

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:SFXPSPR@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:

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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 February 2026

Saint of the Week

THE SEVEN HOLY FOUNDERS OF THE ORDER OF THE SERVANTS OF MARY February 17

Today's liturgical feast honors Alexius, Amadeo, Hugo, Benedict, Bartholomew, Gerardino and Juan. A group of merchants who renounced the business life, they left what was necessary for their families, then distributed the rest among the poor. They dedicated themselves entirely to the veneration of the Virgin Mary, going to live on an Italian mountain and later establishing a hermitage for prayer, extreme fasting, and penance. Some time later, at the request of the Supreme Pontiff's delegate, six of the seven were ordained as priests. Brother Alejo, discerning the priesthood as something very consequential for him, decided to remain as a brother. The Congregation was approved in 1304 and the liturgical feast is held on February 17, in remembrance of the last founder's death; Brother Alexius shared a testimony of holiness, both in his own life and in the lives of his fellow companions.

—Meghan McDonagh

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

It's still months away, but parish ministers, especially if they are involved in the catechumenate, have their eyes on Lent and the Easter Triduum. Until fairly recent times, the last few days before Easter were shaped by an awareness of the Passion, but the faithful were left to their own devices about how to engage with these mysteries. A thousand years ago, the Easter Vigil as a solemn and central moment of initiation had vanished. By the early 1950s it was a minor moment in parish life, celebrated on Holy Saturday morning, usually with only the priests and a handful of invited guests. Most people understood it as necessary only for blessing the paschal candle and preparing the Easter water. People who were children during World War II sometimes remember that the weekly noontime test of the air-raid sirens on Holy Saturday signaled the end of Lent.

Today, of course, we see Holy Saturday as entirely within the paschal fast, and hardly the time for children to be tearing through the plastic grass looking for jelly beans and chocolate eggs. These memories point to a total collapse of the once-central liturgies of the Christian year. This impoverishment of the liturgy was mostly an accident of history. The root cause was the loss of Lent as a time focused on the final formation of catechumens for the Easter sacraments. By 1880, scholars began to piece together a vision of what once had been, and slowly, at first in a handful of monasteries in Europe, pieces of the tradition were rediscovered and celebrated.

—Rev. James Field

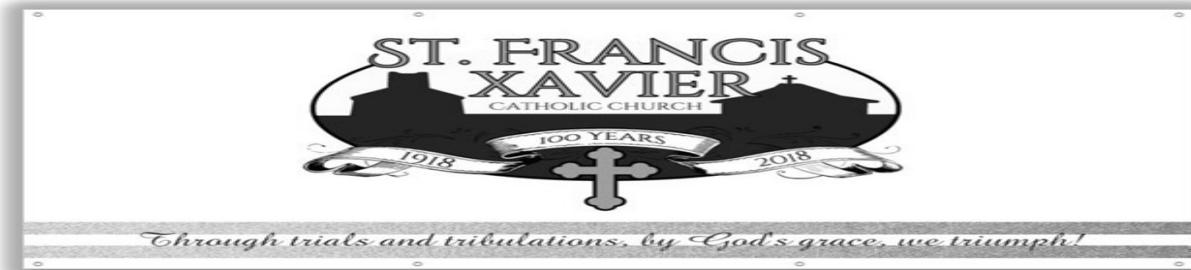
PRAYER LIST

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 *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.

Announcements

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 Sacred Dancers will have practice in the school hall on February 19 and 20 at 6:00 p.m. Please contact Bridgette Richard at 225.933.9606 for additional information.

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



Thanks for your Generosity!

Upcoming Events in the Parish

*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.
*Birthday/Wedding Anniversary/Black History Month Celebration, Sunday, February 22, 9:30 am.
*Parish Council, Tuesday, February 24, 6 pm.
*Bible Study, Thursday, February 26, 6 pm.
*Stations of the Cross, Friday, February 27, 2pm and 3pm.

Mass Intentions February 14-15, 2026

Saturday 5 pm The People of the Parish

Sunday 8 am Lester & Ronnie Gauthier
By: Mary, Danna, Edward

11 am The People of the Parish

Stewardship February 08, 2026

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| Regular Collection: | \$8888.45 |
| Online Support: | \$1732.00 |
| Parish Needs: | \$284.00 |
| School Support: | \$1107.00 |

Today's Readings
Sirach 15: 15 –20, 1 Corinthians 2:6-10, Matthew 5:17 - 37

License to Sin

In the James Bond movies, 007 has a license to kill. He can shoot all the bad guys he wants without worrying about being charged with murder. God, however, does not issue a license to sin. The first reading from Sirach reminds us that any time we choose between life and death, good and evil, it is our free choice and our responsibility. God may allow us to make bad choices, but God never commands anyone to sin.

Jesus goes even deeper than Sirach. The people of Sirach's time had followed the laws and commandments that governed external actions. As long as they treated others fairly, did not kill anyone or steal from them, they could think whatever they wanted. But Jesus taught that thoughts and desires that lead to sin can also be freely chosen or rejected. In the Gospel he gives us some examples.

The first is about killing. Jesus says that anyone who gets angry enough to kill or who looks down on his neighbor as not deserving to live has committed murder in his heart. What prejudices or grudges am I holding in my heart? The longer I hold onto hurtful feelings, the more likely it becomes that they will lead to hurtful actions. Because the Eucharist is our sacrament of unity, we should take care to be reconciled with others before coming to the altar.

The next warning is about adultery, which also begins with interior feelings. Jesus exaggerates when he tells us to cut off a hand or tear out an eye, because he knows how easily we rationalize our feelings and pretend they are harmless. This leads to the next warning about divorce. Jesus takes marriage seriously and expects his disciples to do the same.

His final example concerns taking oaths. Apparently, people would swear upon almost anything in an effort to be believed. Jesus gets to the point and says that we wouldn't need oaths if we always told the truth and kept our promises. Our faith is based on the knowledge that God keeps promises. Shouldn't we do the same?

Tom Schmidt