

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER



CATHOLIC CHURCH

1120 MYRTLE WALK
BATON ROUGE, LA 70802

stfrancisxavierbr.org

Rev. Ugochukwu "Henry" Ihuoma, SSJ
Pastor

PARISH OFFICE:

MRS. MARVA KADOR WILLIAMS ~ SECRETARY
1134 JULIA STREET
BATON ROUGE, LA 70802
9:00 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:

CHRISTOPHER J. ROGERS, PhD ~ PRINCIPAL
1150 SOUTH 12TH STREET
BATON ROUGE, LA 70802
7:30 AM TO 4:00 PM
225.387.6639 OR 225.387.6630
FAX: 225.383.1215
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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
SATURDAY:	EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION—3:30 PM

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.

PSR News March 2025

09 PSR Class - 1st Sunday of Lent – Parts for the live stations of the cross will be handed out during class.

First Sunday of Lent

Now that our Candidate for Continuing Conversion, who was inquiring about the Catholic Faith (*Inquiry is the first of four steps in the initiation process to become Catholic*) and has been steadfastly going through the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) process and has been introduced to our parish family and has been sent (the *Rite of Sending*) to Bishop Michael Duca or his representative at St. Joseph's Cathedral for the Rite of Election. She will no longer be considered a Candidate but an Elect. Since she has already been baptized, she will receive the sacraments of Holy Communion (*the Eucharist*) and Confirmation (*the Rite of Initiation*) during the Easter Vigil Mass, thus completing the initiation cycle. After being fully initiated into the Catholic Faith and into our local Parish Family, what's next?

Mystagogy

The fourth stage of the [Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults](#) is called "mystagogy," from the Greek words meaning "to lead through the mysteries." Traditionally, mystagogy extends throughout the Easter season until the feast of Pentecost. This is a period of accompaniment for new Catholics as they discover what it means to fully participate in the sacramental mysteries of the Church. The newly baptized are called "neophytes," from the Greek words meaning "new plant," because the faith has been newly planted in them. Even though their catechetical preparation has been completed, they still have much to learn about what it means to live as Catholic Christians. During Mystagogy, new Catholics will reflect on their experience of conversion, learn more about the Church, and consider how they might get involved in ministry and outreach. Neophytes will need the ongoing support of the community so that the faith newly planted in them can grow deep roots. The RCIA coordinator in your parish probably noticed your faithful service and thought that you would be an excellent role model for your community's neophytes. Joining them in a mystagogy session gives you an opportunity to share your faith with them and encourage them as they continue their own new journey of faith.

Pope Benedict XVI's encyclical *Sacramentum Caritatis*, Section 64, is entitled 'Mystagogical Catechesis'. There it says, '*The Church's great liturgical tradition teaches us that fruitful participation in the liturgy requires that one be personally conformed to the mystery being celebrated, offering one's life to God in unity with the sacrifice of Christ for the salvation of the whole world... The mature fruit of mystagogy is an awareness that one's life is being progressively transformed by the holy mysteries being celebrated. The aim of all Christian education, moreover, is to train the believer in an adult faith that can make him a "new creation", capable of bearing witness in his surroundings to the Christian hope that inspires him.*'

As can be concluded by the above meaning of "mystagogy," joining the Catholic Church is truly a lifetime commitment.

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 * Patricia Tyson

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

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 or scan the QR Code.
Mail: St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, 1120 Myrtle Walk Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802



SCAN ME

All online methods are safe and secured. Thank you for your generosity!

Bible Study

We will be having our Bible Study every Thursday at 6 pm at the Parish Office.

Birthday & Wedding Anniversary Celebration

On the last Weekend of each Month, we will say a prayer at each mass for those celebrating their birthday and anniversary for that Month and have a light refreshment for them on Sunday at 9:30 am. Join us!

Parish Office

2024 Annual Statement of Offerings were mailed on January 31, 2025. If you do not receive your statement, contact the parish secretary.

A number of parishioners requested envelopes in 2024 and did not receive them. Please contact the new parish to verify your new address in order to receive your envelopes. Thank you.



"Register your child for the SFX School 2025-26, The Mustang Experience Awaits You." For more information, visit www.sfxbr.org or scan the QR Code.

Enrolling Grades K - 8

(225) 387-6639



We are receiving donations for our fish fry fundraiser. Each family can support us by donating \$100 for a case of fish. We receive cash and check. You can also give online on the Parish Website. Please indicate the purpose of your collection on your check or envelope or online giving. Thanks for your continued support.

Upcoming Events in the Parish

- *GriefShare Ministry– Wednesday, 6 pm.
- *30 days Prayers to St. Joseph, Feb. 18 - Mar. 19.
- *Food Pantry Personal Hygiene Drive from March 1 through March 30.
- *Fish Fry, every Friday, 10am –2pm.
- *Station of the Cross, every Friday, 3 pm.
- *COPE workshop, March 15, 10 am - 11:30 am.
- *Lenten Revival - March 17 through March 19.
- *Feast of St. Joseph, March 19.
- *Birthday and Anniversary Celebration, March 30, @ 9:30 am.

Mass Intentions March 08-14, 2025

Saturday	5pm	The People of the Parish
Sunday	8am	For our sick parishioners
	11am	Geraldine Jack <i>By: Children, Grand, & Great grands</i>
Tuesday	5pm	Nixon Mullah, SSJ <i>By: Parish</i>
Wednesday	9am	GriefShare Ministry
Friday	9am	St. Francis Xavier School

Stewardship February 23, 2025

Regular Collection:	\$7,814.00
Online Support:	\$1464.72
Parish Needs:	\$306.00
School Support:	\$40.00



Thanks for your Generosity!

Today's Readings
Deuteronomy 26:4-10, Romans 10: 8 - 13, Luke 4: 1 – 13

Putting God to the Test

I always thought of the temptations in the desert as part of Jesus' growth in "wisdom, age, and grace" (Luke 2:52). They show how Jesus was tempted to be a Messiah in a way that matched human expectations—those of Jews waiting for a messiah—instead of doing what his Father wanted. So he could have provided for all our needs (turn stones into bread,) brought peace to the world as a great leader (worship the devil,) or been a superhero (jump off the temple without harm). But I also wonder if these temptations are what we expect of God.

Do we expect God to provide for our needs by turning stones into "bread" (i.e., money)? When we ask God to help us by doing everything for us, we are tempting the Lord. God does help us with our troubles, but usually by giving us the strength to get through them with our God-given abilities. This might mean finding a better job that uses more of our talents. It might be forgiving us, if we are the cause of our own troubles, and giving us the courage to start over. It might be a friend who helps us find the right doctor for a medical problem.

Or do we expect God to bring peace to the world by instantly removing all nuclear weapons or capturing all terrorists? When we pray for peace, we could pray that God show us what we can do to bring about that peace. We could follow Jesus' command to love those around us, so that peace spreads from our actions. We could be generous in giving to the poor, especially where poverty is the cause of war.

Maybe we expect God to be a superhero for us, curing diseases, stopping hurricanes or earthquakes, and strengthening our faith with spectacular miracles. Jesus would tell us the same thing he told the devil: "Don't put the Lord your God to the test" (see Luke 4:12). Instead, as we take time to pray over the scriptures, read spiritual books, and share our faith with others, we will find our faith growing and know that the Lord has been with us all along the way.

Tom Schmidt