

Third Sunday In Ordinary Time
January 26, 2025

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER



CATHOLIC CHURCH

1120 MYRTLE WALK
BATON ROUGE, LA 70802

Rev. Ugochukwu "Henry" Ihuoma, SSJ
Pastor

stfrancisxavierbr.org

PARISH OFFICE:

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OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

MR JOHN YOUNG ~ DRE 225.343.3075 EXT 212
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SCHOOL OFFICE:

CHRISTOPHER J. ROGERS, PhD ~ PRINCIPAL
1150 SOUTH 12TH STREET
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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
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. HENRY IHUOMA'S 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 January 2025

26 PSR Class **3rd Sunday in Ordinary time** – Remember we are collecting items for the nursing home.

The **Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul** celebrates St. Paul turning away from persecution of Christians to promoting Christianity. St. Paul, named Saul at his circumcision, a Jew of the tribe of Benjamin, was born at Tarsus, the capital of Cilicia. He was a Roman citizen. He was brought up as a strict Jew and later became a violent persecutor of the Christians. While on his way to Damascus to make new arrests of Christians, he was suddenly converted by a miraculous apparition of Our Lord. From a fierce persecutor he became the great Apostle of the Gentiles. He made three missionary journeys which brought him to the great centers of Asia Minor and southern Europe and made many converts. Fourteen of his Epistles are found in the New Testament. He was beheaded in Rome around 66 A.D., and his relics are in the Basilica of St. Paul Outside-the-Walls near the Ostian Way.

Prophetic History vs. Modern History

Do you see how 1 and 2 Kings is really about the prophetic word of God and how it determines the course of Israel's history, leading up to exile? The prophets continue to tell the kings that if they don't repent of idolatry and turn back to God, exile is coming. When Yahweh can no longer stomach their outright rejection of his covenant, he gives them over to what the prophets said would happen all along.

But, is that the final word? Is exile THE END for God's people?

What about the prophets? What happens to them now that all of God's people are exiled? That's what next week's issue is all about. 2 Kings offers us a glimmer of hope, so you'll want to keep reading to see how God's story continues in exile.

Until then, it's sufficient to say that these books cause us to long for a godly king from the line of David who will keep God's word. We need a prophet who will speak God's word and a king who will uphold it. If only those two weren't at odds!

In Jesus, the offices of king and prophet come crashing together. However, it's not in confrontation like the kings and prophets of 1 and 2 Kings, rather it's in sweet communion in a perfect prophet/king-like figure. He is both the prophet like Moses (and Elijah!) who speaks God's authoritative word and the king greater than Solomon who upholds that word. So, if while you're reading 1 and 2 Kings, the continual clash between the kings and prophets causes you to ache for something or someone better, you're right on track. It's preparing you for the arrival of Jesus, the perfect Prophet-King.

Next issue 2 Kings.

PRAYER LIST

John Paul Moore * Loraine Perry * Martha Proctor * Whitney Robiho * Joyce Decuir * Patricia Armstrong

Elouise Noel * Betty Dupas * Denise Chutz * Fred Dejuan * Loretta Warren * Lorenzia Dardone * Patricia Tyson

Elizabeth Whitfield * Linda Gills-Beshears * Phyllis White * Mary E. Bourgeois * Easton Charles * Walter Gabriel

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



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

3 Ways to Give St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church

*Online Giving: www.stfrancisxavier.org *Text the word "GIVE" to (225) 396-4347
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!

Bible Study

We will be having our Bible Study every Thursday at 6 pm at the Parish Office.

Birthday Celebration

On the last Sunday of each Month, we will say a prayer at each mass for those celebrating their birthday for that Month and have a light refreshment for them after the 8 am mass. Please join us. Don't miss Out.

GriefShare Ministry

A GriefShare support group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. At this 13-week group, you'll receive valuable guidance and tips, leading you to relief, comfort, and peace of mind. This ministry will begin on January 29, 2025. Please contact Paulette 888-6528, Jamie 975-7577 for more information.

