

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
1134 JULIA STREET
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9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM
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REV. UGOCHUKWU HENRY IHUOMA, SSJ.
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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
EMAIL: CROGERS@SFXBR.ORG
WEBSITE: WWW.SFXBR.ORG



MASS SCHEDULE:

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 January 2025

The Baptism of Jesus

As a mother of five children and an aunt to 26 more, I have attended my fair share of baptisms. They are always beautiful and joyful occasions, celebrations of a new member being added to God's family. But most of them have also had their mishaps, as tends to happen when little kids are involved. Whether it be a last minute dirty diaper, an older sibling running up to the baptismal font right in the middle of the ceremony, or the baby screaming during the whole affair, baptisms, like most moments in life, are not perfect.

What *is* perfect is the sacramental and sanctifying grace that is poured into the soul of the newly baptized. What *is* perfect is the great love that God has for us in granting us this palpable moment of unity with Him. What *is* perfect is this opportunity for family and friends to witness an indelible mark being placed on the baby's soul, sealing them for an eternity with God.

In today's Gospel, we read about the Baptism of Jesus. What a powerful witness that the Son of God Himself chose to be baptized by a human being. What a powerful manifestation of the Holy Trinity, both audibly and visibly present. What a powerful way to show us just how important baptism is.

I invite you to place yourself in this moment. Imagine the confusion of John the Baptist, being asked to baptize God. Imagine the awe of the others present upon seeing the heavens being opened. Imagine their fright when a voice boomed down from the heavens. Did the bystanders run away in fear? Did they kneel in adoration? Did they stand there frozen in shock? What would you do? What are you feeling called to do now, in this moment, as you reflect upon this passage?

By Tami Urcia

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Through the centuries, artists and craftspeople have depicted Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River by John. At first in mosaics and frescoes, and later in tapestries, stained glass, and paintings, the scene is familiar. Jesus is standing waist-high in flowing water. Above him, standing on dry land, John the Baptist pours water over Jesus. The first artists to depict this were sketching from memory. This is exactly how most people were baptized in the early days: as adults, standing or kneeling in the water, with water poured over their heads.

This method of baptizing, called immersion, is the favored way today. An adult enters a font, or an infant is lowered a bit into the water supported by a parent's hand, and water is poured or splashed over them. The treasures of baptismal art attest that submersion, or plunging beneath the water's surface, is not really in our tradition, and that "infusion," the mere pouring of a few drops of water, yields too narrow an understanding of what it means to be plunged into Christ's life. Jesus Christ has gone before us into the water, and waits for us there with abundant gifts. No wonder the tradition calls for abundant symbols!

—Rev. James Field

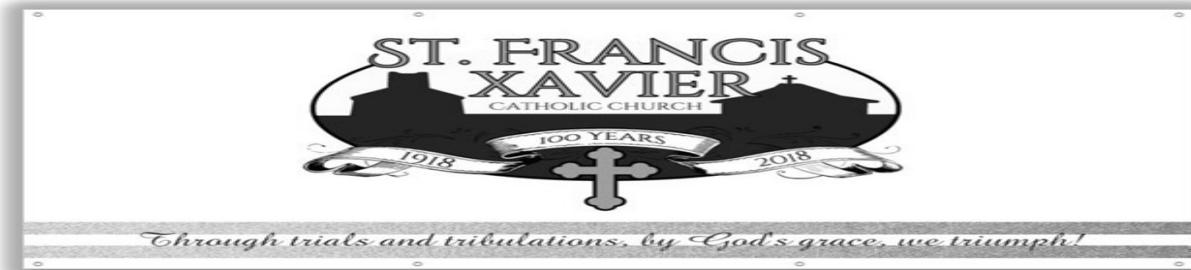
PRAYER LIST

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*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



Thanks for your Generosity!

Stewardship January 04, 2026

Regular Collection:	\$10,601.45
Online Support:	\$6,883.36
Parish Needs:	\$450.00
School Support:	\$305.00

Thanks for your Generosity!

Today's Readings
Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7, Acts 10:34-38, Matthew 3:13-17

Well Pleased

The first reading from Isaiah is a pretty good description of Jesus. It begins by describing the servant “with whom I am well pleased” (Isaiah 42:1). These are the words of the voice from the heavens that was heard at Jesus’ baptism. The most significant difference is that the voice calls Jesus “beloved Son,” not just servant. And Isaiah gives us more hints about who Jesus is.

The verses that say that he will not break the bruised reed or quench the smoldering wick (Isaiah 42:3) are descriptive of Jesus’ mercy toward sinners. The reed and the wick were disposed of because they were useless. But God, out of love for us, never sees sinners as useless. God is always ready to forgive them and give them another chance, so God sent Jesus to forgive sinners, not reject them. In the Gospel, John at first refuses to baptize Jesus, because John’s baptism was a sign of repentance for sin. He knew Jesus was not a sinner, so he had no need to repent. But Jesus identified himself with sinners and welcomed them back to God’s love. We can ask God to help us see our sinfulness and bring it to him for healing.

Isaiah also says that the servant is a “covenant of the people.” A covenant was an agreement between unequal partners, in which the stronger one agreed to protect or defend the weaker one, while the weaker agreed to pay taxes or obey laws required by the stronger. God is offering a new covenant through Jesus, not just for the Jews, but for all peoples. But we still have to live that covenant, by loving God and our neighbor. When we teach others about God’s love and mercy, “we open the eyes of the blind”, as Isaiah says. When we forgive each other, we are setting free prisoners of sin. When people see God’s love acted out in our lives, we are a light to the world. As we learn to do these things, we will find that God is also well pleased with us.

Tom Schmidt