

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 23, 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

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: STFRANXAVIERCCD@BELLSOUTH.NET

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 August 2026

23 PSR Registration - 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

I hope you all enjoyed a safe and pleasant summer. Welcome to the new PSR school year! PSR registration is now open. You may register online, pick up a registration form at the church entrance, or complete registration in the PSR Office. After registering, please visit the office to pay fees and to receive your PSR Policy Handbook.

This year's calendar includes a few updates to the curriculum. As you may already know, Confirmation will now be held in 7th grade. Please remember that Confirmation is not graduation; classes will continue for students that have been Confirmed. The curriculum for Confirmed students and the youth 8th grade and up will focus on Mystagogy and Youth Bible Study. These two topics will be explained in detail at the mandatory parents meeting on August 30, 2026, at 9:30 am in the Church.

Ordinary Time – In upcoming news issues we will be discussing Ordinary Time and what it means for we Catholics.

Because the term ordinary in English most often means something that's not special or distinctive, many people think that Ordinary Time refers to parts of the calendar of the Catholic Church that are unimportant. Even though the season of Ordinary Time makes up most of the liturgical year in the Catholic Church, the fact that Ordinary Time refers to those periods that fall outside of the major liturgical seasons reinforces this impression. Yet Ordinary Time is far from unimportant or uninteresting.

Why Is Ordinary Time Called Ordinary?

Ordinary Time is called "ordinary" not because it is common but simply because the weeks of Ordinary Time are numbered. The Latin word ordinalis, which refers to numbers in a series, stems from the Latin word ordo, from which we get the English word order. Thus, the numbered weeks of Ordinary Time, in fact, represent the ordered life of the Church—the period in which we live our lives neither in feasting (as in the Christmas and Easter seasons) or in more severe penance (as in Advent and Lent), but in watchfulness and expectation of the Second Coming of Christ.

It's appropriate, therefore, that the Gospel for the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time (which is actually the first Sunday celebrated in Ordinary Time) always features either John the Baptist's acknowledgment of Christ as the Lamb of God or Christ's first miracle—the transformation of water into wine at the wedding at Cana.

Thus, for Catholics, Ordinary Time is the part of the year in which Christ, the Lamb of God, walks among us and transforms our lives. There's nothing "ordinary" about that!

In our next issue we will see why green is the color of Ordinary Time.

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

All online methods are safe and secured. Thank you for your generosity!



SCAN ME

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

Mass Intentions August 22-23, 2026

Saturday	5 pm	Jonathan W. Vaughn II <i>By: Joi Spears</i> Nickerson Kador <i>By: Marva Kador Williams</i> Isaac Haney <i>By: Weesie</i> Jacqueline Stripling <i>By: The Family</i> Norma Duell <i>By: Paula Northern & Stephanie Duell</i>
Sunday	8 am 11 am	The People of the Parish Tyler Irvin and All Who Are Deployed <i>By: Catrina Irvin & Family</i> Dolores Jones Williams <i>By: The Contemporary Choir</i> Bobby Mayweather <i>By: The Contemporary Choir</i> Gaynell Richard <i>By: The Contemporary Choir</i>
Tuesday	5 pm	Norma Duell <i>By: Paula Northern & Stephanie Duell</i>
Wednesday	9 am	Beverly Gills Rice <i>By: Debra Johnson</i> Wilbert "Frazier" Jordan <i>By: Ruby Jordan</i>

Stewardship August 16, 2026

Regular Collection:	\$5382.00
Online Support:	\$3158.00
Parish Needs:	\$111.00
School Support:	\$0.00



Thanks for your Generosity!

Today's Readings
Isaiah 22:19-23, Romans 11:33-36, Matthew 16:13-20

Rocky

I wonder how many men named Peter know that originally it was a nickname. Jesus gave Simon a name based on the word for “rock.” Like any good nickname, Jesus had a reason to give this one. Peter had just acknowledged Jesus to be the Son of God and the Messiah (Christ). Jesus used that as an opportunity to teach us about the importance of faith as the foundation of the church.

The church was initially the Jews who followed Jesus. For them, the tradition of a coming messiah was a symbol of their hope for the future. So believing that Jesus was the Messiah first meant that he was *the* reason to hope. But more importantly, it showed what “messiah” really means.

There were many variations on what people thought the messiah would be. Some expected a political leader who would unite the Jews and maybe even overthrow their Roman masters. Others thought he would be a wonder-worker, like a super-hero, who would use his power to make Israel a great and free nation. Or perhaps the messiah would provide food and riches in abundance.

By calling Jesus the Messiah, we see that he saves us not by royal leadership, or amazing feats or great riches, but by giving his life for us on the cross. He shows that love is a greater power than political power or wealth. And by learning about Jesus, we learn about the love of God for us. We learn that Jesus has fulfilled all messianic hopes. He unites not just the Jews, but all people who believe in him. He sets us free from sin and death. He feeds our spiritual hunger with his own Body and Blood in the Eucharist.

By commending Peter's faith, Jesus shows us that faith is the foundation (rock) of the church. For the church is not just a social club of people who like to worship the same way; it is a family of people who believe all that Jesus taught because we believe in the person of Jesus. That is, we don't just believe that Jesus was real. We affirm that he is alive and important to our lives. We have experienced him in his words, in the sacraments, and in each other. May our faith always be solid as a rock.

Tom Schmidt