

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
DECEMBER 3, 2023

# ST. FRANCIS XAVIER



## CATHOLIC CHURCH

1120 MYRTLE WALK  
BATON ROUGE, LA 70802

*Very Rev. Edward Chiffriller, SSJ*  
Pastor

*Rev. Henry Ihuoma, SSJ*  
Parochial Vicar

[stfrancisxavierbr.org](http://stfrancisxavierbr.org)

### PARISH OFFICE:

**MS. EBONY RILEY ~ SECRETARY**  
1134 JULIA STREET  
BATON ROUGE, LA 70802  
8:00 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:

**MS. PAULA JOHNSON ~ PRINCIPAL**  
1150 SOUTH 12TH STREET  
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### MASS SCHEDULE:

<b>SATURDAY:</b>	<b>VIGIL ~ 5:00 PM</b>
<b>SUNDAY:</b>	<b>8:00 AM &amp; 11:00 AM</b>
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	<b>OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP NOVENA~ 5:00 PM</b>
<b>WED ~ FRI:</b>	<b>9:00AM AM</b>
<b>HOLIDAYS:</b>	<b>9:00 AM &amp; 6:00 PM</b>
<b>FRIDAY:</b>	<b>SCHOOL MASS 9:00AM</b>

**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

December 2023  
10 Class - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

**Thanks** to all who participated in the **Procession for Christ the King**. A special thanks to the ladies who, in less than 24 hours, constructed the beautiful canopy for the blessed Sacrament and provided the flower petals for this event. To the Knights of Peter Claver who proudly exhibited their support for Christ's Church. Thanks to our Altar Servers who proudly led the procession and rang the bells to signify reverence to the Blessed Sacrament and to engage in prayer. Thanks to the young ladies who covered the way of Christ Jesus with the beautiful flower petals. Thanks to the choir that let the whole community know that Jesus is riding by! Thanks to the clergy and parishioners, who without this event would not be possible. Thanks to the Ministers of Hospitality and the Men of St. Francis Xavier. And finally a great big thanks to the **Eucharistic Revival Committee** who put the Procession into action in short order by their detailed planning. I thank God for my special request to hold off the rain, and for allowing everyone who participated in the Procession to be truly blessed by His Son Jesus Christ! Ride on King Jesus!

### Why Should We Know about This Minor Prophet?

We know the rest of the story. We know that God fulfilled His promise. He sent a messenger, a new Elijah, and a new Moses.

The Jews were very aware of this promise. Since before Christ, the Passover Seder now includes an empty seat and an extra glass of wine, signifying the wait for Elijah's return, a Messianic promise directly tied to Malachi.

Luke shares that **John the Baptist** was the fulfillment of **Malachi 4:4-6 (Luke 1:15-17)**. Jesus also expressly states that, if the Jews can handle it, John the Baptist was Elijah (**Matthew 11:14**).

Jesus used several quotes from Deuteronomy and is the second Moses that Malachi prophesies about. Moses also spoke about another one like himself, another prophet that will bring a second covenant (**Deuteronomy 18:15-19**). In his Gospel, John says that the Law came through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus (**John 1:17**). There are other examples throughout the letters of the New Testament, but the early Christians wholeheartedly believed that Jesus was that second, better Moses, the bringer of the New Covenant.

Therefore, we first need to understand Malachi to get a fuller vision of what God has done through Christ and the Holy Spirit, the fulfillment of prophecy that tells us God will do what He says.

Next issue we continue with Why should we know about the Minor Prophet.

## PRAYER LIST

Richard Camble, Jr.	John Paul Moore	Catherine Murray
Elizabeth Whitfield	Lorraine Perry	Betty Camble
Elaine Johnson	Martha Proctor	Elouise Noel
Linda Gills-Beshears	Maria Rice	Cora Scott-Green
Phyllis White	Whitney Robiho	Betty Dupas
Mary E. Bourgeois	Chavon D. White	Earl Bourgeois
Cecila Bazile		Mary L. Boutte

## Mass Intentions for December 2 - 5, 2023

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>5pm</b>	<b>People of the Parish</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8am</b>	<b>Lester &amp; Ronnie Gauthier</b> <i>By: Edward, Mary &amp; Danna</i>
	<b>11am</b>	<b>Wilfred DeSormes</b> <i>By: The White Family</i>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>5pm</b>	<b>Charles Williams</b> <i>By: Wife</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](http://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.



Fr. Henry will be leaving Baton Rouge on Monday, December 11 to travel to Nigeria to celebrate his Ordination to the Priesthood with his family and friends. He will return on January 30. His birthday is on January 2. If you wish to extend Christmas and birthday greetings, I suggest you do so before he leaves for Nigeria on December 11. Fr. Ed

**ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE**  
 We will have an Advent Penance Service on Wednesday, December 6 at 6pm. Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation as part of your preparation for Christmas.

**SOCK IT TO ME!**  
 Donate new socks for needy children and adults. Boxes are at the entrance of the church. This will continue through December.

December 8 is the **Feast of the Immaculate Conception, a Holy Day of Obligation.**  
 Masses are at 9am and 6pm.

**Join us for the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament**  
*When: Every Saturday from 3:30 - 4:30pm*  
*Where: St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church*  
*1120 Myrtle Street*



**Weekday Masses**  
**Wednesday, Thursday & Friday at 9am**

The Junior Daughters Ct# 12 (Little Flowers) are still collecting "Pull Tabs". If you have any, please leave them at the back of the church.

**Stewardship - November 26, 2023**

**SFX CENTENNIAL COOKBOOKS MAKES A GREAT GIFT FOR ONLY \$20.00**

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

	<p><b>Regular Collection</b>  <b>\$5,487</b></p> <p><b>School Support</b>  <b>\$350</b></p> <p><b>Parish Needs</b>  <b>\$64</b></p>	
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## **First Sunday of Advent Watch Out!**

In Advent, we celebrate our hope that the Lord might come more fully into our lives. The first reading from Isaiah voices the hope of sinners for a redeemer. As sinners, we too hope for forgiveness. Unlike Isaiah, we know that God has come to bring us back, when the Father sent his Son, Jesus, to save us. And God's power was manifest in the raising of Christ from the dead. Our faith in Jesus leads us to a new way of looking at the world. We can see what God is doing as well as remembering what God has done.

The Gospel reminds us to look constantly for signs of God's work. Jesus says simply, "Watch!" Like the gatekeepers in Jesus' short parable, we need to keep our eyes open for him. Just as we expect people driving cars to turn off their cell phones and keep their eyes on the road, so we can stop looking for whatever makes us comfortable and watch for ways to love others as God loves us.

When we only look out for ourselves, we may miss the signs of God's presence around us. Instead of looking at the difficulties of life as obstacles, we can watch for them as opportunities to stretch our faith, to rely on God, or to show God's love to a friend.

The Corinthians were also watching for the Lord to come. Paul encourages them (and us) by his reminder that we "are not lacking in any spiritual gift" (1 Corinthians 1:7). The Holy Spirit gives us all we need to help each other prepare for the Lord's coming. They were thinking of Jesus as coming in glory. Though we don't see the full glory of the Lord, part of that glory is his presence in the sacraments. In them we celebrate not just the coming of the Lord, but his working in the world. He shares his life with us in baptism, gives us his Spirit in confirmation and himself in the Eucharist, heals us in reconciliation and the anointing of the sick, and calls us to make him present to others in holy orders and matrimony. You could almost say his second coming is taking place now. Watch for it.

*Tom Schmidt*