

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER
APRIL 14, 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

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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:	9:00AM 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

April 2024

14 Class – Third Sunday of Easter – PSR Teacher Round-up.

Please congratulate our newly confirmed: **Destini Bazille, Cleopatra Harris, Hunter Hollins, Connor Naim, Kennedy Papillion, Tyra Porter, Braylin Range, and Jacie Robinson.**

We continue and wrap up our series on **Judge Deborah** with:

Deborah's Military Leadership

Yahweh told Deborah to free his people from the oppression caused by King Jabin and his military chief, Sisera. She sent for Barak, a military commander, and requested him to gather an army from several tribes to fight the Canaanites. He agreed, on condition that she would accompany him into battle. She agrees, but then predicts that the glory of the war will fall to a woman.

Regardless of his motivation, Barak's conditional reply to Deborah ('if you don't go with me, I won't go') was an unfitting response to a commander chosen by God. Perhaps Barak simply wanted to be assured of divine presence in battle.

Barak raised ten thousand troops and, along with Deborah, they all head off to war. Meanwhile, King Jabin's military commander, Sisera, "learned of the battle being planned against his Canaanite army. He brought out his iron chariots and cavalry in preparation, confident that he would be able to crush the ill-prepared Jewish army."

Deborah gave the signal for the army to attack and at first it appeared that the Israelite army was destined for sure defeat, "but suddenly Sisera's army was thrown into confusion and terror, causing his terrified warriors to flee in all directions. Sisera, unable to regain control of his demoralized army, also took to his heels and fled to a house," where he intended to hide until it would be safe for him to regroup. Barak followed his path searching for the Canaanite enemy.

So what happened? What caused Sisera's panic? The song about the adventure in chapter 5 adds insight: "*the earth trembled, and the heavens poured, the clouds indeed poured water*" (Judges 5:4, NRSV). Apparently, Yahweh caused an earthquake which broke-up the ground, and then he sent a great thunderstorm. The rain caused a muddy mess of the area, making Sisera's 900 heavy iron chariots useless in the muck.

The home Sisera had fled to was the tent of a Canaanite couple, but only occupied at the time by the wife, named Jael. Knowing she was living in the jurisdiction of King Jabin's territorial dominion, Sisera felt safe hiding there. What he didn't know was that Jael did not approve of the oppressive treatment of the Israelites.

Sisera was exhausted from the battle and his hurried escape and soon fell asleep in Jael's tent. Cautiously, Jael "*took a tent peg, and took a hammer in her hand, and went softly to him and drove the peg into his temple, until it went down into the ground — he was lying fast asleep from weariness — and he died. Then, as Barak came in pursuit of Sisera, Jael went out to meet him, and said to him, 'Come, and I will show you the man whom you are seeking.' So he went into her tent; and there was Sisera lying dead, with the tent peg in his temple*" (Judges 4:21-22).

Not long after this event, the king of Canaan was completely defeated and removed. From that point, the Israelites enjoyed forty years of peace. Deborah's fame in the biblical record was in her role as a military leader. Along with her military commander, Barak, she successfully led a coalition of Israelite tribal militias to victory over a superior Canaanite army. Because of her role as a leader, she is described as 'a mother in Israel', for she delivered God's people.

*Next issue we begin the our series on **Gideon**.*

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.

The Wounds of Christ

Back in 2007, a group of researchers compared the amount of food consumed between two groups. They were curious to discover if the evidence of food already eaten (in this case, individuals were given chicken wings to eat while watching a football game) would impact the amount they ate altogether. They found that the participants ate less at the tables where the bones were left out in plain sight in comparison to the tables where the bones were removed. "The results suggest that people restrict their consumption when evidence of food consumed is available to signal how much food they have eaten." (Brian Wansink, *Cornell Chronicle*, April 9, 2007).

