

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
October 26, 2025

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER



CATHOLIC CHURCH

1120 MYRTLE WALK
BATON ROUGE, LA 70802

Rev. Ugochukwu "Henry" Ihuoma, SSJ
Pastor

stfrancisxavierbr.org

PARISH OFFICE:

MRS. MARVA KADOR WILLIAMS ~ SECRETARY

1134 JULIA STREET

BATON ROUGE, LA 70802

9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM

225.383.3479 OR 225.343.3709

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REV. UGOCHUKWU HENRY IHUOMA, SSJ.

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OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

MR JOHN YOUNG ~ DRE 225.343.3075 EXT 212

FAX: 225.388.5458

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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

EMAIL: CROGERS@SFXBR.ORG

WEBSITE: WWW.SFXBR.ORG



MASS SCHEDULE:

SATURDAY:

SUNDAY:

TUESDAY:

WED-FRI:

HOLYDAYS:

FRIDAY:

SATURDAY:

VIGIL ~ 5:00 PM

8:00 AM & 11:00 AM

OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP NOVENA~ 5:00 PM

9:00AM

9:00 AM & 6:00 PM

SCHOOL MASS 9:00AM

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION—3:30 PM

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM IS CELEBRATED ON THE 3RD 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 October 2025

26 PSR Class – 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time - PSR Ministry Round-up – Topic: Prepare Youth for Bible Study on Zoom – Plan Group Trips for Students

Witnessing to the Faith:

Disciples are called to be witnesses to their faith in their daily lives, sharing their experiences of God's loves with others.

"I give you a new commandment: Love one another as I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." Jn 13:34-35

Christ teaches us how to evangelize, how to invite people into communion with him, and how to create a culture of witness: namely, through love. A Christian life lived with charity and faith is the most effective form of evangelization. Evangelization testifies to the transformative power of the Gospel and the mission of the Church to sanctify society, hand on the faith to future generations, strengthen the faith of her members, and renew the faith of those who have slipped away from the Church:

"To create a culture of witness, we must live explicit lives of discipleship. Being a disciple is a challenge. Fortunately, one does not become a disciple of Christ on his or her own initiative. The work of the Holy Spirit within the Christian community forms the person as a disciple of Christ. One seeking to learn how to be a disciple of Christ does so through apprenticeship. Apprenticeship "links an experienced Christian believer, or mentor, with one who seeks a deeper relationship with Christ and the Church." Apprenticeship is an essential element in witnessing to the Gospel message. Furthermore, this relationship is a "guided encounter with the entire Christian life, a journey toward conversion to Christ. It is a school for discipleship that promotes an authentic following of Christ based on the acceptance of one's baptismal responsibilities, the internalization of the word of God, and the transformation of the whole person to 'life in Christ.'"

What a great vision for discipleship and accompaniment as an apprenticeship into following Jesus. If there is an initial takeaway from this idea of discipleship relationships via apprenticeship, it is this - these kind of relationships are inefficient and take time. In fact, it might take years (see Jesus and his disciples for a reference).

The commitment to living the Christian life provides an essential element of the culture of witness. To those seeking answers to the increasing secularization, individualism, and materialism of society, a Christian life provides a powerful witness to the Gospel. The public profession of one's faith through active participation in prayer, the sacraments, and especially Sunday Mass contributes to the sanctification of the world. Additionally, the works of charity and justice as well as the promotion of solidarity, justice, peace, and stewardship of creation build up the Kingdom of God. Increasingly, we recognize that generosity of spirit and commitment to charity and justice are vehicles to bring people into relationship with Jesus and his Church. Social justice and direct service opportunities provide powerful experiences with the person of Jesus, especially for adolescents and young adults. Service, when understood as serving Christ in others and as a means to share the Gospel, has the ability to bring the server and the one being served closer to Christ. The New Evangelization / USCCB

PRAYER LIST

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

Elouise Noel * Betty Dupas * Denise Chutz * Fred Dejuan * Loretta Warren * Lorenzia Dardone, * Roslyn Jones * Anita Liggins

*Elizabeth Whitfield *Linda Gills-Beshears Phyllis White * Mary E. Bourgeois *Easton Charles *Erica H. Louis*Alphonse Deconge III

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

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



SCAN ME

Bible Study

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

Baby Bottle Campaign

THANK YOU for the marvelous outpouring of generosity shown to the Pregnancy Problem Center by you, the parishioners of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church! Your Baby Bottle Campaign contributions totaling over \$1,500 far exceeded our expectations and for this we are most grateful.

