

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
DECEMBER 10, 2023

# ST. FRANCIS XAVIER



**CATHOLIC CHURCH**

1120 MYRTLE WALK  
BATON ROUGE, LA 70802

*Very Rev. Edward Chiffreller, SSJ  
Pastor*

*Rev. Henry Ihuoma, SSJ  
Parochial Vicar*

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

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**MASS SCHEDULE:**

**SATURDAY:**

**SUNDAY:**

**TUESDAY:**

**WED - FRI:**

**HOLIDAYS:**

**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). 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	Loraine 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	Joyce Decuir	Mary L. Boutte

## Mass Intentions for December 9 - 12, 2023

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>5pm</b>	<b>Bridget Taylor</b> <i>By: Mary &amp; Ingrid</i>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8am</b>	<b>Melvin Jones</b> <i>By: The Family</i>
	<b>11am</b>	<b>Lawrence Norman Myer</b> <i>By: Barbara Myer &amp; 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  
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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*

**Fundraiser for Trunk or Treat 2024**

There will be a Movie Event to see the Color Purple on Sunday, December 26 at 2pm at the Celebrity Movie Theatre. Donation is \$20. See Brandy Perkins for details.

FYI - From the Eucharistic Revival Committee: 70% of All Catholic DO NOT believe that Jesus is present, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity in the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist.

**Weekday Masses**

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

**Stewardship - December 3, 2023**

**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.

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.

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**Building Fund  
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## Second Sunday of Advent Prepare the Way of the Lord

Saint Peter shows us a characteristic of God that we normally do not think about. He tells us that for God, “a day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day” (2 Peter 3:8). Somehow, God is not restricted by time as we are. Taken literally, that seems to violate the laws of physics. Of course, God made those laws, so if anyone can ignore them, God certainly could. More likely, because early Christians sometimes complained that Jesus’ second coming had been delayed, Peter is trying to tell us that what seems like a long time to us is nothing to God.

Like the early Christians, we may wonder how long it will take for God to answer our prayers. We may be praying for someone who is looking for a job, a sick relative, an end to abortion, or world peace. Some prayers just take time to be answered, especially if a large number of people need to change their hearts to make it happen. Some prayers require us to change, and we may not be ready.

What Peter means is that a thousand years is not too long for God if someone needs that long to repent. God is far more patient than we are. If someone had been fighting me for months or years, I would probably give up on them. But God can wait till we are mature enough to face our sins and be sorry for them. In the same way, God has been “waiting” over two thousand years for us to preach the gospel to all nations. God has been waiting for millennia for people to give up war as a means for solving our problems. God has been waiting since the beginning of the human race for us to learn how to love our neighbor.

We might not be as patient as God but we can help. Saint Peter says that we are not just waiting for the Lord’s return, we are hastening it. When we make a choice that is based on faith rather than selfishness, we make it a little easier for people to believe in God. Jesus is the light of the world; he asks us to let our light shine, so that people can see Jesus in us. May our light “prepare the way of the Lord” (Mark 1:3).

*Tom Schmidt*



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