

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER



CATHOLIC CHURCH

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BATON ROUGE, LA 70802

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Pastor*

*Rev. Henry Ihuoma, SSJ
Parochial Vicar*

stfrancisxavierbr.org

PARISH OFFICE:

MRS. EBONY RILEY-COLEMAN- SECRETARY

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BATON ROUGE, LA 70802
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225.383.3479 OR 225.343.3709
FAX: 225.388.5458
EMAIL-SECRETARY@SFXC.BRCOXMAIL.COM
WEBSITE-STFRANCISXAVIERBR.ORG
REV. EDWARD CHIFFRILLER CELL: 225.571.8233
EMAIL~ EJCHIFFSSJ@AOL.COM

OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

MR JOHN YOUNG - DRE 225.343.3075 EXT 212
FAX: 225.388.5458
EMAIL:SFXPSR@SFXC.BRCOXMAIL.COM

SCHOOL OFFICE:

MS. PAULA JOHNSON - PRINCIPAL
1150 SOUTH 12TH STREET
BATON ROUGE, LA 70802
7:30 AM TO 4:00 PM
225.387.6639 OR 225.387.6630
FAX: 225.383.1215
EMAIL: PJOHNSON@SFXBR.ORG
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:	9:00 AM AM
HOLIDAYS:	9:00 AM & 6:00 PM
FRIDAY:	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 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

7 Class – The Epiphany of the Lord

The feast of epiphany and the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord ends the Christmas season. Epiphany is the manifestation of the Lord to all the nations. The nations are represented by the three kings (Maji). The Baptism of the Lord is another “Epiphany” where the Holy Trinity reveals Jesus as God's beloved Son.

On Epiphany, the scripture tells us that the Magi were seeking Jesus. The diversity of the Magi reminds us that we are all searching for God. In this search, we discover we are all we all matter to God. In the end, we discover love, and we are no longer the same.

Searching for God is a search for love and God is love. With wonder and humility, once we encounter God's presence among us, we are changed, and we don't want to return to the same way we came. With this action, the Magi also acknowledged that Jesus was the savior from whom they were searching.

The Christmas season ends with our acknowledgement of Jesus as our savior. and in our diversity, like the Magi, we continue to search for and acknowledge God's love dwelling among us.

Judges

We begin this session about Judges in the Bible. In the book of judges, there are two introductions and (Judges 1:1 -2:5, 2:6-3:6), two conclusions (Judg. 17:1-18:31;1-21:25), the account of twelve judges (six major judges and six minor judges) and the account of one anti-judge Abimelech (Judg. 9 1- 57. It is a sophisticated literary work that recalls a period of Israel's history from the death of Joshua the son of Nun (Judg. 1:1; 2:8 to a time before the advent of the Israelites monarchy. Theologically the book of Judges recounts Israel's progressive decline into covenantal infidelity by way of idolatry in the context of the Lord steadfast faithfulness to the same covenantal arrangement. Here are three things you should know when you read the book of judges.

1. the judges in the book of judges are types of Christ.
2. the structure of Judges is theological, not chronological, and
3. the book of judges prepares the way for Israel's monarchy. *ligonier.org/mvp*

Next issue we begin with the 6 major judges beginning with **Othneil (Judah)**

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!

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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.

Reflections on Stewardship

The Church is very strategic in its placement of the readings throughout the year. Today's second reading is a perfect example of this when Paul talks about stewardship. It's no surprise that we hear about this on the Feast of the Epiphany when we commemorate the magi finding the baby Jesus and bringing him gifts of Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh. I always thought this was funny because these seem like terrible gifts for a little baby, but maybe this whole story is meant to show us more about what to do with gifts as opposed to what the actual gifts are.

I want to take a moment today to reflect on Adam's roles in the garden of priest, prophet, and king and how these relate to stewardship today. First, in Genesis 1:26 we hear that Adam has dominion over the things in the garden. Just like a king, he is meant to care for the things that are given to him. I am reminded of that scene from *The Lion King* where Mufasa tells Simba that everything the light touches belongs to him. But it is not his to rule over as a tyrant, but rather to care for as a faithful servant. It is the same for us today. We have all been given things that we are meant to care for and treasure.

Second, in Genesis 2:15 Adam is told to work and to guard in the garden. These two words ("work" and "guard") only occur together in the rest of the Old Testament in relation to the priestly roles in Leviticus. It is clear that Adam is given a priestly role here, but what is the primary role of a priest? Quite simply, it is to make the commonplace holy. That is what a priest does at Mass when simple bread and wine transform into the body, blood, soul, and divinity of Jesus. So too, our role on earth is to bring the light of Christ to all corners of the globe, using our gifts to light the world with God's love.

Third, in Genesis 2:19-20 we hear God giving authority to Adam to name the animals. In other words, God is giving power to Adam's words that whatever he calls the animals, that shall be their name. A prophet is one who speaks with authority. We have been given authority to use our gifts to proclaim the Good News. Through our baptism, we are called as priest, prophet, and king, to enter into the world and offer our gifts and lives as a living sacrifice.

This is a lot to think and pray about, but maybe on this Feast of the Epiphany we can just reflect on two main points: Am I being a good steward of the gifts God has given me? And, when I offer these gifts back to God, is he pleased with them?

Weekday Masses

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday at 9am

Mass Intentions for Jan 5 - 9, 2024

Friday	9am	Thanksgiving to God <i>By: Gail Vavasour</i>
Saturday	5pm	Roy Burkhalter <i>By: Family</i>
Sunday	8am	Lester & Ronnie Gauthier <i>By: Donna, Edward & Mary</i>
	11am	Georgie Victorian <i>By: Roger, Ingrid & Heaven</i>
Tuesday	5pm	Lawrence Norman Myer



Stewardship

Regular Collection

\$4,957

Parish Needs

\$130

School Support

\$85

Building Fund

\$407



The Epiphany of the Lord Little Drummer Boy

Did you know that the only reason we say that there were three wise men is that they brought three gifts? The Bible never says their number or their names. The gifts tell us about the givers. And these special gifts—gold, frankincense, and myrrh—tell us much.

When one king visited or sent an ambassador to another, he would give a gift of gold to show that he acknowledged the kingship of the other. So the first gift of the wise men tells us they recognized Jesus as King. The second gift is a type of incense, which was used in Jesus time to worship God. So this gift shows the wise men paying homage to Jesus' divinity. The gift of myrrh is oil used to anoint the dying. It reminds us of Jesus suffering and death on the cross.

So what gifts do we have for Jesus? Maybe we can take a hint from the wise men. If we acknowledge Jesus as king, maybe a better gift than gold would be to pledge our obedience to him. Each day we can promise to live our vocation as best we can, to love those around us, and forgive those who hurt us.

A better way than burning incense to pay homage to Jesus' divinity is to take time to pray throughout the day. Some people are able to attend daily Mass, others spend time in adoration before the Eucharist, or even a few minutes of their lunch break to say the rosary.

As for the gift of myrrh, we can give Jesus the crosses we bear each day. When we accept suffering in our lives, especially that caused by our sins, we give ourselves to Jesus as he gave himself for us on the cross.

The song "Little Drummer Boy" reminds us that the best gift is not necessarily the most expensive. Instead, it is the simple gift that only we can give. Let Epiphany remind us to offer our lives to Jesus each day.

Tom Schmidt

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