

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER
APRIL 7, 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

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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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
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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
HOLYDAYS:	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.

Truly Favored

“Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.”

What an interesting choice of words from the Angel Gabriel - “favor with God.” This has to be where Mary’s fullness of grace comes in because if I was told I had favor with God and then my life went on the roller-coaster ride that Mary’s did, I’m not sure I would believe the Archangel Gabriel nor share the same definition and understanding of “favor.”

Here in the Annunciation, we hear these profound words spoken to Mary, along with the astounding news that God has chosen her to bear His beloved Son. Although I try to place myself in that room, hearing those words, I simply cannot fathom the depth of Mary’s emotions in that very moment, that unique experience that the Blessed Virgin Mary alone has been graced to experience.

This “favor” that was found to be with Mary becomes increasingly harder to imagine as the rest of the story of Mary’s life with Jesus unfolds — in what we, who are not full of grace, might see as a complete unraveling of God’s favor. As a woman, I know how I would perceive this journey if I were to put myself in Mary’s situation. Mary is the ultimate model of trust and faith because we have no evidence that she lost these gifts, as I would have if my expectations were seemingly twisted completely around.

These are a few of the events and situations I wouldn’t expect if I had received the news I was expecting the Son of God:

I would not have expected to travel to help out a slightly more pregnant cousin right after finding out I, too, was to have a baby, especially if that child was the Messiah!

I would have expected to have the baby at home with my mom and maybe some women from Nazareth to help out, not in a barn all the way in Bethlehem with only my husband’s assistance.

After my son’s unexpected birth in a manger, I would have expected to return back to Nazareth, again to the comfort of my home and my family and community to help me raise my new son. I would have never expected this urgent, I am sure, frightening escape from Bethlehem into Egypt.

In the end, it is irrefutable (to me, at least) that Mary has truly found favor with God. This grace may not align with our thoughts and understanding of ‘favor,’ but I continue, like her, to ponder all these things in my heart, praying that if the day ever arrives for me to be greeted by an angel with a great message from God, I too will answer, “May it be done to me according to your Word.”

By Allison Gingras

PRAYER LIST

John Paul Moore * Loraine Perry * Martha Proctor * Whitney Robiho * Joyce Decuir * Catherine Murray

Betty Camble * Elouise Noel * Betty Dupas * Earl Bourgeois * Mary L. Boutte * Cecila Bazile * Denise Chutz

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 *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.

DIVINE MERCY
April 7, 2024

Divine Mercy Sunday is a very special Sunday when the Divine Floodgates from Heaven are wide-opened and Jesus offers us the total forgiveness of all sins and punishment to any soul, who goes to Confession and receives Him in Holy Communion, on that day.



Weekday Masses
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday at 9am

The Youth Choir will be having their rehearsal on Tuesday April 9 at 6pm.

The Youth (ages 12-18) of SFX will be having their meeting on Saturday, April 13 at 10am at the Parish Office.

Mass Intentions - April 3 - 10, 2024

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| Wednesday | 9am | Doris Vavassuer
<i>By: Gail</i> |
| Saturday | 5pm | Shelvia Stewart
<i>By: Betty Campbell</i> |
| Sunday | 8am | Lester & Ronnie Gauthier
<i>By: Mary, Danna & Edward</i> |
| | 11am | James Raby
<i>By: Bridget & Tori Crockett</i> |
| Tuesday | 5pm | People of the Parish |
| Wednesday | 9am | Marcella Keyes
<i>By: Kenneth & Eyvette Monette</i> |

Stewardship - March 31, 2024

To be continued....



Peace Be With You

Chapter 20 of the Gospel of John emphasizes Peace and the Holy Spirit abiding within us. Christ's first word following His death is "Peace". I do not find that I am naturally a peaceful person. I tend to get easily distracted and upset by life not being "fair", or agitated when things do not go exactly as I had planned. I am flawed. Yet so much greater than this is that I am also loved. Above all else, Christ has laid down his life for me. I owe it to Him to do my best to try to find an inner peace. It is often a battle. My mind races at night, dwelling on what might go wrong. It is by listening to the word of God that I calmed down and am reminded of who I really am. Through dedicating my time to Him in prayer and good deeds, He will rejuvenate me, like the Living Water He declares to the Samaritan woman.

Again and again we must acknowledge that the Holy Spirit resides in each of us, guiding us, and that in each passing moment we can become more like Christ. Pope Benedict XVI explained, "Every person carries within himself, a project of God, a personal vocation, a personal idea of God, on what he is required to do in history to build His Church, a living temple of His presence." I have a calling, a reason for why God has created me, I was chosen for this life to share God's glory with those around me. We may not always know where we belong or how each passing moment might unfold. While I may not be at peace on my own accord, with God's grace, He will remain in me as a source of peace through the Holy Spirit. He will help me find the way.

"Loving God, please grant me peace of mind and calm my troubled heart. My soul is like a turbulent sea. I can't seem to find my balance so I stumble and worry constantly. Give me the strength and clarity of mind to find my purpose and walk the path you've laid out for me". - Author Unknown