

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
FEBRUARY 18, 2024

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER



CATHOLIC CHURCH

1120 MYRTLE WALK
BATON ROUGE, LA 70802

*Very Rev. Edward Chiffrieller, SSJ
Pastor*

*Rev. Henry Ihuoma, SSJ
Parochial Vicar*

stfrancisxavierbr.org

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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:	9:00 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

February 2024

18 Class – **1st Sunday of Lent – Rite of Sending**

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

The Rite of Sending

At the conclusion of the period of the catechumenate, a rite of sending the catechumens to their election by the bishop may be celebrated in parishes wherever this seems beneficial or desirable. When election will take place in the parish, this rite is not used.

We continue our series on Judges in the Bible with Deborah:

Deborah/Barak (Deborah = Ephraim and Barak = Naphtali)

Deborah the wife of Lappidoth was a prophetess and a judge. She would sit under Deborah's palm tree between Bethel and Ramah.

Once again, the Israelites offended God and He allowed the Israelites to fall under the power of Jabin, the Canaanite king.

Deborah and her general, Barak (Naphtali), defeated Sisera, the general of the army of Canaanite King Jabin of Hazor at the Battle of Kishon near Mt Tabor.

Sisera fled from Deborah and Barak to the tent of Jeal, the wife of the Kenite Heber. The Kenites and Jabin were at peace.

Sisera was slain by Jael driving a tent peg into his head. Thus God humbled the Canaanite king Jabin until the Israelites destroyed him.

The Song of Deborah (Judges chapter 15) recounts the great victory.

Barak is listed among the "Heroes of the Faith" in Heb 11:32.

Enemies: Jabin, Canaanite king of Hazor Sisera, general and vassal of Jabin; may have been a Hittite.

Period of oppression: 20 years

Period of quiet: 40 years

Scriptures: Judges 4:1-5:31; 1 Sam 12:11; Heb 11:32

Next issue we continue with Deborah/Barak

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.

Covenant and Commitment

At first glance it may seem a little odd that the first Sunday of Lent would have a reading about God's covenant with Noah. We all know the story. God sent a flood to wipe out the earth because of their sin and disobedience and then God made a covenant with his people to never again send a flood that would destroy the earth. So why has the Church chosen this reading for Lent? Isn't Lent all about suffering, not God's loving plan for his people?

Well, I think this reading actually fits perfectly in this penitential season. Time and time again in the Old Testament we see God enacting covenants with his people, and time and time again we see human beings breaking these covenants. God wants to give his life and love and we as a human race are quick to turn our backs on him and break the commitment of the covenant.

I see Lent as a time of preparation for Easter and this Holy Feast day celebrates the culmination of the New Covenant that Christ enacted on the cross. We reflect on the suffering and death of Christ, we fast and abstain, and we pray, in order that our hearts might be more ready for the covenant that God has for us.

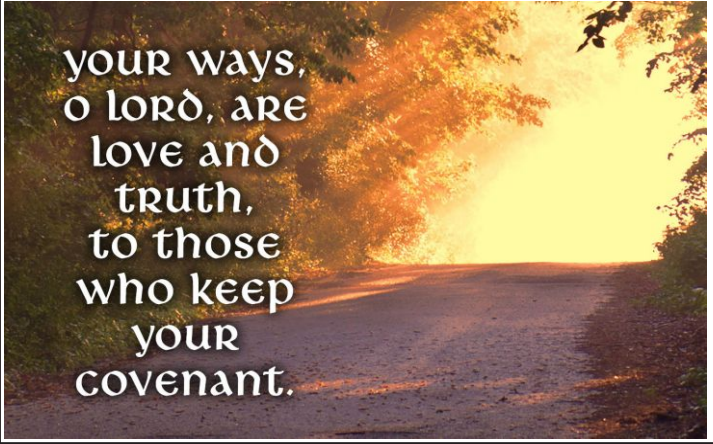
Instead of reliving history and breaking the small commitments God asks of us, Lent is a time to dive deeply into these commitments so that his covenant can ring true in our hearts and we will be ready for it. Even Jesus as the Son of God knew how important it would be for us to slow down and reflect on what is most important. He didn't need to spend any time in the desert, but today's Gospel reminds us that he went there anyway. He gives us the example of what it looks like to be faithful to his heavenly Father.

This Lent, I encourage you, and myself, to dive deeply. Let's allow this to be a time of purification and penance so that when Easter time comes, we will truly know what it means to rejoice.

By Tommy Shultz

Weekday Masses

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday at 9am



Mass Intentions for February 17 - 21, 2024

Saturday	5pm	Shelvia Stewart <i>By: Betty Campbell</i>
Sunday	8am	Glenn Jones <i>By: Wilma Greene & Family</i>
	11am	Georgie Victorian <i>By: Roger, Ingrid & Heaven</i>
Tuesday	5pm	Charles Williams <i>By: Mary Williams</i>
Wednesday	9am	Ceola Marcelle <i>By: Wessie</i>



Stewardship
to be continued...



First Sunday of Lent Clear Conscience

Usually, the first reading has something in common with the gospel. Today's however, has more in common with the second reading from St. Peter. They both talk about Noah and the ark, where the few good people were saved by going through the water. Peter compares that to the waters of Baptism, in which we are saved by God. He also has an interesting image of Jesus "preaching to the spirits in prison." It refers to the fallen angels whose disobedience lead the rest of the population to turn away from God. Just as God washed away the evil of the world in the waters of the flood, so the waters of Baptism made us into a new people who have clear consciences, both because God has forgiven our sins and because we promise to follow only Him.

That leads to the Gospel, where Jesus is tempted by Satan. But unlike the people of Noah's time, Jesus does not fall to the temptations. Instead, he comes out of the desert, proclaiming that the Kingdom of God is near. He tells us to repent and believe in the good news.

That means we have a choice to make: Do we accept this kingdom and repent, or do we ignore our baptism and do what we want? We may say that we are willing to repent, but do we do anything about it? Do we still have a clear conscience when we think of how much time we spend getting to know Jesus? Ever pray or read the bible outside of church? Do we spend near as much on the poor, as we do for movies, hobbies, video games, or drinks? Do we ever tell anyone about the kingdom and what Jesus has done for us?

Next time you see a rainbow, think about the covenant that God made with Noah. Just as God's promises get better and better till the coming of Jesus, we are challenged to be more and more like Him. Are you satisfied with just a promise that God won't destroy us all in a flood? Or are you ready to live the New Covenant that Jesus promises to those who will follow him?


Tom Schmidt

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