In today's Gospel, Jesus miraculously appears before the apostles. If His resurrected body wasn't shocking enough, He still bore the wounds of His crucifixion. There is nothing that Jesus cannot do. His very presence before the Apostles is a testament to that. So if He can do anything, why did He choose to leave those wounds, the very gruesome and heart wrenching places that we, humanity, created?

The wounds of Christ bear witness to the truth of His sacrifice. His wounds are proof to the Apostles that He is who He says He is. In a way, Jesus is providing them a second chance to look upon Him on the cross. Only John was at the foot of the cross, but he was not the only one to witness the marks of it. We too, are invited to gaze upon the broken body of Christ. We need to see, we need to remember.

Each time we enter a church, we see the cross behind the altar. Without the cross, there would be no resurrection. St. Augustine said, "The death of the Lord our God should not be a cause of shame for us; rather, it should be our greatest hope, our greatest glory. In taking upon himself the death that he found in us, he has most faithfully promised to give us life in him, such as we cannot have of ourselves."

For the same reason that the people eating chicken wings need a visual to remind them of how much they have eaten, we need Jesus' wounds to vividly remind us of the lengths He was willing to go to save us. We humans are slow to learn and quick to forget. We quickly forget the price that was paid for our salvation. We bemoan all the things we are lacking, rather than lifting our empty hands in adoration to the God who gave us everything we have.

Jesus' wounds should shock us, yes. But they are also the most precious things we have ever received, for through them we are reborn to eternal life.

Weekday Masses
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday at 9am

The St. Francis Xavier Parish Council would like to recognize all 2023-2024 graduates. All levels from 8th grade through post graduate will be recognized.
If you are a graduate or the parent of a graduate there is a sign-up sheet on the table at the entrance of the church.
Graduates will be recognized on May 19, 2024 the 11:00 mass.
You may sign-up until April 21.

Mass Intentions - April 12 - 17, 2024

Friday	9am	Deceased Darensburg & O'Brien Families <i>By: Catherine Darensburg O'Brien</i>
Saturday	5pm	Charles Williams <i>By: Mary & Ingrid</i>
Sunday	8am	Idris Malik <i>By: Wife</i>
	11am	Melvin Jones <i>By: Alexis Robinson</i>
Tuesday	5pm	People of the Parish
Wednesday	9am	Marcella Keyes <i>By: Ruby Jordan</i>

Stewardship - April 7, 2024



Regular Collection
\$10,205
School Support
\$35
Parish Needs
\$373
Building Fund
\$900



Third Sunday of Easter Fault or Fate?

Peter seems to be pretty tough with his listeners in the first reading. He says they handed Jesus over, denied him before Pilate, asked for a murderer to be released in his place, and put Jesus to death. They must have thought they were doomed. Suddenly, he tells them they were just ignorant. And that God had planned all this long ago. So is he saying Jesus' death is their fault, or just fate?

The answer of course is that it's everyone's fault. Our sins are the reason for Jesus' death. We deny Jesus when we choose to be selfish instead of loving. We hand him over when we tell ourselves we are too busy to take time to pray. We ask for Barabbas to be freed instead of Jesus when we insist on doing things our own way rather than God's way. We crucify Jesus when we follow the crowd instead of following the Lord.

It is only "fate" in the sense that our sins needed to be forgiven and God plan's for salvation was through Jesus' death and resurrection. Does that mean our sins cause something in the past to happen? There were sinners long before Jesus' time and God knew there would be sinners after that. God also planned to forgive anyone who repented their sins. In one sense, Jesus died for those who deserved to be punished for sin, and also for those who would deserve punishment in the future. He rose from the dead to show that God's forgiveness raises us up from guilt to a new life.

Peter wasn't laying a guilt trip on the listeners. After all, this is good news. God planned all this to show how much he loved us. Our response should be one of joy that we are forgiven because of that love. All we have to do is tell God we are sorry, mean it, and start living our response of love. Sins may be our fault, but Love is our fate.