Ministry

Is God calling you to join a ministry in our parish? Please feel free and sign up. There are applications at the back of the church for various ministries. You can meet the pastor or the ushers for further information.

*"... It is fitting, then that the life of our people be constantly marked by this decisive relationship with the living word that the Lord never tires of speaking to his Bride, that she may grow in love and faithful witness. Consequently, I hereby declare that the **Third Sunday in Ordinary Time** is to be devoted to the celebration, study and dissemination of the word of God. This Sunday of the Word of God will thus be a fitting part of that time of the year when we are encouraged to strengthen our bonds with the Jewish people and to pray for Christian unity. This is more than a temporal coincidence: the celebration of the Sunday of the Word of God has ecumenical value, since the Scriptures point out, for those who listen, the path to authentic and firm unity." – (Pope Francis, Apostolic Letter, *Aperuit Illis*, nos 2-3; 2019).*

Upcoming Events in the Parish

- *Parish Council Meeting—Tuesday, Jan 28, 6 pm.
- *GriefShare Ministry— Wednesday, Jan 29, 6 pm.
- *Black History— Throughout the Month of Feb.
- *Adoration, Praise and Worship—Saturday, Feb. 1, 3pm.
- *Usher's Fundraiser— Sunday, Feb. 9 aft 8 & 11 M
- *COPE Workshop: Saturday, Feb. 15, 10am-11:30am.
- *PSR— Cake Bingo Fundraiser-Saturday, Feb. 22, after the Vigil Mass
- *Black History Month Cel. -Feb. 23, aft 8 am mass

Mass Intentions Jan 25-29, 2025

Saturday	5pm	Isaac Haney <i>By: Wessie</i>
Sunday	8am	Lionel Taylor <i>By: Nieces and Nephews</i>
	11am	Lisa Plant <i>By: Ronald Saizon</i>
Tuesday	5pm	Frazier Jordan III <i>By: Winston, Jackson, Barbara Decuir</i>
		Marcella Keyes
Wednesday	9am	Wilbert Jordan III <i>By: Winston, Jackson, Barbara Decuir</i>

Stewardship January 19, 2024

Regular Collection:	\$8298.00
Parish Needs:	\$117.00
School Support:	\$215.00
Online Chur. Support: 1/12 -	\$1686.54
1/19 -	\$1849.00



Thanks for your Generosity!

Today's Readings
Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10, 1 Corinthians 12:12-30, Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Rejoicing in the Lord

In the first reading, Ezra gets a strange reaction from the people to whom he reads the book of the law. First they lie down, with faces to the ground, and then they all are weeping. Remember the background of this reading. The people of Israel had returned from exile and needed to become a unified nation. Most had never heard the laws, so when they learned what was expected of them and realized how much of the Law they had broken, they wept from shame. Many probably didn't know that they had been breaking the law. Others might have been overwhelmed with all the requirements of the law.

Ezra and Nehemiah console the people by reminding them that their return makes this a day "holy to the Lord" (Nehemiah 8:10). He adds that they would draw strength from "rejoicing in the Lord." That may be good advice for us also.

We might find ourselves so trapped in sin that we think we could never be forgiven. We need to remember that Jesus loved sinners so much that he gave his life on the cross to free us from sin. No sin can be so bad that God's love cannot forgive it. In other words, God's forgiveness is only limited by our failure to ask for it. As the psalms say, God's mercy endures forever. In fact, the more I have to repent, the more God wants to forgive. So we can rejoice in the Lord's forgiveness and the Spirit will give us the strength to change our lives.

And what about those who find the law overwhelming? That usually means a lack of faith in God's willingness to help us or in our ability to do the best we can to live as Christians. It can also be because we have forgotten Jesus' saying that all of God's laws are contained in the command to love God and love our neighbor as we love ourselves. The more we come to accept God's presence in our lives and see God in others, the easier it becomes to keep the law of love.

Tom Schmidt