

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER



Rev. Ugochukwu "Henry" Ihuoma, SSJ
Pastor

CATHOLIC CHURCH

1120 MYRTLE WALK
BATON ROUGE, LA 70802

stfrancisxavierbr.org

PARISH OFFICE:

MRS. MARVA KADOR WILLIAMS ~ SECRETARY
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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
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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:

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| SATURDAY: | VIGIL ~ 5:00 PM |
| SUNDAY: | 8:00 AM & 11:00 AM |
| TUESDAY: | OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP NOVENA ~ 5:00 PM |
| WED-FRI: | 9:00 AM |
| HOLYDAYS: | 9:00 AM & 6:00 PM |
| FRIDAY: | SCHOOL MASS 9:00 AM |
| SATURDAY: | 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

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

We are in the season of the Incarnation, the mystery of God's love poured out in Christ's birth. The word derives from the Latin *carnis* meaning "flesh." Throughout history, some Christians have distrusted the "flesh," and stressed a hatred of this world and its pleasures. Perhaps they have not paid enough attention to how "embodied" the sacraments are. One third-century author put it plainly in an image that may alarm diet-conscious Americans, explaining that we wash the body so the soul can be cleansed, that we anoint the body so the soul can be strengthened, and that we eat the body and blood of Christ so that "the soul can fatten on God."

Catholics "get" that God is revealed in this world. The sacraments use the "stuff" of creation: water and oil; the senses of the body, touch and taste and smell. We use the things of this world rightly. After all, God's love poured out into human flesh means the world has eternal value. Why else would Jesus describe the kingdom to come as a teeming city or a marriage banquet? Catholics are realists, and nowhere is that more evident than when we gather for a sacrament.

—Rev. James Field

December 29

SAINT THOMAS BECKET (1118-1170)

To anyone who imagines conflict between religion and politics to be a modern phenomenon, history witnesses otherwise. Martyred under Henry VIII in 1535, Thomas More declared, "I die the King's good servant, but God's first!" Thomas Becket could have said the same four centuries earlier. As Henry II's closest friend and trusted chancellor, Becket, the King presumed, could be counted on, if made Archbishop, to deliver the church to royal control. But Becket experienced a profound conversion, confirmed by the ordination liturgy's rich symbolism of the bishop as Good Shepherd and the church as Bride of Christ. Renouncing secular responsibilities, distributing his wealth to the poor, Thomas became the church's uncompromising champion. Faced with this "new" Becket, the King's previous friendship turned into a ferocious, almost irrational hatred. As eight centuries later, Archbishop Romero would be martyred at the altar of Christ's sacrifice, Becket was slain before the altar of Canterbury Cathedral by royal agents, neither the first nor last good shepherd to lay down his life as the price of freedom for Christ's church and justice for Christ's sheep. —Peter Scagnelli

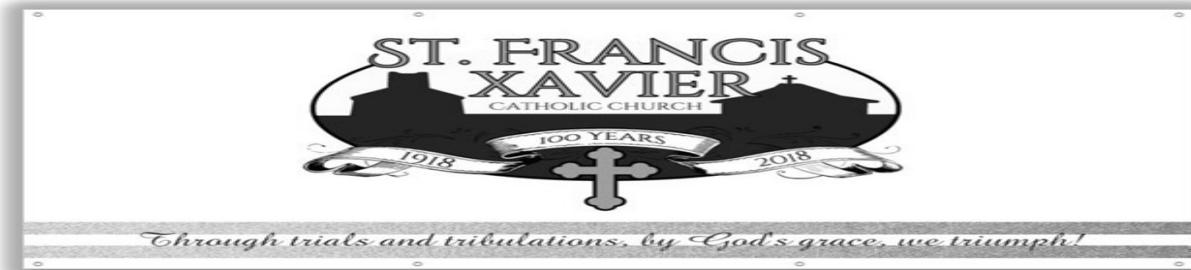
PRAYER LIST

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



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.

Appreciation

On behalf of the Pastor and the entire Staff of our Parish and School, we wish to thank you all for your generous support in the year 2025. We are grateful for how you supported us immensely with your Time, Talent, and Treasure. We are looking forward to a better 2026 with you. Do have a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.



"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



TBA

Thanks for your Generosity!

Today's Readings
Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14, Colossians 3:12-21, Matthew 2:13– 15, 19 - 23

Loving Obedience

One theme common to all three readings today is obedience. Sirach commends the son who obeys his father. St. Paul tells children to obey their parents “in everything.” And the Gospel shows Joseph obedient to the warnings of the angel. Yet all three put obedience in terms of a larger relationship.

Sirach says that obedience is part of what makes a happy family. As we saw last Sunday, it shows trust in the one who is obeyed. Children trust that their parents have good reason for telling them to do something. Children also learn both discipline and how to contribute to family life. Spouses trust each other not to ask them to do something harmful. Obedience is also a sign of respect for an older family member. Americans tend to look at older people as if they were useless, but Sirach reminds us of the wisdom they can share with us.

St. Paul continues this theme in the second reading. He shows how love of Christ transforms a family. When he talks about wives being subordinate and husbands loving them, he means that husbands and wives should defer to each other and love each other. Children and parents have duties to each other: Children are to obey parents and parents are to be reasonable (“do not provoke”) and loving.

Parents might look at the Gospel for support in encouraging obedience. Joseph obeyed the messages from the angel and saved the life of the infant Jesus. So families can learn that stressing obedience can protect the child as well as teach. Parents can also remind children that God asks for obedience for our good, not on a whim. When we obey God’s law, we learn to trust God more deeply and to appreciate that God’s law enables us to live more freely. As children we think that rules restrict us, but as we mature, we learn that we are more restricted by our misguided desires and beliefs. We learn to adjust those desires to be in line with God’s plan for us. We grow by replacing misguided beliefs (i.e., that material things bring true happiness, that revenge is sweet, etc.) with faith in a loving God who wants the best for us and who doesn’t magically take away our sufferings, but supports us through them.

Tom Schmidt