

Third Sunday of Easter
May 4, 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
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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
EMAIL:SFXPSR@SFXC.BRCOXMAIL.COM

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
EMAIL: CROGERS@SFXBR.ORG
WEBSITE: WWW.SFXBR.ORG



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
SATURDAY:	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

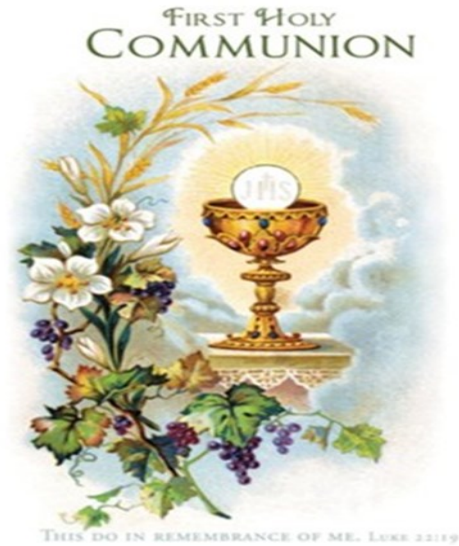
Welcome: You enter this Church not as a stranger, but as a guest of God. He is your heavenly Father. Come, then, with joy in your heart and thanks on your lips into His presence, offering Him your love and service. Be grateful to the strong and loyal ones who, in the name of Jesus Christ, built this 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
May 2025**

- 4** No PSR Class – **First Communion** – Please congratulate our First Communicants.
11 No PSR Class – **Mother’s Day**
18 **Last Day for PSR – Certificates and Teachers Appreciation**

Prayer for a Child's First Communion

Lord Jesus, Bless the children coming forward to receive Holy Communion for the first time. May this day be an initial step into a life-long love of the Eucharist. Give them a hunger for this sacred food so that they turn to You for comfort, guidance, and wisdom as they grow into full discipleship. Thank you for their innocence and goodness. May their eagerness to receive Your Body and Blood inspire all of us to cherish this Sacred Sacrament. Amen.



Congratulations Logon Austin, Taj Delpit, Anthony Egbe, Kingsley Egbe, Jordan Tyson, Landry Tyson, Zora St. Julien, Camille M. Tyson, Gia Vinning, and Christin White, for making your First communion.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

The Gospel today sees Peter and his colleagues after the Resurrection, returning to Galilee and resuming the family business. They are fishing by night. Although it is true that fish feed by night, the mention of darkness here is more about the human spirit than it is about fishing advice. Modern life keeps darkness effectively under control; much of the world has been glowing radiantly through the night for a century. Yet just as surely as the Risen Christ breaks into Peter’s fishing, so does he break into the usual patterns of our own darkness, electric lights notwithstanding. It is Easter, and we are the people of the light.

In our tradition, Evening Prayer, celebrated in monasteries, parishes, cathedrals, and homes everywhere, is a kind of solemn protest against the darkness and its claims, an act of praise for our light-bearing God, and a commitment to carrying that light forward. Sunset is a turning point of our day, felt less acutely in an electrified world, but still an effective reminder that one day darkness overtakes us all. Yet our Eastering has taught us in a hundred ways that the victory belongs to the Bearer of Light. Easter summons us to transform our everyday “blackouts,” perhaps in a way as simple as a whispered prayer of thanks at evening for the blessings of the day.

—James Field

PRAYER LIST

- John Paul Moore * Geraldine Christopher * 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 * 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.

Graduate Recognition

Calling all 2024-2025 graduates, from 8th grade diplomas to post graduate degrees. Let us help you celebrate your wonderful accomplishment. You will be recognized at the 11:00 mass on Sunday, June 8, 2025. If you are a graduate, or the parent of a graduate, please sign- up. The sign-up sheet is on the table at the entrance of the church. If you have a graduation picture you would like to share please email it to secretary@sfxc.brcoxmail.com. Also, please wear your cap and gown to church that Sunday. The last day to sign-up will be May 18, 2025.

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. Thanks. Happy Easter.



"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



Parish Fair 2025

Please save the dates; our Parish Fair is on the weekend of October 3rd, 4th, and 5th. Let's make this fair the best yet. Thank you for your continued support.

Upcoming Events in the Parish

- *GriefShare Ministry– Wednesday, 6 pm.
- *Birthday and Wedding Anniversary Celebration, Sunday, May 25 at 9:30 am.
- *Mother's Day Celebration, Sunday, May 11.
- *Pantry Distribution, Thursday, May 8, 10 am.
- *School Graduation, Tuesday, May 13, 5 pm.
- *Pantry Distribution, Thursday, May 22, 10 am
- *Junior Daughters Initiation, Saturday, May 24.
- *Memorial Day, Monday, May 26.
- *Parish Council Meeting, Tuesday, May 27, 6 pm.
- *Holy Spirit Novena Begins, Friday, May 30.

Mass Intentions May 03-04, 2025

Saturday	5pm	The People of the Parish
Sunday	8am	Lester + Ronnie Gauthier <i>By: Mary, Danna & Edward</i>
	11am	Chavon D. White <i>By: Denise Williams</i>
		Clara Raby <i>By: Bridgett Crockett</i>

Stewardship April 27, 2025

Regular Collection:	\$11,665.56
Online Support:	\$2733.00
Parish Needs:	\$45.00
School Support:	\$727.00



Thanks for your Generosity!

Today's Readings
Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41, Revelation 5: 11-14, John 21:1 –19

“Smoting” or Non-“smoting”?

Some times I get angry at things that frustrate me. I'm driving home and traffic slows to a crawl. The electricity goes out while I'm watching a favorite show. So I have to struggle with the line in our first reading, where the disciples were “rejoicing that they had been found worthy to suffer dishonor for the sake of the name” (Acts 5:41). They weren't just frustrated; they were flogged for believing in Jesus. And still they rejoiced.

Imagine rejoicing over pain and suffering. These disciples had seen Jesus on the cross. When he rose from the dead, they began to see that his suffering was not a tragic loss, but a sign of his glory. They loved him so much that they took to heart his command to take up the cross. And when they suffered because they believed in him, as is recounted in today's reading, they saw that as a way to imitate Jesus on the cross. Those who had followed him in life could also follow him to the cross—and many did that literally, by dying for their faith.

Most of us today rarely have the chance to die for our faith. We may wonder if we even have the courage it would take. Instead, we usually find ourselves suffering because we have done wrong. God does not use special interventions to smite sinners. Think of the times we were punished as a child. Think of the times we lost a friend because of a cruel remark. Think of the times we got a ticket for speeding. These are the result of our actions. These are sufferings that we would rather avoid.

Jesus, however, suffered for our sins when he was totally innocent. If he could do that, could we not accept suffering for our own sins when it comes? We may not be ready to rejoice in that suffering, but we can at least try to learn from it. If we behave differently because of it, if we can grow to be better persons, then that suffering can be our way of accepting the cross.

Of course, not all suffering is caused by the sins of the person suffering. The suffering of the innocent is a great mystery, a cause for sorrow and a challenge to help where we can. But like growing pains, all suffering is a step to new life in Christ. And that is what Easter is about.

Tom Schmidt