

First Sunday of Lent
February 22, 2026

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

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 February 2026

22 PSR Class – 1st Sunday of Lent

28 Campus Clean-up - 8am to 12 noon

March 2026

01 PSR Class – 2nd Sunday of Lent

What is Lent?

Wednesday, February 18, 2026 - Thursday, April 2, 2026

Lent is a 40-day season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday. It's a period of preparation to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection at Easter. During Lent, we seek the Lord in prayer by reading Sacred Scripture; we serve by giving alms; and we practice self-control through fasting. We are called not only to abstain from luxuries during Lent, but to a true inner conversion of heart as we seek to follow Christ's will more faithfully. We recall the waters of baptism in which we were also baptized into Christ's death, died to sin and evil, and began new life in Christ.

Many know of the tradition of abstaining from meat on Fridays during Lent, but we are also called to practice self-discipline and fast in other ways throughout the season. Contemplate the meaning and origins of the Lenten fasting tradition in this reflection. In addition, the giving of alms is one way to share God's gifts—not only through the distribution of money, but through the sharing of our time and talents. As St. John Chrysostom reminds us: "Not to enable the poor to share in our goods is to steal from them and deprive them of life. The goods we possess are not ours, but theirs." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 2446).

In Lent, the baptized are called to renew their baptismal commitment as others prepare to be baptized through the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA), a period of learning and discernment for individuals who have declared their desire to become Catholics.

In our following issues we will discuss; Alms Giving, Fasting, Reflection, Renewing our Baptismal Commitment while some prepare for Baptism through the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults. **USCCB/CCC**

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 * Robert Alfred

*Elizabeth Whitfield * Linda Gills-Beshears * Phyllis White * Mary E. Bourgeois * Easton Charles * Erica H. Louis * Alphonse Deconge

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.

Announcements

Fish Fry Fundraiser 2026

We are receiving donations for our fish fry fundraiser. Each family can support us by donating \$100 for a case of fish. You can make your payment via envelope or online giving. Please indicate the purpose of your collection. 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

*Parish Council, Tuesday, February 24, 6 pm.
*Bible Study, Thursday, February 26, 6 pm.
*Stations of the Cross, Friday, February 27, 2pm and 3pm.
*Lenten Revival, Monday - Wednesday, March 02 - 04, 6 pm.
*Bible Study, Thursday, March 05, 6 pm.
*Lenten Fish Fry, Friday, March 06, 10 am - 2 pm.
*Stations of the Cross, Friday, March 06, 2pm and 3pm.
*Adoration, Praise, and Worship, Saturday, March 07, 3 pm.

Mass Intentions February 21-22, 2026

Saturday	5 pm	The People of the Parish
Sunday	8 am	The People of the Parish
	11 am	Lionel C. Thymes, Sr. <i>By: Roderick Thymes</i>

Stewardship February 15, 2026

Regular Collection:	\$7187.24
Online Support:	\$2195.36
Parish Needs:	\$135.00
School Support:	\$70.00



Thanks for your Generosity!

Today's Readings
Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7, Romans 5:12-19, Matthew 4:1 - 11

Connections

The second reading this Sunday is not easy to follow, especially when some of Paul's sentences are more like paragraphs. But you will notice that he makes several important connections: between sin and death, between Adam and Jesus, and between obedience and disobedience.

Sin, he says, is the cause of death—not just spiritual death, but physical death also. His point is that sin affects everyone, innocent as well as sinner. Of course, everyone is subject to death at some point, even if they haven't sinned. Sometimes the cause is immediate, such as a drunken driver who causes the death of an innocent person. Even a less serious sin can be a little "death" when it makes us feel that we are not as close to God as we could be. And sins that we might think are not a big deal, such as smoking, can lead to serious health problems.

The connection between Adam and Jesus is not so obvious. Adam was the first to bring sin and death into the world. Jesus is the first to bring forgiveness by his death on the cross. Adam was at the beginning of creation and Jesus is the beginning of a new creation. If we are all sons and daughters of Adam, we are also God's children, since Jesus taught us to call God our father.

The Letter to the Romans shows us how Jesus is different from Adam. Adam disobeyed God, while Jesus was obedient to his Father. Adam reminds me of a child who knows what he is supposed to do, but thinks that he can do the opposite and get away with it.

The Gospel can be an example of that difference. The child likes to do things the easy way, while the adult will do them the right way. Satan can be thought of as trying to get Jesus to do things the easy way. When he tempts Jesus to turn stones into bread, he shows Jesus an easy way to feed the people. But Jesus takes a better way, when he feeds us with himself in the Eucharist. The devil says Jesus can throw himself off the temple as a dramatic way to attract followers; Jesus lets himself hang from the cross to draw people to himself. Satan promises the kingdoms of the world if Jesus will only worship him. But Jesus chose to be crowned with thorns and receive his kingdom when he rose from the dead.

Tom Schmidt