These funds will be used for services and program expenses provided to women experiencing crisis or unplanned pregnancies, thereby HELPING to Save the LIVES and SOULS of at-risk-unborn babies. Please contact our staff to learn more or to refer a loved one or friend needing our compassionate support and services. Call 924.1400 or visit www.pregnancyproblemcenterbr.com. THANK YOU! Marie Kennedy, Fund Development Consultant



"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



Join us for
Adoration, Praise, and Worship
Every First Saturday from 3:00 - 4:30 pm

Upcoming Events in the Parish

- *Parish Council Meeting, October 28, 6 pm.
- *School Mass, Friday, October 31, 9 am.
- *Black Catholic History Month, November 2025.
- *Adoration, Praise & Worship, Saturday, November 1, 3 pm.
- *All Saints, November 1, 2025.
- *All Souls', November 2, 2025.

Mass Intentions October 25-31, 2025

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| Saturday | 5 pm | J. Raphael Boyd
<i>By: Marlene Boyd-Clark</i>
Leo M. BeauRegard
<i>By: Stephanie & Harlan Jones</i>
Debra Vavasseur Shaffers & Orna Ray Shaffers
<i>By: Family</i> |
| | | Martha Davis
<i>By: Philip & Connie Louis</i>
Trumilla Brown
<i>By: Philip & Connie Louis</i> |
| Sunday | 8 am | Edmund Doucette
<i>By: Crystal Doucette</i> |
| | 11 am | The People of the Parish |
| Tuesday | | Ceola Marcelle
<i>By: Weesie</i> |
| Wednesday - Friday | | Debra Vavasseur
<i>By: Family</i> |

Stewardship October 05, 2025

Regular Collection:	\$6251.00
Online Support:	\$1510.00
Parish Needs:	\$170.00
School Support:	\$290.00



Thanks for your Generosity!

Today's Readings
Sirach 35: 12-14, 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18, Luke 18: 9-14

To Boast or Not to Boast

The Gospel makes it pretty clear that exalting yourself is not the way into the Kingdom. So it might sound strange to hear Paul saying he competed well and finished the race and now expects the winner's crown. So why is he any different from the Pharisee in the Gospel?

The Pharisee probably was being honest about himself. Sure, he fasts and tithes, is not greedy or adulterous, but he misses the point. He thinks that justification, being right with God, comes from a person's accomplishments. He feels no need to ask for God's mercy. Yet if he relied on that mercy, he wouldn't boast about his good deeds. Instead, he would ask for God's mercy and then thank God by doing good or being generous. In other words, he put the cart before the horse. He thinks that God is waiting to be bribed with good deeds (or at least a lack of bad ones) so that he can be justified. "After all," thinks the Pharisee, "what else are good deeds for if not to make me look good?"

St. Paul, on the other hand, looks at his life as a Pharisee and is amazed that God forgave his "good works" of keeping the law and persecuting Christians. He is so grateful for God's mercy that he can't wait to tell everyone about Jesus and how he loves us. His boasting is not about what he has done for God; it's more about what God has done through him. In verse 17, he credits God, who gave him the strength to preach the Good News.

Maybe you have examples of what God has done in your life: the people God sent to love you, the talents or abilities God gave you, the times God forgave your sins. Are you so grateful for what God has done that you want to do more for God? Or do you go to church, put your offering in the collection, and work a booth at the parish picnic so that God will be grateful to you? It sounds obvious when put that way, but it is tempting to think that God loves us more when we do good things. Remember that God loved St. Paul while he was still persecuting Christians, loved him enough not only to forgive him but to make him into a great apostle. Why waste your time trying to earn that love, when you could be doing whatever you can to thank God for it?

Tom Schmidt