

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 18, 2026

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER



CATHOLIC CHURCH

1120 MYRTLE WALK
BATON ROUGE, LA 70802

Rev. Ugochukwu "Henry" Ihuoma, SSJ
Pastor

stfrancixavierbr.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 January 2026

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

The symbols and actions of baptism evolved around the experience of adults dying to old patterns of life and rising from the waters of baptism as new creations. As for newborn babies, at first it was desired to wait until the following Easter, when they could be baptized, anointed with chrism, and given a taste of the Eucharist in association with adults. The Church was always willing to baptize adults in emergency situations outside the Easter timetable, and in time, since infancy itself was a life-threatening situation, the baptism of babies became commonplace. As with the “emergency” adult baptisms, it was required that parents bring the child, as soon as health was recovered, to the bishop for the full menu of sacraments.

The very real fear of death for infants thus created a situation in which the three sacraments drifted apart from each other, and away from their original, adult celebration at Easter. Today, at last, we know a great deal about how our practices evolved. This knowledge is reshaping how we celebrate Easter, how we receive adult faith, and how we structure the faith journey of children.

—Rev. James Field

I Know a Guy

Before he became an Apostle and author of the fourth Gospel, John was a disciple of an unusual man who lived in the desert and ate locusts. The Baptist, as he was known, explained to his followers that he had been told to make straight the path for the Messiah, to prepare the way of the Lord. What their people had longed for centuries was coming soon, and John the Baptist was called to help the people be ready. John the disciple believed him as did his friend Andrew. So, when the Baptist’s cousin appeared on the scene and this compelling figure proclaimed, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,” John and Andrew were prepared to recognize the Messiah. Then Andrew told his brother Peter, and soon after, a Church was born.

John the Baptist’s unusual life — from his unlikely conception, to leaping in his mother’s womb upon Mary’s greeting, to baptizing the Savior Himself — was geared toward helping people know Jesus. He was dedicated to his mission even if the people of his time thought he was a little weird. He was an odd, yet compelling messenger. Even Herod, who would eventually put the Baptizer to death, found himself drawn to John and enjoyed listening to him speak.

John the Baptist got people talking as he set the stage for the greater One to follow. The word about Jesus spread as people told their families and friends about a guy they knew who knew a guy. And the word about Jesus still spreads that way.

We are called to be like John the Baptist, to make straight the path and prepare the way of the Lord. Yes, the world may think we’re a little weird sometimes for believing what we do and striving to live out what we believe, but few of us will pay the price John the Baptist did for speaking up about Jesus.

Can we find the courage to be like John the Baptist? Can we live lives of faith that draw the curious toward us, and then urge those people toward the Source of the light? Can we tell the world that we know a Guy who came to make all things new? When we do, we stand with John as he proclaims, “Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God.”

By Pamela Kavanaugh

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 * Philip Louis

*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.

Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass

The Bishop's Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass honoring couples celebrating 25, 50 or 65 or over years of marriage will be held at Immaculate Conception Church in Denham Springs, LA. The date is Sunday, March 22, 2026, at 2 p.m. Couples who are celebrating one of the anniversary years are required to fill out the forms and forward completed forms to mgernon@diobr.org. The deadline for completed couple registrations to be sent back is February 26, 2026. Please call Mila Gernon at 225-242-0323 if you have any questions or email her at mgernon@diobr.org. Thank you.



"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

- *Second Collection: Church in Latin America, Sunday, January 25, 2026.
- *School Advisory Board Meeting, Saturday, January 24, 10 am.
- *Birthday and Anniversary Celebration, Sunday, January 25, 9:30 am.
- *Parish Pastoral Council Meeting, Tuesday, January 27, 6 pm.
- *Bible Study, Thursday, January 29, 6 pm.
- *School Mass (CSW), Friday, Jan. 30, 9 am.

Mass Intentions January 17-18, 2026

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| Saturday | 5 pm | Juanita Culbert
<i>By: Camille Fleet & Kirkland Johnson</i> |
| | | Aline "Cookie" Vaughn
<i>By: The Family</i> |
| Sunday | 8 am | The People of the Parish |
| | 11 am | Tyler Irvin & Those Who are Deployed
<i>By: Catrina Irvin & Family</i> |

Stewardship January 18, 2026

Regular Collection:	\$ 8038.00
Online Support:	\$ 1445.00
Parish Needs:	\$ 85.00
School Support:	\$ 65.00



Thanks for your Generosity!

Today's Readings
Isaiah 49: 3, 5-6, 1 Corinthians 1: 1 - 3, John 1:29-34

Behold the Lamb of God

I wonder if anyone understood John the Baptist when he called Jesus the Lamb of God. Did they associate that name with the paschal lamb whose blood protected the Israelites from the Angel of Death? After Jesus' death and resurrection, the apostles began to understand that Jesus' blood, shed on the cross, freed us all from sin and death. Yet here is the Baptizer already acting like a disciple before Jesus has gathered any disciples or even begun to preach. In today's Gospel, John the Baptist gives us some hints about discipleship.

First, John trusts God with things he does not understand. He says twice that he did not know Jesus, yet he trusts God's revelation that Jesus would "baptize with the Holy Spirit" (John 1:33). We also may not always understand where God is leading us. If you have lost a loved one, are looking for work when no one is hiring, or are dealing with a serious illness, this is the time to trust that God still loves and cares for you.

John also knew that doing God's work meant that God was working through him. Originally John baptized others as a sign of repentance, but he soon came to see that his real work was to make Jesus "known to Israel" (John 1:31). When we try to do what God wants, it is good to remember that God is the one in control and who decides what the result will be. What looks like failure to us can be success in God's eyes.

John's third hint teaches us that a disciple shares his or her faith in God. So John testifies that Jesus is the Son of God. While that sounds obvious to us, it took courage to say that to people who would have thought it blasphemy. Even today, when Jesus is known throughout the world, we still need to share our faith experiences so those without faith may be attracted to it. Even those with faith can be encouraged by our sharing as well. You may be surprised to find that your own faith deepens the more you share it with others. As we point out the Lamb of God to those who don't know him, we get to know him better ourselves.

Tom Schmidt