

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT  
MARCH 3, 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](http://stfrancisxavierbr.org)

### PARISH OFFICE:

MRS. EBONY RILEY-COLEMAN- SECRETARY  
1134 JULIA STREET  
BATON ROUGE, LA 70802  
8:00 AM TO 3:00 PM  
225.383.3479 OR 225.343.3709  
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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  
BATON ROUGE, LA 70802  
7:30 AM TO 4:00 PM  
225.387.6639 OR 225.387.6630  
FAX: 225.383.1215  
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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:	9:00AM 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

### March 2024

3 Class – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent

#### The historical origins of Black History Month

Black History Month has its origins in a Black history display that Carter G. Woodson created in 1915 for an exhibition honoring the 50th anniversary of Black Americans' emancipation from slavery. Woodson wanted the celebration of Black American freedom and achievement to continue beyond the exhibition, so he founded several intellectual and cultural endeavors: the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History in 1915, the Journal of Negro History in 1916, and ultimately Negro History Week in 1926.

Woodson selected February for Negro History Week to align with previously established Black American celebrations of both Frederick Douglass' and Abraham Lincoln's birthdays. Fifty years after its founding, Negro History Week was expanded to Black History Month in 1976 by the organization Woodson founded, now known as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History.

#### The meaning of Deborah's name and Deborah's role in the Bible

Deborah (Devorah or D'vorah in Hebrew) is translated as "bee."

The Midrash (a collection of teachings on the Torah) explains that the Hebrew people are said to be like bees in several ways:

1. Just as bees follow their leader in a swarm. The Jewish people follow the sages and prophets to teach them.
2. As a bee sting is quite painful, but the bee's honey is incredibly sweet, God's Word will sting those who don't follow His commands but will bless those who live righteously with a sweet life.
3. Bees collect pollen and nectar, not for their own benefit, but for the benefit of others, just as Hebrews collect mitzvahs (a good deed done for others or religious benefit) for the Lord's pleasure and benefit.
4. Bees are a lowly insect, which is a reminder to God's children to be humble.

#### Deborah's role as a judge and prophetess:

Deborah served as a judge during a time when the Israelites were oppressed by the Canaanites. Judges in ancient Israel were leaders raised up by God to deliver the people from oppression and to administer justice.

Deborah was known for her wisdom, and the Israelites would come to her to settle disputes and seek guidance.

Deborah was one of the rulers of the Hebrews (and the only female leader) in the Old Testament. These rulers were called "mishpat," which is translated as "judges." A role that originated back when Moses appointed helpers to assist him in resolving arguments among the people. (Exodus 18).

Judges sought guidance from the Lord by praying and meditating before proclaiming their ruling on a matter. Many judges were also considered prophets who articulated "a word from the Lord."

Deborah would sit under the palm tree between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites would line up for her to rule on a matter. **Next Issue: Deborah's Military Leadership**

## 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](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.

**Paul and Norma Duell Memorial Scholarship**

**Purpose of the scholarship:** The Paul and Norma Duell Memorial Scholarship is established to provide financial support of \$5,000 to a graduating high school senior and/or first year college student who will attend Southern University and A&M College, Baton Rouge in the Fall of 2024. The student should have a 2.8 GPA, be a parishioner of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church or Mt. Zion First Baptist Church.

Paul L. Duell was born and raised in Alexandria, LA and a graduate of Peabody High School. He was an active member of Mt. Zion First Baptist Church, serving dutifully as a deacon and Superintendent of the Sunday School. He was a proud 1952 graduate of Grambling State University in Education. He was an educator, principal, businessman and mentor to many. He was a proud member of the G-Men, having played football for Coach Eddie Robinson.

Norma Bellard Duell was an active member of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, serving faithfully as the Leader of the Lectors and as a result, helped found the Annual Women's retreat. She was also a member of Moms who PUSH (Pray Until Something Happens). She was a proud 1966 graduate of Southern University and A&M College, Baton Rouge in Education. She was also an educator, having been named West Baton Rouge Parish Teacher of the Year 1990 and an advocate for vocational education.

Both Paul and Norma believed in the value of education, given their experiences growing up in a segregated society. They both worked tirelessly to bring together people of all races, faiths, and backgrounds to improve their community, the State of Louisiana and our country through their active engagement in many organizations including their church homes. They often recruited students to attend both Southern University and A&M College and Grambling State University, so it is fitting that their daughters, Paula Duell Northern and Stephanie Duell honor them through this Memorial Scholarship Fund.

To apply, students should submit a resume, unofficial HS transcripts and personal statement about the importance of education in their lives or the importance of education for economic growth in a community. Please send marked with the scholarship name to [terrye@suttrueblue.org](mailto:terrye@suttrueblue.org) Applications are due by March 15, 2024.

Stephanie Duell  
Paula Northern

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

**Weekday Masses**

**Wednesday, Thursday & Friday at 9am**

**OUR LADY OF VIRTUES - March 8**

These are the principal virtues for which Our Lady of Virtues is known: purity, prudence, humility, faith, piety, obedience, poverty, patience, charity, and compassion. Her feast day is observed on March 8 in Lisbon, Portugal, and she is also venerated under this title in Poland.

**Mass Intentions - March 3 - 8, 2024**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8am</b>	<b>Lester &amp; Ronnie Gauthier</b> <i>By: Edward, Mary &amp; Danna</i>
	<b>11am</b>	<b>People of the Parish</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>5pm</b>	<b>Micheal Byrd</b> <i>By: Mariah Byrd</i>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>9am</b>	<b>Deceased members of the Darenbourg &amp; O'Brian families</b> <i>By: Catherine Darenbourg O'Brian</i>

**Stewardship - February 25, 2024**



**Regular Collection**  
**\$5,830**  
**School Support**  
**\$454**  
**Parish Needs**  
**\$125**  
**Fish Fry & Donations**  
**\$5,545**



## Third Sunday of Lent

As we are now well into Lent, we can take a look at what it means to turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel. A good place to start would be the Ten Commandments. The reading from Exodus presents us with one of the first listings of the Commandments. In this passage, God explains some of the laws to show how serious they are. For the first one, God includes making images to be used for worship. Now you might jump to the conclusion that all the statues and crucifixes in our churches must be destroyed. Not so.

In the days of Moses, people of other cultures made images of their gods and declared that the image was the god, and so should be worshipped. The LORD wanted his people to remember that God cannot be limited to an image or idea. That is still true today. Our images and statues are meant to help us pray to God, not to that work of art. In that sense, they are no worse than using a beautiful sunset or mountain scene to help you pray.

On the other hand, some people give a superstitious meaning to religious articles. Burying a statue to help sell your house could be one example. If you want to ask for a favor from God, just ask Him. God is much more likely to listen to a sincere prayer than a superstitious action.

The reason God gives for the first commandment is that he is a passionate God, who has chosen the Israelites to be his people. When he punishes sin, he allows the effect of our bad choices to hurt us and those around us. But when we repent and change our ways, his love is everlasting.

God also emphasizes some commands by duplicating them. He tells us not to steal from others, and also not to plan to steal from our neighbor. The same with adultery: Planning it is just as bad as doing it. Taking his name in vain originally meant perjuring yourself after taking an oath to tell the truth. That is similar to the eighth commandment about false witness.

Jesus simplified all these commands when he reminds us to love God with all your heart and love your neighbor as yourself. Let's remember that as we turn away from sin to serving God better during Lent.

*Tom Schmidt*