

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 17, 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

PARISH OFFICE:

MS. EBONY RILEY-COLEMAN- SECRETARY
1134 JULIA STREET
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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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7:30 AM TO 4:00 PM
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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 - FRI:	9:00AM AM
HOLIDAYS:	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

December 2023

17 Class – 3rd Sunday of Advent

22 Nativity Rehearsal – 5:30 -7:00 pm

23 Nativity Rehearsal – 10:00 – 12 noon

24 8 am Mass - No 11:00 am Mass - 5:00 pm Mass – The Nativity – Actors dress out at 3:00pm. **No Mid-night Mass.**

25 Merry Christmas - 9 am Mass

31 No Class - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

In this issue we complete our series on the Major and Minor Prophets in the bible. We finish with the prophet Malachi.

Christians are God’s people, His children, but we struggle with the same questions and thoughts from Malachi. Is God good? Why do the wicked prosper? Not to mention our own lack of commitment and the selfishness that creeps into our lives.

We also live in a culture that accuses God of similar things. What value is there in following God? If God allows injustice, is he not therefore unjust? Malachi gives us a framework for how to approach these common issues both in our own lives and in our discussions with others.

For us today, these truths from Malachi are instructive and encouraging:

We can have a conversation with God. Ask God questions. He can handle it. Tough times will come, and we won’t always understand what is happening, but God is a loving Father who longs for relationship, which means He is open for conversation. God also initiates conversation with us by asking us questions. This challenges, corrects, and leads to greater intimacy.

Scripture is central to our understanding of how God loved us in the past and will reward us in the future. Read the Bible. Study it. The truths in Scripture will ground us when the world around is in chaos and it seems like the wicked prosper. Spoiler alert: in the end, they don’t. The Bible continually makes this clear. He is just and justice will win out. Let’s never forget the power of Scripture.

Our loving commitment to God includes giving our best. We are to seek first the Kingdom and God’s righteousness. We must give Him all of us, our best and our worst, our very lives as a continual sacrifice and offering. Subsequent to that is our extreme generosity to those in need.

God values those faithful to God, to His Word, and they are the only ones with a joyous future. There is an end to the Story. For those that follow Him and endure, for those that live a life worthy of the “high call” (Ephesians 4:1), that end will be glorious and full of joy. All things, good and bad, will be redeemed for good in the Kingdom.

After Revelation was written by John, we weren’t left with silence from God. He speaks through the Bible, through the Spirit within us, and through His children in community. He is always speaking. Let us humble ourselves and come to our Father for conversation. Let us give Him our best.

He is worthy of it all. Peace. *christianity.com*

Who Were the Major and Minor Prophets in the Bible?

We discover God’s first mention of a prophet in Deuteronomy 18:18-19. *“I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him. I myself will call to account anyone who does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name.”*

List of the Major and Minor Prophets

The Four Major Prophets:

Isaiah - The Book of Isaiah contains prophecies and messages from the prophet Isaiah concerning the fate of Israel, the coming Messiah, and God's judgment and restoration.

Jeremiah - Jeremiah is known for his prophecies of judgment upon Judah, the Babylonian captivity, and messages of hope and restoration for the future.

Lamentations - Although not strictly prophetic, the Book of Lamentations, traditionally attributed to the prophet Jeremiah, laments the destruction of Jerusalem.

Ezekiel - The Book of Ezekiel features the visions and prophecies of the prophet Ezekiel, often expressed through symbolic actions and vivid imagery.

Daniel - Daniel contains both prophecies and narratives about the prophet Daniel's life in Babylon, including his interpretation of dreams and visions.

The Twelve Minor Prophets: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi. *christianity.com*

Next issue we begin discussion on Judges in the bible.

PRAYER LIST

John Paul Moore * Loraine Perry * Martha Proctor * Maria Rice * Whitney Robiho * Chavon D. White * Joyce Decuir

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

Richard Camble, Jr.* Elizabeth Whitfield * Elaine Johnson * Linda Gills-Beshears * Phyllis White * Mary E. Bourgeois * Cecila Bazile



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.

Our Christmas Mass schedule is as follows:

The 8am Mass on December 24th will celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent.

We will NOT have an 11am Mass.

Our Christmas Eve Family Mass will be at 5pm. We will NOT have a Midnight Mass.

Our Christmas Day Mass will be at 9am.

On Sunday, December 31st we will have Mass at 8am & 11am.

Our New Year's Day Mass will be at 9am.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Mass Intentions for December 16 - 19, 2023

Saturday	5pm	Bridget Taylor <i>By: Carol Lamotte</i>
Sunday	8am	Melvin Jones <i>By: Alexis Robinson</i>
	11am	Geraldine Jack <i>By: Children, grand & great grandchildren</i>
Tuesday	5pm	Lawrence Norman Myer



Fundraiser for Trunk or Treat 2024

There will be a Movie Event to see the Color Purple on Tuesday, December 26 at 2pm at the Celebrity Movie Theatre. Donation is \$20. Contact Brandy Perkins for details at 225.978.2544

Weekday Masses

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday at 9am

Stewardship - December 10, 2023

Regular Collection
\$6,047
Parish Needs
\$646
Building Fund
\$1,650



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#**

Third Sunday of Advent Reasons to Rejoice

Saint Paul seems to be throwing out a handful of sayings that may sound overly optimistic, but are actually very practical. “Rejoice always? Who can do that?” It sounds absurd, but the next two lines give it context: If we pray constantly and thank God for all that happens to us, we have reason to rejoice. Whatever happens is the will of God for us. Even the bad things, things we don’t like, can be allowed by God, so that God can bring good out of them. God allows sin because it leads to forgiveness, an experience of God’s love for us. And God allows even death, because God can bring us to eternal life.

The next two sayings may be a little obscure. When Paul tells us not to quench the Spirit, he means we should be open to what the Holy Spirit moves us to do. “Prophetic utterances” refer to things that other people were inspired to proclaim. If we pray constantly (1 Thessalonians 5:17) we won’t be so distracted by the things of this world that we cannot hear the promptings of the Holy Spirit in us. We won’t be so critical of others that we miss what the Spirit is telling us through them.

How do we know if something really is from the Spirit? The next phrase helps with that: Test everything. Retain what is good (1 Thessalonians 5:21). Use the scriptures, the teachings of the Church, and your conscience to decide whether the Spirit is moving you, or if advice you hear is worthwhile. And most of all trust God to help with all this because God wants us to be holy. God will make us holy if we only allow it. Then we will be ready for the coming of the Lord, whether through the sacraments, the celebration of Christmas, or God’s final coming in glory. I’d say that’s a reason to rejoice.

Tom Schmidt