

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
March 19, 2023

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER



CATHOLIC CHURCH

1120 MYRTLE WALK
BATON ROUGE, LA 70802

Very Rev. Edward Chiffriller, SSJ
Pastor

Deacon Henry Ihuoma, SSJ

stfrancisxavierbr.org

PARISH OFFICE:

MS. EBONY RILEY ~ SECRETARY
1134 JULIA STREET
BATON ROUGE, LA 70802
8:00 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. EDWARD CHIFFRILLER CELL: 225.571.8233
EMAIL~ EJCHIFFSSJ@AOL.COM

OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

MR JOHN YOUNG ~ DRE 225.343.3075 EXT 212
FAX: 225.388.5458
EMAIL:SFXPSR@SFXC.BRCOXMAIL.COM

SCHOOL OFFICE:

MS. PAULA JOHNSON ~ 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: PJOHNSON@SFXBR.ORG
WEBSITE: SFXBR.ORG



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-THURS:	6:30 AM IN CONVENT
HOLYDAYS:	9:00 AM & 6:00 PM
FRIDAY:	SCHOOL MASS 9:00AM

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM IS CELEBRATED ON THE 4TH 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. EDWARD CHIFFRILLER 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 2023

19 Mass and Class – 4th Sunday in Lent

The Prophet Hosea

Hosea is often seen as a “prophet of doom”, but underneath his message of destruction is a promise of restoration. The Talmud (the Talmud is the central text of Rabbinic Judaism and the primary source of Jewish religious (*halakha*) and Jewish theology) claims that he was the greatest prophet of his generation. The period of Hosea’s ministry extended to some sixty years, and he was the only prophet of Israel of his time who left any written prophecy.

Five Lessons Learned from Hosea

1. Sin leads to Confusion, Forgetfulness, and Destruction

Among Hosea’s many themes, the prophet warned for nearly years that the people of Israel were in a state of spiritual decline that would only lead to destruction. Sadly, the people had become blind to the reality of their own demise (Hosea 4:1).

Hosea writes, “*my people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge. I also will reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.*” (Hosea 4:6) “*Harlotry, wine, and new wine take away the understanding.*” (Hosea 4:11) “*So the people without understanding are ruined.*” (Hosea 4:14)

2. Personal and Private Sin Does Not Stay Personal or Private for Very Long

While God used prophets like Hosea to minister to the people of Israel in the north, the people of the Southern Kingdom were not immune to idolatry and betrayal either. However, where Judah was known to go through seasons of revival, the Northern Kingdom’s spiritual sickness has spread far quicker than their southern neighbors. For this reason, God spoke through Hosea to warn people to repent, unless their sin list their sin destroy them and grow to infect their brothers to the South, which is inevitably which it inevitably did (Hosea 4: 15), (Hosea 8: 14).

So, what’s the takeaway from Hosea warning against Judah? Hosea repeats it throughout his book. Hidden sin does not stay hidden forever, and a sin we think we can cover up will eventually be exposed (Hosea 2: 10). Sin that festers on the inside smells on the outside. It is a spiritual fact. And while it is true that Israel was accountable for its sin while Judah would be accountable before God for its own disobedience, however, the things we do in secret often hurt those closest to us, including God. Hosea's marriage was the illustration of this. Gomer’s adultery hurt more than just Gomer. It broke Hosea's heart as well. The same is true of God, who sees and feel the things we do in secret (Hosea 7: 2). crosswalk.com

Next Issue: We continue with the lessons learned from Hosea: 3. God is Faithful Even When We Are Not, 4. Only God Can Redeem and Restore, and 5. God is Committed to the Good of His People.

PRAY FOR US

Richard Camble, Jr.	John Paul Moore	Catherine Murray
Frazier Jordan	Loraine Perry	Joyce Decuir
Elizabeth Whitfield	Martha Proctor	John Ristic
Zelda Bates	Maria Rice	Betty Camble
Elaine Johnson	Whitney Robiho	Elouise Noel
Linda Gills-Beshears	Bridget Taylor	Cora Scott-Green
Mary Johnson	Chavon D. White	Betty Dupas
	Phyllis White	

Mass Intentions for March 18 – 21, 2023

Saturday	5pm	Dr. Melvin Jones <i>By: Family & Friends</i>
Sunday	8am	Joseph Nelson <i>By: Daughters</i>
	11am	Deceased Family & Ancestors <i>By: Van Do</i>
Tuesday	5pm	Deceased family & ancestors <i>By: Van Do</i>



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
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!

Starting October 25, the deadline for bulletin entries will be due on Fridays by 12 noon.
Please consider admission at least a week prior to the date of the announcement, when possible.

SEEING THE LIGHT

Our Lenten journey continues this Sunday as we hear of Jesus healing a blind man in the Gospel of John. Jesus proclaims himself the light of the world, a light that overcomes darkness and enables a new capacity to see. The man, blind from birth, was able to begin his path to sight by first acknowledging his blindness. We are reminded of God's ongoing invitation to us to journey from blindness to sight. We begin by acknowledging our own capacity for "blind spots," and so open ourselves to uncomfortable truths and to God's healing. We are invited to see beyond appearances, as the reading from Samuel indicates, and to look into the heart of things. We are invited to "live as children of light" as the letter to the Ephesians teaches. Like the man healed from blindness, we may gradually learn to see fully and to follow Jesus.

**Stations of the cross at 2pm on
Fridays during Lent**

Lenten Masses
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday
at 9am

Lenten Retreat
Watch The Chosen, the multi-season series about the life of Christ through the eyes of those who followed him.
It is excellent!

JOIN US FOR PRAYING THE ROSARY
EVERY SUNDAY EVENING @ 7PM
Just dial **1 720 7409653**
And enter access code **5217381#**

Stewardship - March 12, 2023

Regular Collection
\$7,362
Parish Needs
\$283
Building Fund
\$1,775
Fish Fry
\$4,380



FOURTH SUNDAY OF

Lent

MARCH 19, 2023

I was blind
and now I see.

John 9:25



Copyright © J.S. Paluch Co. Inc. • Photos: © PD-Wikimedia, *Healing the Blind Man* by Václav Mánes
Excerpts from the *Lectionary for Mass* © 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970, CCD.