

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 06, 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:

MR JOHN YOUNG ~ DRE 225.343.3075 EXT 212

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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 September 2026

06 PSR Class (First Day of Class) – PSR Registration.

13 PSR Classes - Grandparents Day- 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

14 The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

20 PSR Classes - Catechetical Sunday – THEME: “You are not alone: Accompanying migrants in a tumultuous time”. All Teachers/Instructor will be commissioned at the 8:00 am Mass - 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Prayer for Grandparents

“Lord Jesus, help families and society to value the presence and role of grandparents. May they never be ignored or excluded but always encounter respect and love. Help them to live serenely and to feel welcomed in all the years of their life which you give them. Mary, Mother of all the living, keep grandparents constantly in your care, accompany them on their earthly pilgrimage, and by your prayers, grant that all families may one day be reunited in our heavenly homeland where; you await all humanity of the great embrace of life without end. Amen.” Pope Benedict VI

Exaltation of the Holy Cross

On 13 September 335, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher (also called the Church of the Resurrection) was dedicated. The following day, the cross that Empress Helena had discovered on 14 September 320, was venerated in a solemn ceremony. In 614, the Persian King, Chosroes II, waged war on the Romans. After conquering Jerusalem, he confiscated many treasures, among which was the Cross of Jesus. The Byzantine emperor Heraclius initiated peace negotiations but was rejected. He then waged war and won near Nineveh, asking for the restitution of the Cross, which then returned to Jerusalem. Today, the cruelty of the Cross is not what is exalted, but the Love that God manifested to humanity by accepting death on the Cross: “Who, though in the form of God, emptied himself, taking the form of a slave. This is the glory of the Cross of Jesus!” (Pope Francis)

Why Is There No First Sunday in Ordinary Time?

There is no First Sunday in Ordinary Time because the season officially begins on a Monday. The Christmas season ends on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord which is celebrated on a Sunday or a Monday. The very next day-either a Monday or a Tuesday-marks the first week in Ordinary Time. Because that first week begins on a weekday, the Sunday before it belongs to Christmas, and the Sunday after it falls at the end of that first week. As a result, next Sunday I labeled the Second Sunday in 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

Upcoming Events in the Parish

- *Bible Study, Thursday, September 10, 6 pm.
- *Food Pantry Distribution, Thursday, September 10, 10 pm.
- *Kickoff Dance, Saturday, September 19, 7 pm - 11 pm.
- *Catechetical Sunday, Sunday, September 20.
- *Second Collection: Catholic University of America, September 12-13.

Mass Intentions September 05-11, 2026

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| Saturday | 5 pm | The People of the Parish |
| Sunday | 8 am | Joseph A. Delpit, Jr.
<i>By: Patricia Delpit & Family</i>
Lester & Ronnie Gauthier
<i>By: Mary, Donna, & Edward</i>
Aline "Cookie" Vaughn
<i>By: Pam Ross</i> |
| | 11 am | Easter Lorraine Bienville
<i>By: Monique, Dominica, & Susan</i>
Patrice & Charmaine Lamotte
<i>By: Their Siblings</i>
Lawrence Turnbull
<i>By: Carolyn Vinning</i> |
| Thursday | 9 am | Beverly Gills Rice
<i>By: Debra Johnson</i> |
| Friday | 9 am | Ava Patin
<i>By: Weesie</i> |

Stewardship August 30, 2026

Regular Collection:	\$4979.45
Online Support:	\$2519.36
Parish Needs:	\$200.00
School Support:	\$70.00



Thanks for your Generosity!

Today's Readings
Ezekiel 33:7-9, Romans 13:8-10, Matthew 18:15-20

Not My Problem

Ever notice how people today like to ignore the evil in the world? People will witness a mugging and not bother to call the police. We see television stories of children starving in poor countries and say, "Not my problem." The readings for this Sunday challenge this attitude.

As a prophet, Ezekiel is to proclaim God's word of repentance to the wicked. The Lord tells Ezekiel that he will be held responsible for the death of the wicked if he refuses to warn against the evil they are doing.

In the Gospel, Jesus describes how his disciples should confront the sinner. His words teach us something about our duty to the sinner. First, he tells us that sin *is* our problem, and when we see it we need to take the initiative to stop it. Second, he tells us we need not feel alone in this duty. When the sinner refuses to listen, we bring in help. In fact, this command is meant for the whole church. Third, he tells us to be persistent; don't give up on someone too easily.

So what about that line about treating the sinner who refuses to listen as a Gentile or tax collector? On the one hand, the sinner should be excluded from the church, excommunicated, if he doesn't repent. On the other hand, Jesus never rejected tax collectors (like Matthew himself, who wrote this Gospel) or Gentiles. He said he came to call sinners, to save them. He loves sinners. And that is the reason we are to confront them—not to punish them, but to love them. As we see in the second reading, "love is the fulfillment of the law."

That is why the Gospel ends with Jesus' words about disciples praying together. When we think we cannot make a sinner repent, we remember that only God can do that. We can pray for sinners, including ourselves, and ask God to renew them in the Spirit. For God never forces a person to repent. God invites with love, especially the love Jesus showed by dying on the cross. May we all learn to fight evil with love!

Tom Schmidt