

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 5, 2024

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER



CATHOLIC CHURCH

1120 MYRTLE WALK
BATON ROUGE, LA 70802

*Very Rev. Edward Chiffreller, 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 CHIFFRELLER 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

May 2024

5 No Class – First Communion

Six Reminders from the Life of Gideon

The primary theme of the Book of Judges is that if you put your trust and dependence on the Lord, He will give you direction. Gideon expresses this theme and gives us these six reminders we can use in our daily lives.

God always Sees the Best in Us

In chapter 6 of Judges, we find Gideon going about his business of threshing wheat in a wine press. He is a young man trying to help his family get the grain they need and keep the Midianites from finding it. What the reader learns is that Gideon and his family are hiding from the Midianites and other groups that want to harm them.

Gideon has no confidence in the God of the Israelites. His family has become Baal worshippers. They are running into caves to seek safety. The faith of the Israelites has weakened and so has Gideon's. Even so, God calls Gideon at the winepress. He calls Gideon a "mighty warrior."

When God speaks to Gideon, he describes him according to what he would become, not what he was. At that moment, Gideon is aware that he is just a young boy who is just going along with the ways of his family. He doesn't see that he has anything to offer God, especially not becoming a mighty warrior.

God saw the best in Gideon. He looked past his faults and his weaknesses. The same is true for us today. God sees our hearts. He knows who we truly are. God knows that we have weaknesses. God also knows that if we trust in Him, we have everything it takes to do the work He has called us to.

Paul tells us in I Corinthians 1:26-29, that God chooses foolish things to shame the wise and the weak to shame the strong. You may think you are weak, but God knows with Him, you are strong.

Idol Worship Is Unacceptable

People today can often forget that we worship idols too. They don't look the same as they did in Gideon's time. While we don't have golden calves in our yards, we hold wealth, status, time, and many other things as idols. Anything that separates us from God is an idol.

Gideon has been living in a family that has turned from their God. They have been worshipping Baal and most likely, so was Gideon. After Gideon has realized that it is the sovereign Lord speaking, he follows the instruction to take down his father's altar to Baal and the Asherah pole beside it.

God still asks that we tear down the idols in our lives. He instructs us to not let anyone, or anything come between Him and us. Idols were not acceptable then, and they are not acceptable today. We cannot serve to masters and we cannot carry out the work Christ has for us when we have idols in our lives.

We Are All Unfinished Products

The beginning of Gideon's story paints the picture of a young man who is scared, complacent, and hiding from his enemies. Fear has infiltrated Gideon's heart and the hearts of all Israelites. The tribe of Manasseh is weak, and Gideon doesn't seem to have much hope of life getting any better. Some readers may even call Gideon a coward.

First, we must consider Gideon's age. We don't know the exact number, but we do know he is the youngest son in his family. Most likely, Gideon still has some growing and learning to do. His faith was weak, yet he sought out the Lord's guidance.

Not once but three times in Gideon's story, we read his requests for God to give him a sign. Clearly, Gideon was second-guessing what was happening. He wanted to be sure he was interpreting the instructions correctly. Gideon was still growing in his faith, and God was gracious in answering Gideon's request for a sign.

What we can take away from this is that, like Gideon, we are an unfinished product. Only with the guidance of God can we grow and strengthen our faith.

Next issue we complete our series on Judge Gideon with the **Six Reminders from the life of Gideon; Let no man rule your life, a Little can be a lot, and It is easy to fall away from God.**

PRAYER LIST

John Paul Moore * Loraine Perry * Martha Proctor * Whitney Robiho * Joyce Decuir * Catherine Murray * Patricia Armstrong * Lorenzia Dardone

Betty Camble * Elouise Noel * Betty Dupas * Earl Bourgeois * Mary L. Boutte * Cecilia Bazile * Denise Chutz Fred Dejuan * Loretta Warren

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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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 Power of Love

Why is it that we are "commanded" to love? Wouldn't it be better if we were invited to love others? Isn't it true that no one can make us love another person? And if we love out of duty are we really loving at all?

There have been any number of people in my life that I personally have not liked to be around. Over the years, however, I have discovered that my life is about more than getting along, or obtaining what I want, or experiencing pleasant circumstances.

