

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
FEBRUARY 25, 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

25 Class – **2nd Sunday of Lent**

28 **Sheldon J. Farbe Ordained Catholic Bishop – New Orleans, LA – 2007**

Black Catholicism

Black Catholicism or **African-American Catholicism** comprises the African-American people, beliefs, and practices in the Catholic Church.

There are currently around three million Black Catholics in the United States, making up 6% of the total population of African Americans, who are mostly Protestant, and 4% of American Catholics. Black Catholics in America are a heavily immigrant population, with only 68% being born in the United States, while 12% were born in Africa, 11% were born in the Caribbean and 5% born in other parts of Central or South America. About a quarter of Black Catholics worship in historically black parishes, most of which were established during the Jim Crow era as a means of racial segregation. Others were established in black communities and merely reflected the surrounding population, while the most recent crop came about due to population displacement (White flight) during and after the Great Migration.

Judge Deborah/Barak

Deborah is one of the most influential women in the Bible. She is mainly known as a prophetess and a judge in Israel. Her story is primarily found in the Book of Judges, specifically in Judges 4 and 5.

As a prophet, Deborah was said to hear God's voice and share God's Word with others. As a priestess, she did not offer sacrifices, as the men did, by she did worship services and preach.

Many biblical scholars believe that Deborah was a wife, as well. However, in Hebrew, the same word is used for "woman" and "wife," so we don't know, with certainty, if Deborah was a "woman of Lappidoth" (a place) or the "wife of Lappidoth" (a person).

Facts about Deborah in the Bible

Her story is told in both prose (Judges 4) and poetry (Judges 5).

Deborah has an impressive resume of judge, warrior, poet, and prophet as well as singer and songwriter.

She was only one of five women described as a prophet in the Old Testament. The four others are Miriam, Judges (2 Kings 22:14, 2 Chronicles 34:22), Nodiah (Nehemiah 6:14), and "the prophetess" (Isaiah 8:3)

The only other person in the Bible who was said to be both prophet and judge was Samuel.

Deborah is the only female judge mentioned in the Bible.

Next issue; The meaning of Deborah's name and Deborah's role 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 * 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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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.

Stations of the Cross on Fridays of Lent at 2pm.

Mountaintop Experience

A popular church hymn declares, "Glory and Praise to Our God, who alone gives light to our days. Many are the blessings He bears to those who trust in His ways". We can see the glory of God reflected in His many creations.

Have you ever seen the opening scene of the beloved classic, The Sound of Music? As a child I would always rush through it. There were no lines, just the sounds of birds and wind along panoramic views of the Swiss Alps. Why would anyone want to waste time looking at the greenery and high-pointed rocks, I would wonder to myself. Yet it is in the grand landscape of the mountains that God often manifests himself.

Whether it was where Elijah heard the quiet voice of God in a whisper, or where Moses spent forty days encompassed by loud thundering as he received God's covenant, mountains and other high places have often been special spots where we can come closer to God. Perhaps in all the Bible no one comes physically closer to observing God's glory than on Mount Tabor where Peter, James and John encounter the transfiguration of Christ. Here in a truly physical sense do the opening words of John's Gospel speak, "And the light shone in the darkness, and the darkness shall not overcome it."

This could not provide a more adequate visual for our human senses. He remained human and yet is, was and forever will be, divine. He was radiant, so much more glorious than they had already come to understand while here on Earth. I ask that today we reflect on and be thankful to God for revealing a first glimpse of Himself, using the senses of nature, whether through the greatest heights or the warmth of His everlasting light.

Weekday Masses

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday at 9am



Mass Intentions for February 24 - March 1, 2024

Saturday	5pm	Norma Duell & Gladys Lee <i>By: Tammie Lee</i>
Sunday	8am	Walter Martin <i>By: Wilma Greene & Family</i>
	11am	People of the Parish
Tuesday	5pm	Charles Williams <i>By: Mary & Ingrid</i>
Friday	9am	Norma Duell & Gladys Lee <i>By: Mary Williams</i>

Stewardship - February 18, 2024



Regular Collection
\$8,812
School Support
\$291
Food Pantry
\$920
Fish Fry
\$5,633



Second Sunday of Lent This is a Test

I used to wonder how God could lie to Abraham about sacrificing his son Isaac. But the story begins by telling us God put Abraham to the test. Abraham himself seems to know it's a test—in verses left out or our reading, he tells the servants that he and Isaac will return after the sacrifice; he also tells Isaac that God will provide the offering. Apparently, I'm the only one fooled by God.

I don't know if I would have passed the test. I would have at least argued with God about it, begging him to spare my son. Yet in our second reading, St. Paul reminds us that God did not spare his own son. (Rom 8:32) He passed his own test. Jesus was sacrificed so that God could show us how much he loved us: By dying, Jesus showed us the promise of resurrection, which shows us that we can also have new life by the forgiveness of our sins. If God loves us so much that he gives his Son to die for us, why would he not forgive us? Or as Paul says, if He is on our side, who can hurt us?

What does that tell us about life? You may have noticed that things don't always go your way. We sometimes suffer for no apparent reason. We may lose someone we love through death. We may be tempted to lose faith when we see wars, killer tornados, terrorist attacks—if "God is for us," why does he allow these things? Because he is still testing us. And not necessarily testing the victims of these troubles. If I get angry at God because I hear about someone's death, I haven't passed the test.

Does that mean those tragedies are our fault? No, God gives everyone free will and some people choose to do wrong. And some accidents are just accidental; no one is necessarily at fault. God intervenes sometimes and lives are saved. Other times, God intervenes by saving us after death with our resurrection. But as long as people doubt God's love, there will be tests. That's why it is so important to proclaim the Kingdom: so that someday all people will know God's love and not need to be tested.


Tom Schmidt

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