order to begin the project we need the cash on hand. Please prayerfully consider a generous pledge to this important project in preparation of our 100th Anniversary in 2018. Please turn in your pledge commitment form by November 28, 2016.

Stewardship

December 18, 2016



Regular Collection
\$9,217.00
Parish Needs
\$310.00
Flowers
\$26.00



St. Francis Xavier Food Bank: is in need of non-perishables to assist the needy in our community. Please donate: Canned Corn, Peas, String Beans, Carrots, Fruit, Chili, Pasta, Grits, Cereal, Tuna, Rice, Bread, Soup, Soap, Tooth Paste, Deodorant etc. We also accept monetary donations to purchase food.

LOVE

Let those who never loved before,
love now:
Let those who always loved,
love the more.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday:	The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
Monday:	St. Stephen; Kwanzaa begins
Tuesday:	St. John
Wednesday:	The Holy Innocents
Thursday:	St. Thomas Becket; Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord
Friday:	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
Saturday:	St. Sylvester I; New Year's Eve Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

LEARNED AT HOME

The mind of Christ is to be learned in the family. Strength of character may be acquired at work, but beauty of character is learned at home.