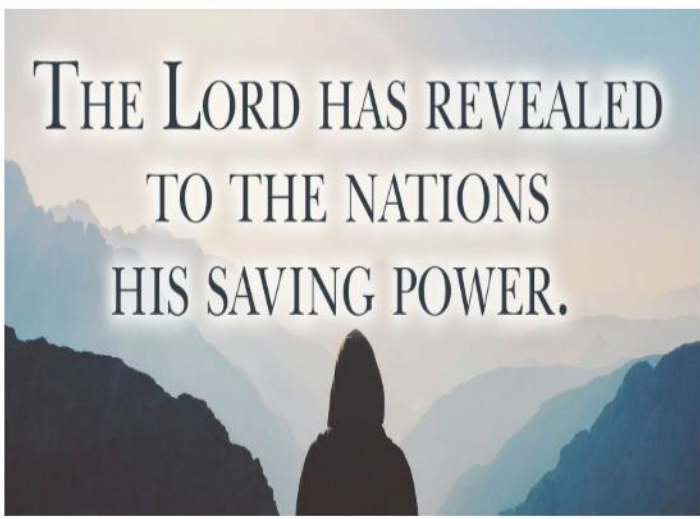
As a Christian, my life is no longer my own. I have been given the grace to experience the absolute love of God poured out on me in the sacrament of baptism and the only response to that overwhelming and limitless gift of God's love and grace is to return love for love in as complete a manner as possible. As I put on the Lord Jesus, and I put into action his utter selfless loving here and now, in whatever situation I find myself in, I keep the one command I have been given by Jesus at the Last Supper: "This is my commandment: love one another as I love you." No, it is not a suggestion, if I feel like it, if it works out, or if it is to my benefit. That is not the way that Jesus loved us and it is not the way he commands us to love one another.

I will love you, even as I wrestle within a relationship, but I may not agree with you.
I will love you, even though I don't really prefer being around you.
I will love you, even though I will take steps to protect myself from your behaviors.
I will love you because Jesus has loved me and because Jesus loves you.
Love gives meaning to all the other commandments.
Love gives meaning to every suffering.

The power of love alone can give ultimate direction even to the hard realism of economics and politics and social strife and issues of social injustice and disparity. Love alone can break these open so they serve the world in charity.

Just before his death, Jesus talked about love, unity, friendship, glory, and joy, that the love the Father has for Jesus may be in us and that Jesus may be in us. If we focus on love, all else will follow. Love will lead us to unity and glory and joy, as Jesus is in us and we in him so that we may be brought to complete unity.

This love is the bedrock of our Christian life. If we miss this we have missed everything. The "command" should make it really stand out to us so that we keep this front and center in our journey to becoming and loving like Christ.



Mass Intentions - May 4 - 7, 2024

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------|--|
| Saturday | 5pm | Marcella Keyes <i>By: Wessie</i> |
| Sunday | 8am | Lester & Ronnie Gauthier <i>By: Danna, Mary & Edward</i> |
| | 11am | Clara Raby <i>By: Bridget & Tori Crockett</i> |
| Tuesday | 5pm | People of the Parish |

Stewardship - April 28, 2024



Regular Collection
\$5,158



School Support
\$286

Sixth Sunday of Easter Who Needs Love?

Part of the first reading from Acts that we don't hear is a vision Peter has, in which God tells him that all foods are OK to eat; no longer are some unclean. He later realizes that the vision was a symbol that all people are "clean," Gentiles as well as Jews. All are called to have faith in Jesus. Not all of the early Christians understood. The Jewish Christians were shocked that the Holy Spirit would give gifts, such as speaking in tongues, to Gentiles. Especially Gentiles who had not been baptized.

Now the distinction between Gentile and Jewish Christians doesn't seem very important today. But we still need to follow St. Peter's example of sharing our faith in Jesus. We seem to be more interested in converting other Christians than in bringing non-Christians to the faith. Does that mean we should drag any non-believers we meet to church on Sunday? Should we brag about how much we love God?

Today's gospel gives us a hint at what we can do to bring others to Christ. Jesus makes it sound simple: Love one another as I love you. (Jn 15:12) Remember that God's love for us comes first. That's why the Gentiles in the first reading received the gifts of the Spirit before they were baptized. The second reading from John tells us that love is not people loving God; it's that God loved us first, enough to send his Son to die for us. We may think that we have chosen to love and follow Jesus, but as the gospel tells us, Jesus chose us before we ever chose him. So maybe that part about loving others as Jesus loves us is not so much about being willing to die for those you love. It may just be our willingness to love others without requiring that they love us first.


How can we do that? I can introduce myself to someone new to the parish that I see in church. I can offer to help the poor without waiting for the pastor to beg. I can be courteous to other drivers, letting them go in front of me in heavy traffic. I can make a priority of seeing what I can do for others, instead of what they can do for me. Perhaps part of our daily prayer can be asking God to show us who needs our love today.

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