

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER



CATHOLIC CHURCH

1120 MYRTLE WALK
BATON ROUGE, LA 70802

Very Rev. Edward Chiffriller, SSJ
Pastor

stfrancisxavierbr.org

PARISH OFFICE:

MS. EBONY RILEY ~ SECRETARY
1134 JULIA STREET
BATON ROUGE, LA 70802
8:00 AM TO 3:00 PM
225.383.3479 OR 225.343.3709
FAX: 225.388.5458
EMAIL-SECRETARY@SFXC.BRCOXMAIL.COM
WEBSITE-STFRANCISXAVIERBR.ORG
REV. EDWARD CHIFFRILLER CELL: 225.571.8233
EMAIL~ EJCHIFFSSJ@AOL.COM

OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

MR JOHN YOUNG ~ DRE 225.343.3075 EXT 212
FAX: 225.388.5458
EMAIL:SFXPSR@SFXC.BRCOXMAIL.COM

SCHOOL OFFICE:

MS. PAULA JOHNSON ~ 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: PJOHNSON@SFXBR.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.

Tending the Soil of Our Souls

The Parable of the Sower helped me understand the transformative power of spending time daily with the Word of God, especially in overcoming obstacles to living the Catholic faith.

Although the Catholic Mass is seeped in Scriptures, it took me years to realize it; not exactly sure where in my catechesis the communication breakdown occurred, but the fact remains that the seeds, the Word of God, had been scattered before me, my entire life. However, like the seeds strewn on the rocky path in the parable, although the Word had reached my ears, the devil took full advantage of my ignorance and snatched the meaning away before it could penetrate my heart.

At times, I attempted to grow spiritually by attending retreats or presentations. These set my heart on fire for the things of God. All my senses heightened — the incense smelled sweeter, the readings felt more inspired, the homilies touched deep into my heart as if they were written just for me; even kneeling in prayer felt more reverent. Filled with this renewed desire to become closer to God, I vowed to pray a daily Rosary, attend Mass more faithfully, and not give into my fears by continuing to avoid the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Yet, over time all those things I had discovered to nourish my budding faith — the encouraging retreat team, consistent study of the Scriptures, or quiet time for prayer — faded. I did not stick with anything long enough to develop deep roots of faith, and my attention to God withered away. Left with a thirst for more yet unable to duplicate the euphoric feelings of my retreat experiences, I allowed the thorns of the world to grow all around me. Any seeds dropped would be choked by the weeds of daily worries, concerns, and tasks.

Prayer dissolved into a speedy blessing before meals, a quick petition as I tried to make our income cover our expenses, or an Our Father or Hail Mary as I drifted off to sleep; all prayed more out of habit than a yearning for a deeper faith. My weekly Mass participation spurned more out of a desire for perfect attendance and a heavenly insurance policy than a love of the Lord.

Finally, joining a small group faith sharing tilled the rich soil necessary for true spiritual growth. However, even rich soil needs consistent tending for seeds to continue flourishing within it—weeds of distraction, busyness, and apathy need constant extraction, or they will completely overtake our time with the Lord. Fertilizing the soil is critical. Our faith is watered and nurtured by what I refer to as the "Grace Trifecta," which consists of daily participation in prayer, sacrament, and Scripture. Our beautiful Catholic faith provides the gardening tools for an abundant harvest; we merely need to pick them up and tend the soil of our souls.

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
Phyllis White	Chavon D. White	Betty Dupas
Mary E. Bourgeois	Mary L. Boutte	Earl Bourgeois

Mass Intentions for July 15 – 18, 2023

Saturday	5pm	Dr. Melvin Jones <i>By: Phyllis White & Family</i>
Sunday	8am	William "Tex" Turner <i>By: Wife & kids</i>
	11am	Reginald Thomas <i>By: Classmates</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.

SFX Ladies Auxiliary Court #12
Annual Back to School Give-a-way Raffle

St. Francis Xavier - Ladies Auxiliary Court #12 annual back to school raffle will be held on July 30, 2023. Four (4) Walmart gift cards in the amount of \$50 per card will be awarded to eligible students enrolled in grades k-12.

Raffle forms are located in the back of the church. To be eligible for this year's raffle, the following criteria will be implemented:

- the student/parents/guardian will have to be a member of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church.
- Only (1) raffle per student

Please note that only (1) student per family will be declared a winner.

Faith is trusting God even when you don't understand His plan.

JOIN US FOR PRAYING THE ROSARY
EVERY SUNDAY EVENING @ 7PM
Just dial 1 720 7409653
And enter access code **5217381#**

When you pray God listens, when you listen God talks, when you believe god works!



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

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

HELP NEEDED BY WELLNESS MINISTRY
The Wellness Ministry is in need of someone with knowledge of publisher software such as Canva, Microsoft Publisher, etc. for our quarterly newsletter. If you can assist us, please contact Jonalyn Nunnery at 225 266-3263.

Weekday Masses
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday
at 9am

Stewardship - July 9, 2023

	<p>Regular Collection \$9,353</p> <p>Parish Needs \$290</p> <p>Building Fund \$700</p> <p>School Support \$207</p>	
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Themes for the 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The readings for the 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A tell of how our relationship with God helps us grow, which in turn allows our lives to bear fruit. The first reading explains that God's Word is like the rain, which falls on the earth and makes it fertile. The second reading reminds us that a new creation is going to emerge. And in the gospel Jesus tells the parable of the sower and explains that our hearts must be ready to receive the Word of God.

- **God's Word:** The first reading highlights the power and effectiveness of God's word, comparing it to rain and snow that bring nourishment and produce fruitful results.
 - **Spiritual Nourishment:** The imagery of rain and snow in the passage symbolizes the spiritual nourishment and refreshment that come from engaging with God's word, highlighting the life-giving nature of Scripture.
 - **Receptive Hearts:** Jesus teaches about the different types of hearts or dispositions of people who hear the word of God, emphasizing the importance of having a receptive heart that receives and embraces the message.
 - **Responses to God's Word:** The parable illustrates various responses to the word of God, including unbelief, superficial faith, distractions, and genuine faith and fruitfulness.
- Fruitfulness and Growth:** The parable emphasizes the power of God's word, depicting the potential for growth and abundant fruitfulness in the lives of those who receive and apply it.