

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
July 19, 2026

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER



CATHOLIC CHURCH

1120 MYRTLE WALK
BATON ROUGE, LA 70802

Rev. Ugochukwu "Henry" Ihuoma, SSJ
Pastor

stfrancixavierbr.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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OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

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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

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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 July 2026

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

By the dawn of the fourteenth century, the sacrament of confirmation was ripe for a rescue, since vast numbers of the faithful never received it, and when it was celebrated, it was done so in isolation from baptism and Eucharist. A bishop named William Durandus set out to reclaim this liturgy, but he had a creative touch and added some things into the mix that had never been thought of before. One was a slap. Oddly, he replaced the kiss of peace at the end of confirmation with a slap on the cheek that endured to modern times. This “wake-up call” was related in his imagination to a custom in the military, wherein ceremonies of knighthood and investiture involved a symbolic wound as a sign of willingness to suffer.

Within every congregation today there are people who have memories of fretting through their confirmation liturgies, anxious to know how enthusiastic a slap the bishop would bestow. Durandus loved symbolism and had a reason for every ritual and practice, but his creative spin on the celebration shows how sadly adrift confirmation was from its anchorage in baptism, how far off-course from its home port of the eucharistic community.

—Rev. James Field

SAINT OF THE WEEK

SAINT MARY MAGDALENE

July 22

Though her transgressions may have been many, just as abundant was her love for her Lord. Perhaps one of the greatest conversion stories of the New Testament, Mary Magdalene was one from whom seven demons had been expelled, a woman plagued by turmoil. She lived her own type of hell on earth, that is, until Jesus crossed her path one day. She first appears in the Bible accompanying him as he journeyed from one town to the other “preaching and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God”. Her gratitude led her to follow and serve her Lord tirelessly, all the way up to the foot of the cross. She did not abandon him in the face of difficulty, nor did she deny him despite the harsh cruelty all around her. She was one of the few to accompany him, gazing upon his beaten and torn countenance as he took his final breath. Jesus rewarded this loving devotion as she is known in Mark’s account to be the first one to see him after the Resurrection (Mark 16:9). May we follow the example of Saint Mary Magdalene in our unwavering dedication to God, so that at the end of our days we may also declare, “I have seen the Lord!” —Tami Urcia

SAINT SHARBEL MAKHLUF (1828-1898)

July 24

The convenience store owner chatted animatedly in Arabic with coworkers, but hardly at all with his “American” clientele. So soon after 9/11, he probably figured, with my accent, the less said, the better. That changed when an “American” customer recognized Saint Sharbel’s portrait on the wall: “So you’re Lebanese Maronites!” The owner was happily incredulous: “*You* know our saint?” “Not at first,” the customer admitted. “But we help the Catholic Near East Welfare Association, and their magazine published that picture and called Sharbel the ‘Paradoxical Artisan of Peace.’ ” “Everyone thinks we’re Muslims,” said the owner, “and some of my workers are. Saint Sharbel helps us live together in peace!” A hermit for twenty-three years, little is known of Sharbel’s life. He died after suffering a stroke while celebrating the liturgy. Miracles attributed to his intercession number in the thousands, and in war-torn Lebanon, Catholics, Orthodox, and Muslims pray together where his incorrupt body is entombed. How lovely if after our passing, we too could be remembered for having brought very different people to the one God, together in peace. —Peter Scagnelli

PRAYER LIST

John Paul Moore * Geraldine Christopher * Loraine Perry * Martha Proctor * Whitney Robiho * Joyce Decuir * Patricia Armstrong

Elouise Noel * Betty Dupas * 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

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!

Souvenir Book

We are producing a Souvenir book with Ads to support the parish fair. You can place an ad in the Souvenir book to advertise your business or individual or family endorsement of the event. Call Dr. J @ 225-907-3949 for more info.

Parish Fall Fair 2026

Save the Date: Our Parish Fair will be held on October 31 and November 1. Remember, we are family, and on these days, we are going to show up and show out. Stay tuned for more information.

Our Kickoff dance will be held on Saturday, September 19, 2026 at the McKinley Alumni Center. Tickets can be purchased after each mass or at the parish office for \$45 and \$50 at the door. Don't miss out!!!

SAVE-the-DATE **SCHOOL GALA**

Saturday, December 5, 2026
City Club of Baton Rouge

SFXGala2026.netlify.app



"Register your child for the SFX School 2026-2027, 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

- *Bible Study, Thursday, July 23, 6 pm.
- *Food Pantry Distribution, Thursday, July 23, 10 am.
- *Ministry Leader Meeting, Saturday, July 25, 10 am.
- *Back to School Bash, Friday, July 31, 5 - 7 pm
- *Adoration, Praise and Worship with Anointing of the Sick, Saturday, August 01, 3 pm.

Mass Intentions July 18 - 19, 2026

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| Saturday | 5 pm | Bobby Joe Mayweather
<i>By: Delores Mayweather</i>
Aline "Cookie" Vaughn
<i>By: The Family</i> |
| Sunday | 8 am | William "Tex" Turner
<i>By: Lorina Turner</i> |
| | 11 am | The People of the Parish |

Stewardship July 12, 2026

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Regular Collection: | \$9996.00 |
| Online Support: | \$1981.60 |
| Parish Needs: | \$95.00 |
| School Support: | \$358.00 |



Thanks for your Generosity!

Today's Readings
Wisdom 12:13, 16 - 19, Romans 8:26-27, Matthew 13:24-43

A Mighty God

The first reading says that God's might is the basis for divine justice. We might take this to mean that God uses mighty power to punish sinners, in the legal sense of justice. But the reading also talks about God's lenience and clemency. So maybe God's power is so great that punishment is not necessary. Sinners can be forgiven. After all, we usually punish those we fear will hurt us again. But God is too powerful to be injured by our sins. God can afford to wait for us to repent. That is the point of the parable of the wheat and the weeds.

We are used to expecting swift justice. We like TV shows in which the bad guy is caught and convicted in an hour. The idea of God giving sinners until the end of time to repent is almost un-American—at least, until we realize that we are sinners, too. “But my sins are so minor.” Even the smallest sin says that we know better than God what is right. Yet God is still willing to wait for all of us to repent.

On the other hand, we hear people who say they don't deserve to be forgiven. True, but no one could ever deserve forgiveness. That is the wonder of God's love, that God's Son came to die for sinners, even before we sinned. As we experience that forgiveness, we learn the depth of God's love for us. Hopefully, we also learn to share that love with others.

Of course, that means that we also share forgiveness with others. If God waits till “the end of the age” before burning the weeds, shouldn't we be willing to forgive those who hurt us? The Church encourages us to celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation often. Many people today wait till they have a lot of sins, or at least one whopper, to confess. But the more often we go, the more we are reminded of God's love and forgiveness. Those reminders can help us to be more willing to show mercy ourselves. Let us ask God for the courage to seek forgiveness and the strength to forgive.

Tom Schmidt