

# 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)

### PARISH OFFICE:

**MRS. 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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WEBSITE: SFXBR.ORG



### 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  
9:00 AM AM  
9:00 AM & 6:00 PM  
SCHOOL MASS 9:00 AM

**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

December 2023

### 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](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.



**Our New Year's Day Mass will be at 9am.  
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**



**Weekday Masses**

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday at 9am

**Mass Intentions for Dec 30 - Jan 2, 2024**

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>5pm</b>	<b>Lawrence Norman Myer</b> <i>By: Barbara Myer &amp; Family</i>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8am</b>	<b>Rebecca Nelson</b> <i>By: Kids, Grand &amp; Great Grandkids</i>
	<b>11am</b>	<b>People of the Parish</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>5pm</b>	<b>Bridget Taylor</b> <i>By: Family</i>

**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  
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ROSARY  
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**Stewardship**

Will resume next week....



## Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God Remember, Reflect, Respond

This feast has had several names through history. Most recently, it was called the Feast of the Circumcision and then the Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus. The Church finally settled on a more ancient title, Mary, the Holy Mother of God. It also has a secondary title of the Octave of Christmas, the secular title of New Years Day, and an honorary title of World Day of Prayer for Peace. Strangely, the title that is most confusing to non-Catholics is the official one.

When we call Mary the Mother of God, we are not saying that she somehow preceded God or is equal to God. We are simply recognizing that her human son Jesus is also the divine Son of God. We honor Mary because God honored her by choosing her to be the mother of Jesus. In her humble response of “let it be done to me,” she agreed to be part of God’s plan for our salvation. And so today’s Gospel records one simple action of Mary: to keep these things in her heart.

Even in this simple sentence we are given a good example of being a disciple. Like Mary, we need to both keep, or remember, what God has done, and to reflect on what we remember. First, how much do we remember about what God has done for us? How well do we know the stories of salvation found in the scriptures? How well do we know God’s actions in Church history? And how much do we remember of the personal graces given us by God? Do we recall the prayers God has answered, the guidance given, the love of God that others have shown us, the times God has forgiven us?

Second, how much do we reflect on what God has done? Even if we have many memories of God’s goodness to us, we also need to pray over them and ask ourselves how we have changed because of what God has done. Am I more generous to others? Do I forgive hurts more readily? Do I share my faith with my family or friends? Do I support my parish with my time or offerings? Let us ask God’s help to imitate Mary by remembering and reflecting.


*Tom Schmidt*

### Diocesan is proud to now be printing *St. Francis Xavier's Sunday Bulletin*

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