

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
February 08, 2026

# ST. FRANCIS XAVIER



## CATHOLIC CHURCH

1120 MYRTLE WALK  
BATON ROUGE, LA 70802

Rev. Ugochukwu "Henry" Ihuoma, SSJ  
Pastor

[stfrancisexavierbr.org](http://stfrancisexavierbr.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

### Saint of the Week

**SAINT JOSEPHINE BAKHITA (c. 1869-1947)**

**February 8**

“Save Darfur!” That cry echoes around the world and in the heart of the Church, where a child of Darfur is one of our newest saints: Josephine (her baptismal name) Bakhita (“Lucky One,” the slave-traders’ nickname). Kidnapped at nine, sold in Sudan’s slave-markets, flogged daily till covered with scars, Bakhita was finally bought by Italians and taken to Italy. There Bakhita discovered a “Master” who had himself been flogged to redeem her from slavery! “I am truly loved,” she thought, “and awaited by this Love.” Baptized, she often kissed the baptismal font, exclaiming, “Here I became a daughter of God!” For fifty years as a Daughter of Charity, Bakhita provided cheerful hospitality to all who knocked at the convent door. In her final illness, she relived slavery’s horror: “Please, loosen these chains,” she begged the nurse. “They are so heavy!” Her last words were: “Our Lady! Our Lady!” John Paul II canonized her in the Jubilee Year 2000, praising God for leading her “from abject slavery to the dignity of being your daughter and the Bride of Christ.”

—Peter Scagnelli

### TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

As soon as Christmas ends, people begin planning for Easter! Originally, the source of our Paschal Triduum was but a single liturgy extending from Saturday sundown to sunrise on Easter Sunday. The two days leading up to the liturgy were days of fast, not only for the elect, but for the church preparing to baptize them. A fifth-century pope explained that the church imitated the apostles, who were in hiding with their grief from the arrest of Jesus, and therefore sacraments, even penance, were forbidden.

Inevitably, though, people wanted to come together, and so eventually a Liturgy of the Word developed for Good Friday. This was the first step toward today’s shape of the Triduum, and gradually new ideas were embraced, including the veneration of the cross and a simple Communion service. Interestingly, the Word remained central, since we know that in those days the pope did not receive Communion at this liturgy, even though the faithful had that option. In the other churches of Rome, priests and people received Communion under both species. Although the custom of Communion on Good Friday took hold, it did not endure past the Middle Ages. The central liturgies of the year slowly unraveled and disappeared from parish life. Remember that there were no seminaries in those days, and books were a rare luxury. Most priests could only manage to celebrate a simple “low” Mass, and few parishes could afford the ritual books that would guide a priest through the complex forms. Holy Week remained important in private devotion, but for a time the liturgies virtually disappeared.

—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 \* 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](http://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.

### Announcement

Calling all former and current Sacred Dancers. Please get in touch with Bridgette Richard if you are interested in participating in a special Black History performance on Sunday, February 22, at the 11 a.m. mass.

The Parish Council is opening nominations for candidates to run for Parish Council. We have 3 seats to be filled. We are going to try something different. We are not asking you to nominate someone else. We are asking you to step up and nominate yourself. Fill out a nomination form on the table in the back of the church and place it in the box. Nominations are open until the weekend of February 14-15. Elections will be held March 14-15.

### Upcoming Events in the Parish

- \*Black History Month, February 1 - 28.
- \*Bible Study, Thursday, February 12, 6 pm.
- \*Food Pantry Distribution, Thursday, February 12, 10 am
- \*School Mass, Friday, February 13, 9 am.
- \*30 Day Novena to St. Joseph begins, Tuesday, February 17.
- \*Ash Wednesday, February 18, Mass at 9 am and 6 pm.
- \*Bible Study, Thursday, February 19, 6 pm.
- \*Stations of the Cross, Friday, February 20, 2pm and 3pm.
- \*Parish Council, Tuesday, February 24, 6 pm.



"Register your child for the SFX School 2026-27, The Mustang Experience Awaits You." For more information, visit [www.sfxbr.org](http://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**

### Mass Intentions February 7-8, 2026

Saturday	5 pm	Joyce D. Vaughn <i>By: Joi Spears</i>
Sunday	8 am	The People of the Parish
	11 am	Joseph Colar <i>By: Rachel Colar</i>

### Stewardship February 01, 2026

Regular Collection:	\$7733.45
Online Support:	\$2324.36
Parish Needs:	\$25.00
School Support:	\$270.00



Thanks for your Generosity!

**Today's Readings**  
**Isaiah 58: 7-10, 1 Corinthians 2:1-5, Matthew 5:13 - 16**

**A Low-Salt Faith**

Jesus uses two different examples of a good disciple—salt of the earth and light of the world. While these images seem to have little in common, there are similarities, the most obvious being that a little of either goes a long way. Just a pinch of salt can change the taste of food. Similarly, when we wake up in a dark room, one light bulb can be blinding. So also, a little faith can make a big difference. The faith of little children can bring their parents back to the Church. The way we live our faith can speak even louder.

Isaiah gives us some hints in the first reading when he writes about feeding the hungry and giving shelter to the homeless and clothes to the poor. When someone has so much faith that it shows in their actions, as Isaiah puts it, “Your light shall break forth like the dawn.” But we sometimes get things backwards. If we do the things Isaiah tells the people to do, we might think that the deeds will give us faith. But faith is the source of those actions, not the result. If we truly believe in God’s love for us, and we believe that God lives in the people around us, especially the poor, then we will want to show our love by caring for each other.

When we do have faith, we don’t have to worry about how people react to us. Like St. Paul in the second reading, we don’t need to be dramatic or full of worldly wisdom. As he preached the wisdom of Christ who died on the cross and was raised from the dead by the power of the Spirit, he let people see that power in the lives of other believers as well as his own life.

But if we don’t have faith, then we are like the salt that has lost its flavor. A low-salt diet may be good for us; but a low-salt faith, instead of making things better, would make them worse. Without faith in God’s love for us, we would not respond with love of our own. We could still be a good person, but we would not be a very good disciple. We could not spread the faith if we didn’t have it ourselves.

Tom Schmidt