

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER



CATHOLIC CHURCH

1120 MYRTLE WALK
BATON ROUGE, LA 70802

Rev. Ugochukwu Henry Ihuoma, SSJ
Pastor

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
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. HENRY IHUOMA'S 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.

God Helps Us Cast Off Sin

In today's Gospel, we read that Christ said to His followers: "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe [in me] to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were put around his neck and he were thrown into the sea." He then goes on to say that if your hand, foot, or eye cause you to sin, you should cut it off or pluck it out. Now, we need not take Jesus literally and begin to chop off body parts. He certainly does not want us to harm ourselves. But He does want us to get rid of the source of sin in our lives.

What does that look like today? It could be a toxic friend who leads us away from Christ rather than to Him. It could be social media or a TV show that causes us to forgo our faith or to do something contrary to the commandments. Or it could be spending too much time on our phone and putting this "idol" before God.

Anything that leads us away from God should be cast away. But that takes a lot of moral courage. It takes us having—and sustaining—the ability to ask God for His help, to take His hand, and to allow Him to lead us. This is especially difficult when others make fun of us, when others call us names or rebuke us for our faith, or when things don't seem to go our way. During these times, we may feel abandoned by those on Earth and by God.

This loneliness can lead to despair. And that despair can pitch us into anger or even resentment, which of course can lead to sinful behavior. And you know what? That's exactly what the evil one wants. In fact, he revels in those feelings because they create distance between us and God. So as we think about driving out the things that cause us to sin, we must remember that those things include the feelings and the thoughts that pull away from our Lord.

That is why a solid prayer life is so vital. When we feel these dark thoughts creeping in on us, when we feel them about to overtake us, or when we notice things of the outside world replacing things of the spiritual world, that is when we must train ourselves to press the proverbial pause button and find a quiet place to pray, to give ourselves to God, to listen to Him, and to tell Him we trust in Him.

Better yet, go see Him in Adoration. Sit with Him. Ask for the courage and the strength to battle the evil affecting you and to cut from your life the things causing you to sin. This is what Christ asks of us. This is how we can grow closer to Him.

By Susan Ciancio

PRAYER LIST

John Paul Moore * Loraine Perry * Martha Proctor * Whitney Robiho * Joyce Decuir * Patricia Armstrong

Elouise Noel * Betty Dupas * Denise Chutz * Fred Dejuan * Loretta Warren * Lorenzia Dardone

Elizabeth Whitfield * Linda Gills-Beshears * Phyllis White * Mary E. Bourgeois * Easton Charles

Welcome to St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, Baton Rouge, LA



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.

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Did you ever notice how often the angels are referred to during Mass? We commonly meet them in the Confiteor ("I ask blessed Mary, every virgin, all the angels and saints"), prefaces ("with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven"), the Roman Canon ("we pray that your angel may take this sacrifice"), and Eucharistic Prayer IV ("countless hosts of angels stand before you to do your will"). Last week and this week angels abound as we celebrated Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael yesterday and will honor the Guardian Angels on October 2.

September 29 was originally the feast day for Michael alone. Gabriel and Raphael joined him in the 1969 reform of the Church calendar. The celebration of the Guardian Angels has been observed since the sixteenth century in Spain. Pope Clement X assigned the feast to the first free day after St. Michael's in 1670, and there it has remained. Take some time this week to reflect on these, God's messengers and our protectors, and maybe even celebrate with a little angel food cake!

—Rev. James Field

SENIOR BURGER BASH!! The Ladies Auxiliary will be hosting our annual Senior Burger bash on Saturday, September 28 after the 5:00 mass. There is no cost, so come and bring another senior friend to join us to play games, enjoy food and win prizes.

Weekday Masses

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday at 9am

Mass Intentions Sept 28 - Aug 4, 2024

Saturday	5pm	Brenda Landry (R) <i>By: Leslie Coates</i>
Sunday	8am	Karen Jones Curtis <i>By: Wilma Greene & Family</i>
	11am	Maria P. Rice <i>By: Ronald Saizon</i>
		Sylvanus & Patricia Nwosu (H) <i>By: Ejigiri Family</i>
Tuesday	5pm	Joseph Nelson (R) <i>By: Daughters</i>
Friday	9am	Reginald Thomas (M) <i>By: Friends</i>



Stewardship

	Sept 22
Regular Collection:	\$6,321
Online Support:	\$1,070
Flowers:	\$23
Parish Needs:	\$263
School Support:	\$65

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Exclusive Membership

The first reading might be what Jesus was talking about when he scolded the disciples. They wanted to stop an exorcist whom they didn't know. In both cases, whether prophesying or driving out demons, someone wanted them to stop. Why? Because the persons doing those things were not members of the group. In the gospel, the disciples objected simply because they didn't know the ones who were casting out demons. Back in Moses' days, the two "renegades" were actually on the list, they just weren't present with the rest gathered around Moses. Both Joshua and the disciples of Jesus thought they should control who could do God's work and who couldn't.

It reminds me of the pastor sprinkling people with holy water during Easter season. If I didn't feel the water, I was disappointed because I was "left out." But Father was intending to bless everyone; he just couldn't control where the holy water went. I wanted to control the pastor, to make him throw the water more carefully.

The temptation to control things is pretty common, but we can't be truly at peace till we allow God to be the one in control. God loves all people, even those who don't know him. So if we see someone who has a spiritual gift, it could be God's way of helping that person to know about His love. It might not be prophesying or driving out demons. There are many non-Christians who are very generous or patient or wise, who could come to faith if they realized that God was acting through them. You don't have to bowl them over with evangelistic fervor. Just the observation that you see God's love in them might get them thinking about their faith.

The Apostles Creed reminds us that the Church is catholic, or universal. All are welcome, because Jesus died for everyone. As Moses said in the first reading, wouldn't it be great if God sent his gifts of the Spirit to them all?

Tom Schmidt