

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21, 2025

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER



Rev. Ugochukwu "Henry" Ihuoma, SSJ
Pastor

CATHOLIC CHURCH

1120 MYRTLE WALK
BATON ROUGE, LA 70802

stfrancisexavierbr.org

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

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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

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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 December 2025

- 20 Live Nativity Rehearsal and Reconciliation 10:00am – 12:00noon
- 21 PSR Class - 4th Sunday of Advent - PSR Class Christmas Party
- 23 Live Nativity Rehearsal - 6:00pm – 7:00pm – FINAL REHEARSAL
- 24 **5:00 PM Mass – The Nativity** - 3:00 Actors Arrive - Acceptable for service hours
- 25 Merry Christmas!**
- 28 No Class** - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

January 2026

1 Happy New Year! – The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God.

We continue our series on the Pentateuch with an introduction to the second book, Exodus...

The People of Israel exist in Egypt as slaves during many generations and their numbers mightily increase. Moses, a Jew, is born among them. To preserve him from being executed by royal decree, Moses is adopted by the princess of Egypt and raised to manhood as an Egyptian prince. Having murdered an Egyptian slave master who was harming a Jew, Moses escapes into the Median desert, becomes a shepherd, and marries. At the foot of Mount Sinai, Moses encounters God in the burning bush. By God, Moses is sent back into Egypt to tell Pharaoh to “Set my people free.” Eventually, six hundred thousand enslaved men escape from Egypt, along with their wives and children, by following Moses. They cross the Red Sea and camp at the foot of Mount Sinai. Moses climbs Mount Sinai and meets with God again. God covenants with the People Israel. He will guide and protect them and keep them from harm if they will have no other gods before Him. God gives Moses the Ten Commandments (in Hebrew their title is *Asceret Hadevarim*—or “Ten Utterances”). Moses brings the tablets down from the mountain to show the Israelites. However, in the meantime, while Moses was away, the People of Israel—who are fractious and impatient and self-centered—have built for themselves a golden calf to worship instead of God. Furious, Moses smashes the tablets and climbs back up the mountain to carve a new set of God’s “Utterances.” The rest of Exodus describes the building of the Tabernacle, which is where the new tablets (and thus the dicta of God Himself) are to be housed.

In Egypt, a pharaoh who knew not Joseph subjects “the seventy sons of Jacob” (“the Hebrews”) to hard labor, keeping them from their land and destroying their male progeny ([Ex 1](#)). Moses is commissioned to lead the people out of Egypt to their own land ([Ex 2–6](#)). In ten plagues, the Lord defeats Pharaoh. Free at last, the Hebrews leave Egypt and journey to Mount Sinai ([Ex 7–18](#)), where they enter into a covenant to be the people of the Lord and be shaped by the Ten Commandments and other laws ([Ex 19–24](#)). Though the people commit apostasy when Moses goes back to the mountain for the plans of the dwelling (tabernacle), Moses’ intercession prevents the abrogation of the covenant by God ([Ex 32–34](#)). A principle has been established, however: even the people’s apostasy needs not end their relationship with God. The book ends with the cloud and the glory taking possession of the tent of meeting ([Ex 36:34–38](#)). “The sons of Israel” in [Ex 1:1](#) are the actual sons of Jacob/Israel the patriarch, but at the end of the book they are the nation Israel, for all the elements of nationhood in antiquity have been granted: a god (and temple), a leader, a land, and an authoritative tradition.

Next Issue we continue the Pentateuch with Numbers...

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 are coming to the close of our "Sock It To Me" Campaign. As of Sunday, December 14th, we collected 1029 pairs of socks, exceeding our goal of 1000. The socks were delivered to our outreach partners for distribution to the needy. Additional socks collected through December 31st will also be distributed. Thanks for your generosity.



"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

- *Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24, 5 pm.
- *Christmas Mass, Thursday, December 25, 12 am.
- *Christmas Mass, Thursday, December 25, 9 am.
- *Mary, Mother of God, Thursday, Jan. 1, 9 am.

Mass Intentions December 20-21, 2025

- | | | |
|----------|-------|--|
| Saturday | 5 pm | Ceola Marcelle
By: Weesie
Marcella Keyes
By: Weesie
Isaac Haney
By: Weesie |
| Sunday | 8 am | The People of the Parish |
| | 11 am | Cyril Egbe
By: Justin & Mable Egbe
Special Intentions
By: Bridgette Richard
Tyler Irvin & Those Who are Deployed
By: Catrina Irvin & Family
Christopher Vaughn
By: Betty Davis
Alvin Dominique, Jr.
By: Bridget Crockett
Deceased Members of Ministry of Hospitality
By: Ministry of Hospitality |

Stewardship December 14, 2025

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Regular Collection: | \$12,626.00 |
| Online Support: | \$2644.29 |
| Parish Needs: | \$135.00 |
| School Support: | \$30.00 |



Thanks for your Generosity!

Today's Readings
Isaiah 7:10-14, Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18 – 24

Emmanuel

On this last Sunday before Christmas, we see that Jesus' birth is the fulfillment of the promise of Emmanuel, meaning "God is with us." (Mt 1:23) The gospel refers to the first reading from Isaiah. There we see the king of Judah, Ahaz, is under attack by the kings of Aram and Israel. He wants to ask the Assyrians for help, instead of relying on God. That's why he says, "I will not tempt the Lord." (Is 7:12) He is afraid to admit his lack of faith. So the weakness of Ahaz gives us the wonderful prophecy of the birth of Jesus. Ahaz of course did not understand the full meaning of that prophecy. For him, the prophecy meant the destruction of Judah.

In the gospel, Joseph also does not understand how Mary was pregnant. But unlike Ahaz, Joseph did have faith in God and the message of the angel. He took Mary as his wife and helped her through her pregnancy and afterwards in raising Jesus. His faith in God kept Jesus from being murdered by Herod after the Magi's visit.

So now we have to choose who we rely on: Do I act like Ahaz, relying on the worldly powers, or like Joseph who trusted the Lord? I would like to say that I trust in the Lord only. But if I look at my actions and priorities, I might be more like Ahaz than I want to admit.

How much time do I spend watching television (especially now that it's in HD) compared to time in prayer? How much time do I spend reading the scriptures compared to the newspaper or magazines? How much do I spend on Christmas decorations or gifts for my family, compared to what I give to the Church? If I really believe that "God is with us," which is what Christmas is all about, how much of God can people see in my actions?

Maybe if we kept in mind that promise that God IS with us, in the Baptism we received and the sacraments of the Church, and the love of our spouse or parents—we could see how close God really is and let others see in our actions, that Jesus is Emmanuel.

Tom Schmidt