

Third Sunday of Lent
March 23, 2025

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER



CATHOLIC CHURCH

1120 MYRTLE WALK
BATON ROUGE, LA 70802

stfrancisxavierbr.org

Rev. Ugochukwu "Henry" Ihuoma, SSJ
Pastor

PARISH OFFICE:

MRS. MARVA KADOR WILLIAMS ~ SECRETARY

1134 JULIA STREET

BATON ROUGE, LA 70802

9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM

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OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

MR JOHN YOUNG ~ DRE 225.343.3075 EXT 212

FAX: 225.388.5458

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SCHOOL OFFICE:

CHRISTOPHER J. ROGERS, PhD ~ 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

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MASS SCHEDULE:

SATURDAY:

SUNDAY:

TUESDAY:

WED-FRI:

HOLYDAYS:

FRIDAY:

SATURDAY:

VIGIL ~ 5:00 PM

8:00 AM & 11:00 AM

OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP NOVENA- 5:00 PM

9:00AM

9:00 AM & 6:00 PM

SCHOOL MASS 9:00AM

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION- 3:30 PM

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 March 2025

23 PSR Class – 3rd Sunday of Lent – Live Stations rehearsal

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Hollywood has given us an image of Moses slipping off his shoes before a burning bush. God has just called Moses by name, and so that Moses doesn't miss the meaning of this breakthrough in human history, God requires that all barriers to the experience be eliminated. If you've ever tried to maneuver barefoot across hot sand, or pick your way along a rocky beach, you know how sensitive feet can be.

Within the Church, there are religious orders with a custom of going barefoot, not merely to show poverty, but to be an outward sign of a desire for connection with creation, a desire to go through life alert to what God is doing. In early days, when reconciliation was a once-in-a-lifetime possibility, penitents often went barefoot for a long period of time as a sign of their conversion. Even today, people follow an ancient practice of slipping off their shoes to walk in the procession to the cross on Good Friday. It is striking that the first use of our newly-scrubbed feet from Holy Thursday night is to walk resolutely in the footsteps of Christ to the cross.

—James Field

SAINT TORIBIO DE MOGROVEJO (1538-1606)

March 23

In times of crisis, God always “surprises” the Church with unlikely saints, through whom Christ's light radiates beyond their local communities to illumine the universal Church. Charles Borromeo was such a saint: appointed Archbishop of Milan at twenty-one by his papal uncle, epitomizing the corruption that the Reformers condemned, Charles instead inspired a revival that reinvigorated a Church devastated by the Reformation. His less well-known contemporary, Toribio de Mongrovejo, was God's “saintly surprise” in the New World. Spanish-born lawyer, professor, head of the feared Inquisition, Toribio was still a layman when a grateful king appointed him Archbishop of far-off Lima. Once in Peru, however, Toribio was appalled at the abuse of indigenous peoples by the occupying *conquistadores*—his fellow countrymen—and by the complicity of the clergy. He became the natives' devoted advocate, building churches, schools, hospitals, and the first seminary in the Americas, publishing catechisms and prayer books in the native languages he painstakingly mastered. Four hundred years later, whenever Pope Benedict welcomes Latin American bishops to Rome, he always invokes “the shining example of San Toribio.”

—Peter Scagnelli

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 * Erica H. Louis

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 or scan the QR Code.
Mail: St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, 1120 Myrtle Walk Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802



SCAN ME

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 & Wedding Anniversary Celebration

On the last Weekend of each Month, we will say a prayer at each mass for those celebrating their birthday and anniversary for that Month and have a light refreshment for them on Sunday at 9:30 am. Join us.!

Easter Announcements

We are now accepting donations for our SFX annual Easter wagons. Donations may be made in the form of individually wrapped candy or monetary contributions. Donations may be dropped off at the Parish office or given to Pat Smith. Questions - please phone/text either Pat Smith (2259783405) or Bernadette Wilkinson (2254459799). Thank you.



"Register your child for the SFX School 2025-26, The Mustang Experience Awaits You." For more information, visit www.sfxbr.org or scan the QR Code.

Enrolling Grades K - 8

(225) 387-6639



We are receiving donations for our fish fry fundraiser. Each family can support us by donating \$100 for a case of fish. We accept cash or check. You can also give online on the Parish Website. Please indicate the purpose of your collection on your check or envelope or online giving. Thanks for your continued support.

Upcoming Events in the Parish

- *GriefShare Ministry— Wednesday, 6 pm.
- *Fish Fry, every Friday, 10am –2pm.
- *Station of the Cross, every Friday, 3 pm.
- *Parish Pastoral Council - March 25 @ 6 pm.
- *Birthday and Anniversary Celebration, March 30 @ 9:30 am.
- *Second Collection: Catholic Relief Services, March 30.
- *Food Pantry Personal Hygiene Drive from March 1 through March 30.
- Adoration, Praise & Worship, Saturday, April 5.

Mass Intentions March 22-28, 2025

Saturday	5pm	The People of the Parish
Sunday	8am	The Sick & Shut-in
	11am	Maria P. Rice <i>By: Ronald Saizon</i>
Tuesday	5pm	St. Francis Xavier School
Wednesday	9am	GriefShare Ministry
Friday	9am	Doris Vavasseur <i>By: Gail Jones</i>

Stewardship March 16, 2025

Regular Collection:	\$13,973.75
Online Support:	\$2050.54
Parish Needs:	\$110.00
School Support:	\$90.00



Thanks for your Generosity!

Today's Readings
Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15, 1 Corinthians 10: 1-6, 10-12, Luke 13:1-9

Overconfident?

As we get to the halfway point of Lent, we may be tempted to overconfidence: “The first three weeks weren’t so hard. I can go a few more weeks without the things I gave up. And I’ve only committed a few sins; maybe I’ll go to confession right before Easter.” If so, it might be a good idea to look at the second reading and the Gospel.

St. Paul says that anyone who is overconfident about their lack of sin “should take care not to fall” (1 Corinthians 10:12). He compares those people to the ones Moses brought through the desert. Just because they were God’s chosen people and had survived years in the desert doesn’t mean they are perfect. In fact, many were punished because they were tempted to follow false gods or to complain about the food and drink God provided them. Could the same thing happen to us?

One form of overconfidence is rejecting what we learned as children. We may think, “I’m old enough to decide if I should go to church” or “I can take care of myself now; I don’t need God’s help.” Or we may think that holiness is just for priests and religious: “I go to church on Sundays; no need to pray the other days of the week.” If these sound familiar because you have thought that way yourself, Paul has a warning. His analogy of the Rock following the Hebrews in the desert refers to God’s constant presence to the people. In the same way, he is present to us today. A couple of chapters after our second reading Paul says, “Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it” (1 Corinthians 12:27). But just as God was not pleased with those in the desert, God may not be pleased with us if we continue to ignore the Lord.

That brings us to the Gospel. In the parable of the fig tree, the owner is not pleased—the tree has not produced any fruit. Unlike the fig tree, God would be happy with any fruit we produce. We could be generous to the poor, we could fight for the unborn child’s right to life, we could welcome new members to the church, or we could simply teach our children how to pray. But if all we give is one hour a week in church, and ignore God the rest of the time, we need to take heed. Like the owner of the fig tree, God is patient, but we only have so much time. So when do you plan to bear fruit?

Tom Schmidt