

Third Sunday of Lent
March 08, 2026

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER



CATHOLIC CHURCH

1120 MYRTLE WALK
BATON ROUGE, LA 70802

Rev. Ugochukwu "Henry" Ihuoma, SSJ
Pastor

stfrancisxavierbr.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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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
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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:	9:00AM
HOLYDAYS:	9:00 AM & 6:00 PM
FRIDAY:	SCHOOL MASS 9:00AM
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 March 2026

8 PSR Class – 3rd Sunday of Lent – PSR Ministry Round-up – Topic: Confirmation and Reconciliation Preparation - OCIA, (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults) formerly RCIA, (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults), registration has begun. OCIA is a program for unbaptized persons (catechumens) wishing to become Catholic Christians, those who are already baptized Catholic and have not received the Sacrament of Confirmation (candidates). It is also for those that have been fully initiated in the faith or have received the Sacraments of, Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion, and wish to know more about their Faith. Registration forms are located at the entrance of the Church. For more information please contact John Young at sfxpsr@sfxc.brcoxmail.com or 225-383-3479.

We continue our Lenten Observation with...

Fasting

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence.

For members of the Latin Catholic Church, the norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Latin Catholic Church from age 14 onwards.

Members of the Eastern Catholic Churches are to observe the particular law of their own sui iuris (phrase meaning "in one's own right,") Church.

If possible, the fast on Good Friday is continued until the Easter Vigil (on Holy Saturday night) as the "paschal fast" to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus and to prepare ourselves to share more fully and to celebrate more readily his Resurrection.

Sacred Scriptures declare our guilt to be universal; hence the universal obligation to that repentance which Peter, in his sermon on Pentecost, declared necessary for the forgiveness of sin (Acts 2:38). Hence, too, the Church's constant recognition that all the faithful are required by divine law to do penance. As from the fact of sin we Christians can claim no exception, so from the obligation to penance we can seek no exemption.

Forms and seasons of penance vary from time to time and from people to people. But the need for conversion and salvation is unchanging, as is the necessity that, confessing our sinfulness, we perform, personally and in community, acts of penance in pledge of our inward penitence and conversion.

For these reasons, Christian peoples, members of a Church that is at once holy, penitent, and always in process of renewal, have from the beginning observed seasons and days of penance. They have done so by community penitential observances as well as by personal acts of self-denial; they have imitated the example of the spotless Son of God Himself, concerning Whom the Sacred Scriptures tell us that He went into the desert to fast and to pray for forty days (Mk 1:13). Thus, Christ gave the example to which Paul appealed in teaching us how we, too, must come to the mature measures of the fullness of Christ (Eph 4:13). **USCCB**

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.

Upcoming Events in the Parish

- *Bible Study, Thursday, March 12, 6 pm.
- *Stations of the Cross, Friday, March 13, 2pm and 3pm.
- *Second Collection: Catholic Relief Services, Sunday, March 15, 2026.
- *Feast of St. Patrick, Tuesday, March 17, Mass at 5 pm.
- *Feast of St. Joseph, Spouse of the BVM, Thursday, March 19, Mass at 9 am.
- *School Mass, Friday, March 20, at 9 am.
- *Stations of the Cross, Friday, March 20, 2pm and 3pm.

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.

Mass Intentions March 07-08, 2026

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| Saturday | 5 pm | The People of the Parish |
| Sunday | 8 am | Lester & Ronnie Gauthier
<i>By: Mary, Danna, & Edward</i> |
| | 11 am | Tyler Irwin and All Who Are Deployed
<i>By: Catrina Irwin & family</i>
Aline "Cookie" Vaughn
<i>By: Anya Poydras</i>
Ronald Gathe, Sr.
<i>By: Valery & Betty Lowery</i>
Geraldine Jack
<i>By: Children, Grandchildren & Great Grandchildren</i> |

"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

Stewardship March 01, 2026

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Regular Collection: | \$13,415.00 |
| Online Support: | \$2152.36 |
| Parish Needs: | \$564.00 |
| School Support: | \$60.00 |



Thanks for your Generosity!

Today's Readings
Exodus 17:3-7, Romans 5:1-2, 5-8, John 4:5 - 42

One Small Step

This story in John's Gospel is one of the three longest Gospel readings next to the Passion stories. They are always read on the Sundays of Lent when those preparing for baptism celebrate the scrutinies. They are meant not only for catechumens, but also for all of us who are growing in faith. In today's Gospel, we see the Samaritan woman coming to faith. The steps she takes are our steps, too.

Though she needs Jesus' help, he approaches her first. In asking her for a drink, he is really thirsting for her faith. He invites us to make the journey of faith long before we start by putting us into a faithful family, giving us a curious heart that seeks the truth, sending us a friend or spouse whose example draws us to the Lord.

The next step is acknowledging our need and our sinfulness. The woman does this when she asks for living water and faces her behavior in having five husbands. Admitting our need for God, and especially for God's forgiveness, opens us to God's saving grace.

Another step is drawing closer to God in prayer. That explains the odd question about worshiping on a mountain. Jesus tells the woman, and us, that the best worship is honest and from the Spirit. That is more important than when or where we pray. God hears the prayers of a small congregation in a rural chapel just as well those of a thousand people in a large cathedral.

When we begin to share our faith with others, we take the step of living our faith. We make a difference in someone else's life and they begin to experience Jesus' presence. Like the woman who told her neighbors about Jesus, we find that the people we have touched begin to find the Lord on their own. Our catechumens are taking these steps now, thanks to those who have helped them experience Jesus' invitation to faith.

Tom Schmidt