

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER



CATHOLIC CHURCH

1120 MYRTLE WALK
BATON ROUGE, LA 70802

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Pastor

Deacon Henry Ihuoma, SSJ

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 ~THURS:	6:30 AM IN CONVENT
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.

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today's readings from Isaiah and Matthew evoke the powerful metaphor of light as an image of the community gathered by God. Jesus speaks of his followers as "light of the world": they are not the source of light, but a mirror reflecting the brightness of God. This light does not call attention to itself, but enables beauty to be revealed and celebrated, and sinfulness to be exposed and healed. The light of this community is not primarily for itself, but fulfills its purpose when it shines upon the world. The light that we the Church bring to our world can be hidden by "bushels" sometimes imposed by others and sometimes of our own making. Our lights may flicker and die under stress. What might sustain the brightness of our own small light? Our ongoing practices of community prayer, discernment, and action allow God to illumine our Church, day by day.

CROSS-SHAPED MINISTRY

Saint Paul, in today's passage from First Corinthians, admits he is not a salesman. He did not come to Corinth with a sales pitch, with skilled rhetoric and worldly wisdom. Paul says that he simply came to speak of Christ crucified. For Paul, the cross is God's primary self-revelation, and the whole life of following Christ is marked by it. Paul describes this cross-shaped ministry by how he first preached it: with humility and fear. He was a messenger who looked weak by the standards of society, in order that the Spirit might break through to his listeners.

We may know or have read of those who spoke or lived with a cross-shaped presence. Perhaps a missionary who humbly served a community while preaching Christ. Or a group of protesters against injustice, who faced violent resistance with dignity and persistence. They open a space for the Spirit to transform hearts. Paul suggests that making ourselves vulnerable makes love possible.

LEARNING HOW TO BE CHURCH

Following last week's passage from Matthew with the Beatitudes, today we continue Jesus' Sermon on the Mount with his images of salt, light, and a city. Jesus moves from describing the core identity of the community he has gathered to considering its impact on the world. He wanted his community not just to claim its identity, but to live it out. He wanted his community to journey with him, to fully learn what this might mean.

For us, being salt for others may mean engaging and enriching the lives of our neighbors. Being light may mean illuminating and addressing the world's systems that sustain social sins of violence, racism, and vast inequalities of wealth and opportunity. Being a city set high may mean holding to high standards of transparency, respect, and care for each other. Like Jesus' first followers, we are invited to travel the difficult and joy-filled road of learning and re-learning how to be the Church.

SFX CENTENNIAL COOKBOOKS
MAKES A GREAT GIFT
FOR ONLY \$20.00

PRAY FOR US

Richard Camble, Jr.	John Paul Moore	Catherine Murray
Frazier Jordan	Loraine Perry	Joyce Decuir
Elizabeth Whitfield	Martha Proctor	John Ristic
Zelda Bates	Maria Rice	Betty Camble
Elaine Johnson	Whitney Robiho	Elouise Noel
Linda Gills-Beshears	Bridget Taylor	Cora Scott-Green
Mary Johnson	Chavon D. White	Betty Dupas
	Phyllis White	

Mass Intentions for February 4 - 7, 2023

Saturday	5pm	Deceased family & ancestors <i>By: Van Do</i>
Sunday	8am	Lester & Ronnie Gauthier <i>By: Edward, Mary Danna & Damien</i>
	11am	David Williams, Jr. <i>By: Nancy Cortez</i>
Tuesday	5pm	People of the parish



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 LIGHT OF SERVICE

The prophet Isaiah inspires us with these words: "Light shall rise for you in the darkness, and the gloom shall become for you like midday." All of us celebrating the liturgy today praise God for these words of encouragement. Surely each of us knows the gloomy side of life, but today's readings propose a brilliant antidote to misery: the light of service. Isaiah focuses on physical suffering, telling us to provide food, clothing, housing, and equal opportunity to those with limited resources. Moving beyond material needs, Saint Paul demonstrates how to proceed humbly when attending to people's spiritual needs. Saint Matthew's Gospel stirs us to bold action: whatever gifts we have, we must put them at the service of our communities. As Christians, we must engage with one another without holding back, letting our light shine before all.

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ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES
9am & 6pm

Stations of the cross at 2pm on Fridays during Lent

When we put our problems in God's hands, he puts his peace in our hearts.

Don't ask God to guide your steps if you are not willing to move your feet.

OUR FASCINATING FAITH
 Our Lady of Lourdes (February 11)

On February 11, 1858, fourteen-year-old Bernadette Soubirous, the oldest of nine children in a poor family from Lourdes, France, saw Our Lady in the first of eighteen apparitions. At the grotto of Massabielle, Bernadette saw "a small lady in white" who invited her to return each day. During the visions the Lady communicated a message of penance, instructed Bernadette to dig so that a spring of water began to flow, requested that a chapel be built there at the grotto, and eventually identified herself by saying "I am the Immaculate Conception." Throughout these apparitions, Our Lady addressed Bernadette in a formal way, treating the humble girl with dignity. In 1862 the authenticity of the apparitions was confirmed by Church authorities. The Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes was recognized worldwide in 1907. Lourdes became a place of pilgrimage for thousands of the faithful; their faith and the faith of many others was revitalized through the story of a simple young girl from rural France.

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HomeStart

Early Childhood Education & Technology Project
 For children 16 to 28 months old who are not in Day Care or Head Start
 Free books, educational toys and more for EBRP Housing Authority Communities and families with children receiving SNAP or Medicaid
 Register now! For more information call 225.928.8484

Stewardship - January 29, 2023

Regular Collection
\$7,151.12
Parish Needs
\$97
School Support
\$100
Flowers
\$25



The Junior Daughters Ct# 12 (Little Flowers) are still collecting "Pull Tabs". If you have any, please leave them at the back of the church.

**PLEASE SEND US ONLY 150
COPIES OF THE BULLETIN THAT WE
ARE SUBMITTING FOR
February 5, 2023**