

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
JANUARY 28, 2024

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:

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MS. PAULA JOHNSON ~ PRINCIPAL
1150 SOUTH 12TH STREET
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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
HOLYDAYS:	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

January 2024

Beautiful Eucharist

“Encountering Jesus in the Eucharist should be like touching Heaven, and that should change the way we live here on earth.” *Matthew Kelly*

“The Eucharist is the greatest of all the sacraments because it contains in a substantial way the person of Christ, who is the author of life. If life is or if life is ever to live, it must nourish itself. If divine life is to live, it too needs its nourishment. That is the Eucharist.” *Fulton Sheen*

Spend some quiet time with Jesus in adoration.

We continue our series on Judges with: **Ehud (Benjamin)**

One of the most exciting stories in the Bible has faded into obscurity. Likely due to some of its graphic content, we don't see this one often taught in Sunday school or preached in a sermon on Sunday.

After the Israelites had entered the Promised Land, they succumbed to idols and the practices of the world around them, and the countries which bordered theirs. Because of this, God placed rulers known as judges in the land (hence why an entire book of the Bible bears the name Judges, to show the accounts of these people). One such judge was the left-handed man Ehud, who turned out to be rather good with a weapon in his hands.

In this article, we'll dive into the nature of the rule of the judges, more about the man of Ehud, and why we should care about both subjects as Christians today.

Who Was Ehud?

Ehud only gets eighteen verses, but boy, does he make them count (**Judges 3:12-30**).

Scripture doesn't give us many details about him, other than that he hails from the tribe of Benjamin. God appoints him as the second judge of Israel, after Israel does evil and ends up taken over by Eglon, the fat king of Moab. The Bible also mentions that Ehud is left-handed. This plays an important role in the story.

Although the Bible doesn't tell us whether most people used their right hand, we don't find any other mentions of someone preferring their left hand in the Bible. The Biblical Archaeology Society suggests the recessive trait of left handedness came specifically from the tribe of Benjamin. This, of course, would make sense then why Ehud has this trait.

But we can hazard a guess, based on what happens in the narrative, that not too many people in the ancient world used their left hands dominantly.

Next issue we continue with Ehud.

PRAYER LIST

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

Catherine Murray * Betty Camble * Elouise Noel * Betty Dupas * Earl Bourgeois * Mary L. Boutte * Cecila Bazile

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



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.

DO YOU DESIRE TO BE OF SERVICE TO THE SFX PARISH COMMUNITY? ARE YOU INTERESTED IN THE WELFARE OF ALL PARISHIONERS?

NOMINATE YOURSELF OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW TO GET INVOLVED!

PARISH COUNCIL NOMINATION PERIOD

JANUARY 13TH & 28TH, 2024

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

FEBRUARY 17TH & 18TH, 2024

Weekday Masses

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday at 9am

Mass Intentions for Jan 27 - 30, 2024

Saturday	5pm	Bridget Taylor <i>By: Mary Williams</i>
Sunday	8am	People of the Parish
	11am	Nicholas Overstreet <i>By: Family & Friends</i>
Tuesday	5pm	Norma Duell & Gladys Lee <i>By: Mary & Ingrid</i>

Catholic Schools Week - Prayer
January 28, 2024

God of all creation, we know you care for all of us and desire only what is good for us. Please guide those who make policy decisions and laws that affect all of us, that these decisions will work for the good of the most vulnerable in our society. Help us to have the courage to speak out for those who cannot speak for themselves. We pray this through Christ our Lord. Amen



Stewardship - January 21, 2024

	Regular Collection \$6,966	
	School Support \$185	
	Flowers \$26	

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

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Thunderbolts and Lightning

One of the most difficult duties of a disciple is to follow the command of Jesus to spread the gospel to all nations. (Lk 24:47, Mk 116:15, Mt 28:19) I think one reason may be that we don't feel we have the authority to tell someone else what to believe. Most of us don't think we know the gospel well enough to preach it. Or we are so afraid of offending atheists, that we use that fear as an excuse to say nothing. But being a disciple means following Jesus. The gospel this Sunday mentions twice that Jesus taught with more authority than any of religious leaders of Israel. So how can we get such authority?

First, Jesus didn't get his authority from winning a Messiah election. And he didn't threaten people with thunderbolts and lightning. He certainly didn't impress people by saying what they wanted to hear. He spoke the truth that he heard from his Father. His two main actions in his ministry were curing and forgiving people. Since the Jews thought sickness was a punishment for sins, by curing the sick and forgiving sins, Jesus showed that God loves even sinners. And those actions showed that Jesus got authority from his Father.

“But you still haven't answered the question: How do we get that authority?” We get it from the Holy Spirit, in Baptism and Confirmation. And like an athlete, who may be born with strength and abilities, yet has to work-out and practice to be any good, we still need to grow in that authority. One way is to read the scriptures and pray with them, so that we get to know God through his Word and begin to listen to him in our prayers. We can consciously decide to see God in other people, not just those we love, but everyone, even the ones who annoy us. (And especially the ones who challenge us to be more loving, patient and forgiving.) Most parishes have programs that encourage sharing your faith, such as RCIA, Christ Renews his Parish, etc. And of course, the Eucharist and other sacraments strengthen God's life in us. You'll know you have that authority when you can talk about your faith with confidence instead of hesitation, because you will be speaking from experience, not second hand knowledge.

Tom Schmidt