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Rev. Henry Ihuoma, SSJ Parochial Vicar

CATHOLIC CHURCH

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MASS SCHEDULE:

SATURDAY: SUNDAY: TUESDAY: WED -FRI:

HOLYDAYS: FRIDAY:

VIGIL ~ 5:00 PM 8.00 AM & 11.00 AM OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP NOVENA-5:00 PM 9:00AM AM 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). BAPTIS-MAL 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

<u>Welcome:</u> 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

3 Class – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

8 The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

### The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

### What is the Immaculate Conception?

Even though many Catholics connect the gospel story of the annunciation with the term immaculate conception, the doctrine refers to something different.

In the Gospel of Luke an angel visits a young woman in Nazareth named Mary and asks if she will bear the Messiah. Mary says yes. Then, presto! Mary becomes pregnant with Jesus. This is known as the immaculate conception, right?

Wrong. Even though many Catholics connect this story in Luke's gospel with the term *immaculate conception*, the doctrine itself refers to something different. It still refers to Mary, but it is not about how Mary became pregnant with Jesus. It is about how Mary's mother became pregnant with her—deemed immaculate due to the absence of transmitting original sin. *uscatholic.org* 

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says of the Immaculate Conception of Mary:

490. To become the mother of the Savior, Mary "was enriched by God with gifts appropriate to such a role". The angel Gabriel at the moment of the annunciation salutes her as "full of grace". In fact, in order for Mary to be able to give the free assent of her faith to the announcement of her vocation, it was necessary that she be wholly borne by God's grace. *cna* 

### 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
Elizabeth Whitfield	Loraine Perry
Elaine Johnson	Martha Proctor
Linda Gills-Beshears	Maria Rice
Phyllis White	Whitney Robiho
Mary E. Bourgeois	Chavon D. White
Cecila Bazile	

Catherine Murray
Betty Camble
Elouise Noel
Cora Scott-Green
Betty Dupas
Earl Bourgeois
Mary L. Boutte

# Mass Intentions for November 25 – 28, 2023 Saturday 5pm Emily Rose Louis By: The White Family Sunday 8am People of the Parish 11am Myrtle L. DeSormes By: The White Family Tuesday 5pm Lawrence Norman Myer By: Barbara Myer & family



### 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.

### **Celebrate Christ the King**

November 26, 2023

"Love God with all your being, and love others as I have loved you." His love is selfless, compassionate, forgiving, and unconditional. He is a King with a saving and liberating mission: freeing us from all types of bondage, enabling us to live peacefully and happily on earth, and promising us an inheritance in the eternal life of heaven

### **SOCK IT TO ME!**

The 2023 sock drive will begin in November and will continue through December. Their goal is to collect 28,000 pairs of socks and they need our help. The boxes are located in the rear of the church.

### 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

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.

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#

### OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL November 27

In 1830 the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to 24-year-old Catherine Labouré in Paris, France. She commissioned Catherine to have copies of what came to be known as the "Miraculous Medal" produced and distributed for the benefit of the faithful. The medal includes the prayer, "O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee."

# The lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

United Men of St. Francis Xavier & Knights of Peter Clavier will have a social for all men in the church. Please come out and join us for creole gumbo and fun. The social will be Dec. 2, at 6:00 pm, following 5:00 mass in the Parish Hall.

### **Weekday Masses**

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday at 9am

Stewardship - November 19, 2023

To be continued next week....





### Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe (Thirty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time) Leap of Faith

Today's Gospel could be seen as an example of what St. Paul is explaining in the second reading. First, he tells us that the resurrection of Christ is not the end of God's reign, but the beginning. Since death came into the world with the sin of Adam, Christ's death saved us from sin and his resurrection saves us from death. Now that he is risen, he will complete his reign over all creation, meaning that everything in creation that turned away from God will now be subject to God. Since Christ had to die before he could rise, the last enemy to be subjected is death; so too do we have to die before we can rise.

When all this happens, everything will show God's glory. God will be seen in all of creation. Jesus will be seen as equal to the Father, not just a man, but the Son of God. The Gospel gives us the image of a king on his throne, surrounded by his subjects. And then comes the final judgment.

The rest of the Gospel is symbolic description of that judgment. I always thought the point of this parable was that we recognize God in the poor, the sick, the homeless, prisoners, etc. But the people in the parable who helped all those in need did not recognize Christ in the needy. That's why he tells them that whatever we do for "these least ones," we do for Christ.

That is actually good news, because it is not always easy to recognize Christ in others. I used to think that once I start seeing Christ in all people, I'll be more willing to help them. But it also works the other way. When you help someone in need, you begin to see Christ there, too. This means that we cannot use not seeing Christ in others as an excuse to put off helping them. ("Sure, I'll help those drug addicts—as soon as I see Jesus in them.") Whether it is a death-row prisoner or a homeless family, we need to take that leap of faith to help, not knowing if we will ever see Christ in them. Remember, God forgives and saves us because we need God, not because we deserve it.

Tom Schmidt



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