

Third Sunday of Advent
December 14, 2025

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER



CATHOLIC CHURCH

1120 MYRTLE WALK
BATON ROUGE, LA 70802

Rev. Ugochukwu "Henry" Ihuoma, SSJ
Pastor

stfrancisexavierbr.org

PARISH OFFICE:

MRS. MARVA KADOR WILLIAMS ~ SECRETARY

1134 JULIA STREET

BATON ROUGE, LA 70802

9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM

225.383.3479 OR 225.343.3709

FAX: 225.388.5458

EMAIL~SECRETARY@SFXC.BRCOXMAIL.COM

WEBSITE~STFRANCISXAVIERBR.ORG

REV. UGOCHUKWU HENRY IHUOMA, SSJ.

EMAIL~ HENRY95UGO@GMAIL.COM

CELL PHONE ~ 240.688.5440

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:

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 December 2025

14 PSR Class - 3rd Sunday of Advent – Nativity Rehearsal. Acceptable for service hours.

20 (Saturday) Nativity Rehearsal and Reconciliation for Youth – 10:00am- 12:00noon – All youth to participate.

In this upcoming series we will introduce the first “five books” of the Bible, Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

THE PENTATEUCH

The Pentateuch (Greek for “five books”) designates the first five books of the Jewish and Christian Bible (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy). Jewish tradition calls the five books Torah (Teaching, Law) because of the centrality of the Sinai covenant and legislation mediated through Moses.

We begin with Genesis... God creates the physical world and all living inhabitants in six days, including Adam and Eve. Sin is brought into Eden by Satan, who is responsible for the Fall. The patriarchs and the matriarchs are introduced. God reveals that He can become fed-up with human evil, and He destroys most humans and other living creatures during the flood. Then, later, God promises His chosen people that they will inhabit Canaan. For a time, they do inhabit Canaan, but later they suffer from an extended famine, so they move to Egypt where food is available.

The unity of the Pentateuch comes from the single story it tells. God creates the world and destines human beings for the blessings of progeny and land possession (Gen 1–3). As the human race expands, its evil conduct provokes God to send the flood to wipe out all but righteous Noah’s family. After the flood, the world is repopulated from his three sons, Ham, Shem, and Japheth (Gen 4–9). From them are descended the seventy nations of the civilized world whose offense this time (building a city rather than taking their assigned lands, Gen 10–11) provokes God to elect one family from the rest. Abraham and his wife, Sarah, landless and childless, are promised a child and the land of Canaan. Amid trials and fresh promises, a son (Isaac) is born to them and Abraham takes title to a sliver of Canaanite land, a kind of down payment for later possession (Gen 12–25). Gen 25–36 tells how their descendant Jacob becomes the father of twelve sons (because of which he is called “Israel”), and Gen 37–50 tells how the rejected brother Joseph saves the family from famine and brings them to Egypt.

Next Issue, Exodus.

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*Alphonse Deconge III

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

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



SCAN ME

Bible Study

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

Sock It To Me Campaign

We have kicked off our "Sock It To Me" campaign. Collection boxes for new socks are located at the entrances to church. We are asking for your support in collecting 1000 pairs of socks to donate to infants, children, and adults in need. The campaign is a service project of the Junior Daughters and will be ongoing through the month of December. Thanks for your continued support.



"Register your child for the SFX School 2026-27, The Mustang Experience Awaits You." For more information, visit 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

- *Advent Penance Service, Wednesday, December 17, 5 pm – 7 pm. .
- *Reconciliation for Youth, Saturday, December 20, 10am – 12 am.
- *PSR Christmas Party, Sunday, December 21, 9:30—Noon.
- *Christmas Eve, December 24, Mass at 5 pm.
- *Midnight Mass, December 25, Mass at 12 am.
- *Christmas Day, December 25, Mass at 9 am.
- *Parish Anniversary, December 25.

Mass Intentions December 13-14, 2025

- | | | |
|----------|-------|--|
| Saturday | 5 pm | Ms. Joyce Vaughn
<i>By: The Family</i> |
| Sunday | 8 am | The People of the Parish |
| | 11 am | Cyril Egbe
<i>By: Justin & Mable Egbe</i> |
| | | Special Intentions
<i>By: Bridgette Richard</i> |
| | | Tyler Irvin & Those Who are Deployed
<i>By: Catrina Irvin & Family</i> |

Stewardship December 07, 2025

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Regular Collection: | \$9631.45 |
| Online Support: | \$2095.00 |
| Parish Needs: | \$481.00 |
| School Support: | \$135.00 |



Thanks for your Generosity!

Today's Readings
Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10, James 5:7-10, Matthew 11:2- 11

The Prophet's Profit

If you read the books of the prophets in the Old Testament, you might notice that they were not very popular. Most were killed or exiled because they challenged people (especially the rulers of the people) to follow the commands of God. John the Baptist (who could be called the last Old Testament prophet and the first prophet of the New Testament) suffered the same way. So what kept the prophets going?

First of all, the prophets had faith in God. They believed that God spoke through them, they believed that God's people must obey his commandments faithfully and love the Lord above all things. They had faith that God would protect them and support them, and that God would always keep His promises.

Second, they had patience. They kept going when people rejected their preaching. They patiently waited for God to keep those promises, sometimes for the rest of their lives. Some prophets had to be patient with their own weaknesses or their failure to change the behavior of the people of Israel.

The third gift of the prophets was hope: That by keeping God's commands, God's people would be renewed, along with all of creation. Our first reading is an example of such hope, with its descriptions of deserts becoming gardens and the sick and disabled being healed and strengthened.

So what do we learn from those prophets? First, we need to keep our faith in God strong. If you go to church once a week, the bare minimum, it would be like exercising only once a week and thinking that will keep you in shape. Prayer, for our spiritual health, is an exercise just as important as aerobics for physical health.

Second, we need patience and not just with our kids. We need to be patient with ourselves and with God. Some people stop going to church because they don't see any spiritual growth in themselves. So be patient; don't expect to become a saint right away. Sometimes even saints could not see their own spiritual growth.

Finally, the gift of hope helps us be patient because we trust that God will keep his promises and give us whatever we need. The reading from Isaiah gives us hope that God will open our eyes of faith, clear our ears to hear His word, (Is 35:5) and "meet him with joy and gladness" (Is 35:10).

Tom Schmidt