

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
FEBRUARY 11, 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  
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**REV. EDWARD CHIFFRILLER CELL: 225.571.8233**

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### OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

**MR JOHN YOUNG ~ DRE 225.343.3075 EXT 212**

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**EMAIL:SFXPSR@SFXC.BRCOXMAIL.COM**

### SCHOOL OFFICE:

**MS. PAULA JOHNSON ~ PRINCIPAL**

1150 SOUTH 12TH STREET  
BATON ROUGE, LA 70802  
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FAX: 225.383.1215

**EMAIL: PJOHNSON@SFXBR.ORG**

**WEBSITE: SFXBR.ORG**



### MASS SCHEDULE:

**SATURDAY:**

**SUNDAY:**

**TUESDAY:**

**WED - FRI:**

**HOLYDAYS:**

**FRIDAY:**

**VIGIL - 5:00 PM**

**8:00 AM & 11:00 AM**

**OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP NOVENA - 5:00 PM**

**9:00AM AM**

**9:00 AM & 6:00 PM**

**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

February 2024

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### World Sick Day

To those of you who experience illness, whether temporary or chronic, I would say this: Do not be ashamed of your longing for closeness and tenderness! Do not conceal it, and never think that you are a burden on others. The condition of the sick urges all of us to step back from the hectic pace of our lives in order to rediscover ourselves. *Pope Francis 32nd World Day of the Sick*

### Mardi Gras

According to historians, **Mardi Gras** dates back thousands of years to boisterous pagan celebrations of spring and fertility in Rome. When Christianity arrived during the medieval years, religious leaders decided to incorporate the popular local traditions of these pagan celebrations (think parades and lots of eating and drinking) into traditions and became a prelude to Lent — the 40 days of fasting and sacrifice between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday. The French later dubbed the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday "Mardi Gras," which translates to "Fat Tuesday."

### Ash Wednesday

In Western **Christianity**, the first day of **Lent**, occurring six and a half weeks before **Easter** (between February 4 and March 11, depending on the date of Easter). Ash Wednesday is a **solemn** reminder of human mortality and the need for reconciliation with God and marks the beginning of the penitential Lenten season. It is commonly observed with ashes and **fasting**.

### Valentine's Day

Although there were several Christian **martyrs** named Valentine, the day may have taken its name from a priest who was **martyred** about 270 CE by the emperor **Claudius II Gothicus**. According to **legend**, the priest signed a letter "from your Valentine" to his jailer's daughter, whom he had befriended and, by some accounts, healed from blindness. Other accounts hold that it was St. Valentine of **Terni**, a **bishop**, for whom the holiday was named, though it is possible the two **saints** were actually one person. Another common legend states that **St. Valentine** defied the emperor's orders and secretly married couples to spare the husbands from war. It is for this reason that his feast day is associated with **love**.

### What Can We Learn from Ehud?

First, God can use abilities and traits others might see as inferior or out of the norm. Although today we'd argue that being left-handed is not an inferior trait, most of history did not hold the same view.

Nevertheless, because Ehud preferred his left hand, the guards who checked him didn't even think to look for a weapon on the side where he hid it. Because of this, he successfully carried out the assassination of the king.

Second, we learn that sin has consequences. Every time Israel fell prey to foreign worship practices, they ended up oppressed by a foreign power. In the case of Ehud's story, they wound up under the rule of the Moabites.

Still, God heard their cries and sent salvation in the form of a left-handed judge.

Finally, we can actually learn a lesson from Eglon too: be careful about pride and confidence. Eglon dropped his guard and let Ehud into his inner room upstairs to hear a "secret message," from a stranger he'd never encountered before. This led to his downfall and a rather gory death.

A great ruler has humility and exercises discernment. This we can learn as a warning from the large king of Moab.

Next Issue on Judges: Deborah/Bar

## 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.

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

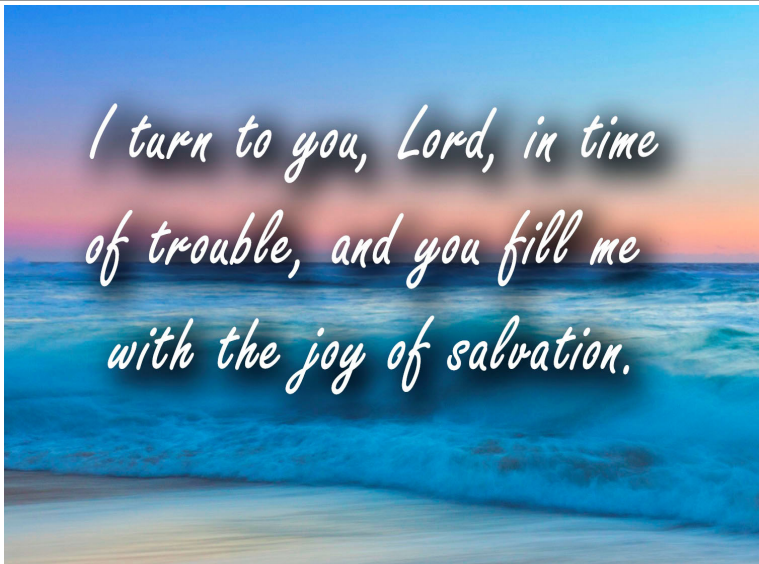
**Weekday Masses**  
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday at 9am

**Ash Wednesday Mass Schedule**

**9am & 6pm**

**Mass Intentions for February 10 - 13, 2024**

Saturday	5pm	Norma Duell & Gladys Lee <i>By: Tammy Lee</i>
Sunday	8am	People of the Parish
	11am	Andre & Eric <i>By: Fish Fry Committee</i>
Tuesday	5pm	Charles Williams <i>By: Mary Williams</i>



**Stewardship - February 4, 2024**

Regular Collection \$11,144
School Support \$50
Parish Needs \$444
Building Fund \$410

**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*



## *Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

### *Paul the People Pleaser?*

Last week we heard St. Paul saying that he was all things to all people. This week, we hear that he tried to please everyone. To modern ears, that sounds more like a used car salesman, who has just the right deal for any buyer. But that wasn't what Paul meant. The key to Paul's way of life is the last line of the second reading: "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ." (1 Cor 11:1)

Remember when Paul was still Saul, the Jew who persecuted Christians? When he was struck by lightning he heard, not thunder, but the voice of Jesus, who asked why Saul was persecuting him. Paul later began to understand that all Christians make up the body of Christ. As members of that body, we can show others what Jesus is like, by our example. That seems to be a two part process.

First, to show Christ, we have to know Christ. We can do that by reading the scriptures and praying with them. We can receive the sacraments regularly, especially Reconciliation, where we experience his forgiveness and love, and the Eucharist, where Jesus unites himself with us, so that we can become more like him.

The second part is acting like Jesus. If we want people to see Christ in us, we don't dress like him, or grow a beard. We have to do things as Jesus would: Forgive people who hurt us, care for the sick, the dying, the poor. Don't be afraid to tell people what God has done for you; encourage others to be grateful for what God has done for them. Pray with people who have difficulty talking to God.

Paul obviously didn't please everyone, or he wouldn't have ended his life in prison. He was more interested in pleasing God by spreading the Good News of Jesus' resurrection. If we can imitate Paul in that way, we can't go wrong.

Tom Schmidt.