

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER



CATHOLIC CHURCH

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BATON ROUGE, LA 70802

Very Rev. Edward Chiffreller, SSJ
Pastor

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MASS SCHEDULE:

SATURDAY:

SUNDAY:

TUESDAY:

WED - THURS:

HOLYDAYS:

FRIDAY:

VIGIL - 5:00 PM

8:00 AM & 11:00 AM

OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP NOVENA - 5:00 PM

6:30 AM IN CONVENT

9:00 AM & 6:00 PM

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 CHIFFRELLER 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 2023

20 PSR Registration – 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

27 PSR Registration – 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

In this issue we complete our series on the prophet Habakkuk and begin with the **Prophet Zephaniah**
God's power should humble even the righteous.

O Lord, I have heard the report of you,
and your work, O Lord, do I fear.
In the midst of the years revive it;
in the midst of the years make it known;
in wrath remember mercy ...my body trembles;

my lips quiver at the sound:
rotteness enters into my bones;
my legs tremble beneath me.
yet I will quietly wait for the day of trouble
to come upon people who invade us. (Habakkuk 3:2, 16)

When faced with divine sovereignty and the fact that we will not be told why God does everything he does, we have a choice. Will we angrily pretend that we are in charge of the world, lapsing into idolatry and losing connection with God? Or will we admit our limits as humans and instead trust that future we cannot see and the plans we don't fully understand have been ordained by One who is Love itself (1 John 4:8)?

God himself is the strength of the righteous even during evil days.

Habakkuk expresses his own choice of radical trust in God with the final words of the book of Habakkuk:

Though the fig tree should not blossom,
nor fruit be on the vines,
the produce of the olive fail
and the fields yield no food,
the flock be cut off from the fold
and there be no herd in the stalls,
yet I will rejoice in the Lord

I will take joy in the God of my salvation.
God, the Lord, is my strength;
he makes my feet like the deer's;
he makes me tread on my high places.
(Habakkak 3:17-19)

In Habakkuk's day, most people made their living from the land and depended upon good crops for their own survival and that of their animals. With this in mind, Habakkuk's prayer takes on even more weight. Essentially, he is saying that even if he loses absolutely everything, yet he will rejoice in God who he trusts to strengthen him in the midst of hard times. In the same way, when faced with circumstances we do not understand, we can be honest with God and then must choose to trust Him with the aspects of his plan that we as humans cannot understand, believing him to be both all-powerful and supremely good.

The book of Habakkuk's brief three chapters depicts an inside look at the prayer life of a prophet. Habakkuk and God converse, and Habakkuk's earnest questions and faithful waiting on the Lord are affirmed, yet God does not fully explain his mysterious plans. Still, Habakkuk becomes an example of radical trust, moving into a sure-footed and full-throated affirmation of his belief that God would strengthen him to face whatever hard times were coming, and that with God he would ultimately experience joy and freedom. *crosswalk.com*

PRAY FOR US

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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
Phyllis White	Chavon D. White	Betty Dupas
Mary E. Bourgeois	Mary L. Boutte	Earl Bourgeois
Cecila Bazile		Betty Bickham

Mass Intentions for August 19 - 22, 2023

Saturday	5pm	Roy Burkhalter <i>By: wife, Priscilla</i>
Sunday	8am	Sick & deceased Hospitality members <i>By: Hospitality ministry</i>
	11am	People of the Parish
Tuesday	5pm	LaTiesha Shaffers <i>By: Sisters</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.

Save the Date

SFX Homecoming Parish Fair,
October 21-22, 2023. There will be fun, games, food and
the Big Drawdown.

Tickets are \$100 each. The main prize is \$10,000 and
\$5,000 in additional cash prizes. If we sell all 500 tickets
our profit will be \$35,000.

Let's pull together to make this Parish Fair a huge success!

"Let it be Done for You as You Wish"

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus was not deaf to the pleas of the Canaanite woman, but he did not respond to her right away. When he did respond, he appeared to be insulting her. Why? Theologians have offered various perspectives on this interaction, but Jesus' response certainly wasn't due to prejudice! Jesus may have been using this lesson to help his apostles see what was on the horizon. A bridging of the gap between the old attitudes and the new realities; between the Old Covenant understanding that foreigners were excluded from salvation and the fact that Jesus would soon offer the gift of salvation to the whole world. But the one message that comes through loud and clear in today's Gospel is the faith of the Canaanite woman. Jesus tests her faith, and she comes through with flying colors!

