

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER



CATHOLIC CHURCH

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BATON ROUGE, LA 70802

Very Rev. Edward Chiffreller, SSJ
Pastor

Rev. Henry Ihuoma, SSJ
Parochial Vicar

stfrancixavierbr.org

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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 - FRI:	9:00AM AM
HOLIDAYS:	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.

PSR News

April 2024

28 Class – Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2024

04 First Communion Retreat

05 No Class - First Communion

We continue our series on Judges in the Bible with Gideon.

Gideon is a man of the Old Testament that is often underestimated. He led a profound life coming to the aid of his people and serving as a judge to the Israelites. His actions give us an example to follow and lessons to learn.

Gideon was a young Israelite man living in Ophrah. He was the youngest son of Joash, who was of the family of Abiezer. His family line belonged to the tribe of Manasseh.

Gideon's family was not wealthy. They lived in constant fear because neighboring groups would steal the Israelite's grain and livestock. The Israelite people had to seek shelter in caves to protect themselves and what little food they had.

When we meet Gideon in the Book of Judges, he is threshing wheat in a winepress. This was not the custom but had to be done to protect what grain they could get. Later in his life, Gideon becomes a judge of Israel and dies as an honored man in the history of God's chosen people.

In this Bible story, from chapter 6 of the book of Judges, Gideon is called upon to save the people of Israel by leading them against the Midianites. In a common theme of apostasy, the people of Israel had done "what was evil in the sight of the Lord, and the Lord gave them into the hand of Midian." The Midianites were capturing any crops produced by the Israelites, giving them grief. When the people of Israel realized the error of their ways and cried out for help to the Lord, a prophet was sent to deliver them as they had been rescued from Egypt.

Enter Gideon, while harvesting wheat and hiding from the Midianites and angels spoke to him and addressed him as a mighty man of courage. The Angel told Gideon that God is sending him to "save Israel from the hand of Midian." Although at first Gideon doubts his ability to do so, he is heartened that God will be with him in this mission. The first task he is commanded to fulfill is destroying the altar of Baal the Israelites have constructed, evidence of their apostasy. And so, during the night, Gideon and ten of his men took down the altar of Baal. Making the townspeople very angry and asking for the death of the altar destroyer. Joash, the father of Gideon, then tells them if Baal really is a God, he will kill Gideon himself, saving his son.

Seeking reassurance from the Lord, Gideon requests proof of God's promise to save Israel using a fleece. Encouraged by the acts of God, Gideon and his men then travel near the camp of Midian and prepare for battle. It is clear that God wants the Israelites to realize his divine validity, telling Gideon to lessen his army from thousands to just 300 men to defeat the Midianites. Also, Gideon overhears from a dream of one of the Midianites, that he is destined to conquer Midian and save the Israelites from oppression.

Gideon commanded his 300. Comrades to surround the Midian camp, making it seem the Midianites were greatly outnumbered, then blow their trumpets on every side and shout, "for the Lord and for Gideon!" When the Midianites heard the trumpets and saw the torches surrounding their camp they cried out and fled, a triumphant victory for Gideon and the Israelites.

PRAYER LIST

John Paul Moore * Loraine Perry * Martha Proctor * Whitney Robiho * Joyce Decuir * Catherine Murray

Betty Camble * Elouise Noel * Betty Dupas * Earl Bourgeois * Mary L. Boutte * Cecila Bazile * Denise Chutz

Richard Camble, Jr.* Elizabeth Whitfield * Elaine Johnson * Linda Gills-Beshears * Phyllis White * Mary E. Bourgeois



Through trials and tribulations, by God's grace, we triumph!

**3 Ways to Give
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Mail: St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, 1120 Myrtle Walk Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802

All online methods are safe and secured. Thank you for your generosity!

Starting October 25, the deadline for bulletin entries will be due on Fridays by 12 noon.
Please consider admission at least a week prior to the date of the announcement, when possible.

Sharing the Faith

The beauty of this Easter season is that the Word became flesh, died for our sins, conquered death, and gives us access to the Father. Each of these remarkable events point to the fact that our faith is real, tangible, even corporeal. Though we all have a personal relationship with God in the very depths of our hearts, as human beings, we are meant to share our hearts with the world. In other words, we should not be keeping our faith in our hearts, but bringing it to the world.

The second reading for today reminds us of this fact when it says, "Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth." It seems that it is not enough to simply think about or talk about God, but our interior faith must be reflected by deeds.

The second reading seems to be telling us that a private faith is not enough. Our actions should flow from the faith we have that we have been made in the image and likeness of God. Sometimes we can think because faith is so personal, it does not need to be shared. I know I have had the mindset at times that as long as I am in good relationship with God I am doing just fine. But the Gospel implores us to share. Jesus commands the disciples to go to the ends of the earth to preach the Gospel.

We might take the approach that we can be an example and hope that people will see the way we live and make the connection to our Christian faith, but at some point we are called to act in love. Jesus wants us to talk about him, to serve, to forgive, to feed the poor. After all, he died not only so we could personally believe, but so that all men could be saved and come to knowledge of the truth.

This Easter season is a perfect time to reflect on the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. Maybe hang a list of them somewhere so they will be a constant reminder to act. Faith is the supernatural virtue where we come to believe, but this belief is so profound and tangible that it can't help but be shared. Let's take a word from the end of every Mass, go in peace to love and SERVE the Lord.



Mass Intentions - April 26 - May 2, 2024

Friday	9am	Deceased Darenbourg/O'Brien Families <i>By: Catherine</i>
Saturday	5pm	People of the Parish
Sunday	8am	Brenda L. Landry <i>By: Daughter, grand & great granddaughters</i>
	11am	Chavon White <i>By: Ebony & Isaiah</i>
Tuesday	5pm	Ike Haney <i>By: Wessie</i>
Wednesday	9am	Marcella Keyes <i>By: Norman St. Amant</i>
Thursday	9am	Marcella Keyes <i>By: Johnny & Linda Narcisse</i>

Stewardship - April 21, 2024



Regular Collection
\$7,811
Flowers
\$30
Parish Needs
\$115



Fifth Sunday of Easter Living in Shame?

In the reading from St. John's first letter, he talks about our hearts condemning us. (1 John 3:20) He is referring to the shame we feel when we do something sinful. When he says God is greater than our hearts he means that even when we know we have sinned, even if we feel unworthy to be forgiven, God is still a forgiving God, who doesn't wait for us to be "worthy." He patiently waits for us to ask for his mercy, to want his forgiveness. So when we confess our sins, we need not doubt that we are forgiven.

But sometimes we feel shame when we have done nothing wrong. It may be something simple, like sneezing in the quiet part of a symphony. Or perhaps something more serious, such as when you accidentally hurt someone. That is when it is good to remember that God knows what happened and still loves us.

The best way to remember this is by living as God commands, by loving God and our neighbor. If you believe in Jesus, you love God, because you trust that God sent his Son to save us. So we know that God forgives us even before we ask him to. If you love your neighbor, then you reach out to the person you hurt, instead of hiding in shame, and try to help them.


When we stop living in shame and start living in love, we know that the Lord lives in us. And as both the second reading and the gospel point out, we can ask for whatever we need and receive it. For when God lives in us and we live in him, we won't ask for anything trivial or selfish. His Spirit teaches us how to pray with confidence and faith. We pray as Jesus taught in the Lord's Prayer: "Thy will be done." Our love and trust in God will help us to accept whatever God sends our way.

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St. Francis Xavier's Sunday Bulletin

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