

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
September 21, 2025

# ST. FRANCIS XAVIER



**CATHOLIC CHURCH**

1120 MYRTLE WALK  
BATON ROUGE, LA 70802

Rev. Ugochukwu "Henry" Ihuoma, SSJ  
Pastor

[stfrancisexavierbr.org](http://stfrancisexavierbr.org)

**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**

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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

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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 3RD 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 September

### SAINT PIO OF PIETRELCINA (1887-1968)

September 23

Did the World War II American flyer really see Padre Pio in midair, preventing the bombing of his village below? Did Pio actually “bilocate” in Italy, the Holy Land, even America, as countless witnesses testified? Or “read hearts” before penitents spoke? What of the *stigmata*, Christ’s wounds imprinted on Padre Pio’s hands, feet, and side? John Paul II, who as a young man visited Pio, never mentioned these extraordinary elements at the canonization. Instead, the pope spoke of “trials accepted with love,” referring perhaps to sanctions restricting Pio’s faculties for hearing confessions and celebrating public Mass, imposed because of criticism, later discredited, sent to the Vatican; of Pio’s offering his sufferings in union with Jesus’ passion for a suffering world; of his continual availability to sinners seeking direction and absolution; of Padre Pio’s prayer that blossomed in charity, especially through his “House for the Relief of Suffering,” a healthcare facility that anticipated by decades today’s holistic partnering of medical science and spirituality. Finally, how comforting for us “ordinary” Christians, this extraordinary saint’s most frequent advice: “Pray, hope, and don’t worry!”

—Peter Scagnelli

### TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

When the Roman Empire turned a favorable eye toward the once-persecuted Christians, among the effects was a population explosion in the baptismal font, as Christian sympathizers stepped from the shadows. With more and more people becoming Christians, laws were passed to protect Sunday as a work-free day. Soon, it became possible to celebrate Mass later in the morning, rather than the older custom of gathering before dawn to celebrate Eucharist. Amazingly, despite the increasing numbers of Christians, there was great resistance to adding to the number of worship events; the Eucharist that began as a few friends around a table soon was transformed into a more formal event with throngs crowding a large hall. All the Christians in a city or town would gather around the bishop for the one Sunday Eucharist, and only when the crowds became unmanageable was there an impulse to divide the assembly by splitting off a new bishop and flock.

Now, sixteen hundred years later, many parishes see a need to trim or combine Mass schedules. This is often seen as tough surgery. Yet our forebears in the faith would see it as a gain: a filling up of the Eucharist with a large and vigorous assembly, a fullness of ministry, an opportunity to make the Church more fully visible and stronger for service.

—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, \* Roslyn Jones \* Anita Liggins

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](http://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.

### Parish Fair 2025

#### We Are One

Please save the dates: Our Parish Fair is on the weekend of October 3rd, 4th and 5th. Bring your family and friends for a weekend full of fun, fellowship, and food. Sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information, please contact the parish office @ 225 - 383 - 3479. Join us as we celebrate together—because We are One.

Also remember that you can pick up your raffle booklet at the back of the church after the Mass. Thank you



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

**Enrolling Grades K - 8**

(225) 387-6639



Join us for  
**Adoration, Praise, and Worship**  
**Every First Saturday from 3:00 - 4:30 pm**

### Upcoming Events in the Parish

- \*First Day of Autumn, Monday, September 22.
- \*Parish Pastoral Council, Tuesday, September 23, 6 pm.
- \*GriefShare Ministry, Wednesday, September 24, 6 pm.
- \*Food Pantry Distribution, Thursday, September 25, 10 am.
- \*School Mass, Friday, September 26, 9 am.
- \*Birthday and Anniversary Celebration, Sunday, September 28, 9:30 am.
- \*105th Anniversary of SFX School, September 30.
- \*GriefShare Ministry, Wednesday, October 1, 6 pm.

### Mass Intentions September 20-21, 2025

Saturday	5pm	Melvin P. Jones <i>By: Stephanie &amp; Harlan Jones</i>
Sunday	8am	Edmund Doucette <i>By: Crystal Doucette</i> <b>Joseph A. Delpit</b> <i>By: Mrs. Pat Delpit</i>
	11am	People of the Parish

### Stewardship September 14, 2025

Regular Collection:	\$5981.97
Online Support:	\$2478.00
Parish Needs:	\$50.00
School Support:	\$25.00



Thanks for your Generosity!

**Today's Readings**  
**Amos 8:4-7, 1 Timothy 2:1-8, Luke 16: 1– 13**

**The Clever Crook**

The parable in today's Gospel is another one with a surprise ending. The crooked steward is commended by his master for being prudent, or clever, trying to protect himself. Jesus did not condone dishonesty. He just wanted us to be just as clever in serving the Lord. Let's look at the first two readings and how they challenge us to do more.

The reading from Amos talks about those "who trample upon the needy and destroy the poor" (Amos 8:4). The challenge here is to ask yourself, "What do I do for the poor?" If all you can think of is to throw some change in the monthly collection for the poor, you're not being very clever. Most parishes have organizations to help the needy and are happy to get volunteers. Imagine what you would do to help someone you loved who was laid off or on disability leave. Do you love Jesus enough to help the poor in his name? Do you ever think of praying for the poor? Not just a quick response to one of the Prayers of the Faithful for the homeless, but actually taking time to pray for those who are unemployed or with jobs that don't pay enough to support a family.

Speaking of prayer, our second reading also challenges us to do more. Paul recommends prayers for "kings and for all in authority" (1 Timothy 2:2). It's easy to pray for friends and family; how much time do we give to prayers for government leaders and executives? Even the leaders with whom we disagree could use more guidance from the Holy Spirit. Paul reminds us that God wants everyone to be saved (1 Timothy 2:4), sinners as well as saints, terrorists and embezzlers, atheists and agnostics. I'll bet you don't spend much time praying for the "bad guys." Yet Jesus said, "Love your enemies. Pray for those who hurt you" (Matthew 5:44). I can't say I've ever heard anyone say that was their favorite Bible passage. But if Jesus expects more from those who love him, who are we to let him down?

Tom Schmidt