Something I find interesting about this story and others like it, is how our Lord allows others to "persuade" him to act. In a shocking, deeply mysterious cooperation with us, and never outside of His providential will, He gives mere human beings the ability to change outcomes. At the wedding at Cana, He is seemingly reluctant to do his first miracle, but his mother's intervention prompts him to act. In another scenario, He is walking toward Jairus' home in the midst of a large crowd and the woman with the hemorrhage covertly touches his garment. Without Jesus' clear permission, she receives healing. Then there is the woman in today's Gospel who doesn't allow Jesus' comment to crush her but continues to plead her cause and thereby receives the blessing of her daughter's deliverance.

These faithful women do not perceive themselves as entitled. Quite the opposite! They are extremely humble. This humility, this knowing-who-they-are, helps them to recognize who Jesus is and what he is capable of. These women do not demand what they want, but they have great confidence in Jesus, and they persist. Their faith is astounding. Many of us have an inability to perceive how great our need is (I'm okay, you're okay), and mistakenly think we must solve our problems independently. We don't like to think of ourselves as helpless, weak, and unable to produce results without someone else's assistance. "Believe in yourself," is a much more popular motto than "Believe in Jesus."

This is all nonsense. I am not okay. You are not okay. We are sinners and we need a savior. We need help every moment of every day to live the life God is calling us to. God provided a remedy for our sin problem, and Jesus alone is the Savior we so desperately need. Mother Mary, the woman with hemorrhage, and the Canaanite woman from today's Gospel knew that Jesus was the answer to every problem. Jesus' response to all three of them can be summed up in his response to the Canaanite woman: "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish."

**Prayer is the cure for a confused mind, a weary soul
and a broken heart.**

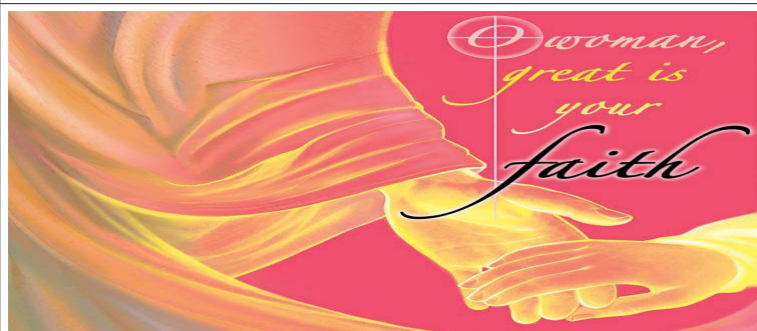
Weekday Masses

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday
at 9am

Stewardship - August 13, 2023



To be announced....



Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time A Clever Woman of Faith

The first reading reminds us that even though the Jews are God's chosen people, foreigners who love the Lord will be accepted into God's house. So why is Jesus being so difficult with the Canaanite woman?

At first he seems to be putting her off. He doesn't answer her, but tells the disciples that he came only for lost sheep of Israel, adding the remark about food going to the dogs. He does this not to discourage her, but to draw a response of faith. He wants to see how persistent she is in her request.

We can tell ourselves that we are people of faith, but how easily are we discouraged? Do we think God has forgotten us when we experience trouble? Sometimes it is our childish belief that everything has to go our way. We may not be selfish about it; we may be discouraged by the suffering of someone we love. The woman's clever reply to Jesus reminds us that she trusted in Jesus' power and willingness to help.

Jesus was also teaching his disciples that faith is more important than nationality. They were all Jews and wanted Jesus to send the Canaanite woman away. Long after Jesus' resurrection, the church struggled with the question of non-Jewish believers. Today, we may be doing the same thing in reverse. Some people think that only Catholics can be saved and that there is no hope for Protestants, much less for Jews. God's covenant with the chosen people cannot be rescinded. Paul says that the rejection of Jesus by Jewish leaders led to salvation for the rest of the world. But though some rejected Jesus, God never rejected the Jews.

Finally, Jesus responded to her persistence. Like the woman who wouldn't go away, we can keep praying till we get an answer to our prayer. While sometimes our request is granted, sometimes God has a good reason to delay or even say no. The more time we spend in prayer, the more likely we are to listen to God's answer. Prayer can help us come to the peaceful acceptance that God only does what is best for us.



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St. Francis Xavier's Sunday Bulletin

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