

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 12, 2024

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER



CATHOLIC CHURCH

1120 MYRTLE WALK
BATON ROUGE, LA 70802

Very Rev. Edward Chiffreller, SSJ
Pastor

Rev. Henry Ihuoma, SSJ
Parochial Vicar

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 AM
HOLIDAYS:	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 CHIFFRELLER 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.

Jesus our Model

Here we are at the Solemnity of the Ascension, one of the highest feast days in the Church calendar. We hear the story of the Ascension in the Gospel today, but notice what comes right before Jesus ascends into heaven. He asks for the apostles to go out to all the world and preach the good news.

The way I see it, Jesus didn't just come to die for our sins and open the gates of heaven. That would have been more than enough, of course, but it seems pretty clear from today's Gospel that Jesus also came to be our model. He came to show us what it truly means to be human, how to act, and what our destiny is.

Because we live in a world that has amnesia about how we were created and by whom, it is sometimes difficult for us to realize how beautifully and wonderfully we were all made and the purpose God has for us. It is easier to believe the lie that we don't have free will, that sin is too powerful, and that the best we can do, if we are lucky, is just to be kind to others and keep our heads down.

That sounds like a pretty lame existence, but thankfully we are reminded today that we aren't supposed to fall into the trap of mediocrity. God wants us to be on fire for the love and mercy he brings, he wants us to bring that same fire to others, and most importantly, he wants to remind us of our destiny. If we follow his example then we will one day be brought up into heaven as well. Maybe not in the same way as Jesus was, but make no mistake, our destiny is to be happy with God forever and to bring as many of our friends and family with us as we can by preaching the saving power of the Gospel.

This is why the very first paragraph in the Catechism states, "God, infinitely perfect and blessed in himself, in a plan of sheer goodness freely created man to make him share in his own blessed life. For this reason, at every time and in every place, God draws close to man. He calls man to seek him, to know him, to love him with all his strength. He calls together all men, scattered and divided by sin, into the unity of his family, the Church. To accomplish this, when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son as Redeemer and Saviour. In his Son and through him, he invites men to become, in the Holy Spirit, his adopted children and thus heirs of his blessed life." There is nothing lame about our call and our destiny. Now let's get out there and live it!

From all of us here at Diocesan, God bless!

By Tommy Shultz

PRAYER LIST

John Paul Moore * Loraine Perry * Martha Proctor * Whitney Robiho * Joyce Decuir * Catherine Murray * Patricia Armstrong * Lorenzia Dardone

Betty Camble * Elouise Noel * Betty Dupas * Earl Bourgeois * Mary L. Boutte * Cecila Bazile * Denise Chutz Fred Dejuan * Loretta Warren

Richard Camble, Jr.* Elizabeth Whitfield * Elaine Johnson * Linda Gills-Beshears * Phyllis White * Mary E. Bourgeois



Through trials and tribulations, by God's grace, we triumph!

3 Ways to Give St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church

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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 Ascension of the Lord

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Today's celebration varies from place to place. In some parts of the United States, people gather for the Seventh Sunday of Easter, while other places celebrate the Ascension of the Lord. Several years ago, regions of bishops were permitted to decide whether to retain Ascension Day on Thursday, the fortieth day after Easter, or to move the celebration to the nearest Sunday. This new flexibility in the Christian calendar has to do with the desire to gather the Church to celebrate its central feasts fully, and with the Eucharist. Increasingly, as priests serve remote and scattered parishes, this is not always possible mid-week.

The Ascension is a key moment for grasping what life in Christ is all about. It is not about a departure, but rather a plan for presence. We who are nourished by the Lord's body and blood in the Eucharist are transformed to be his abiding presence in the world. That is a truth so worth celebrating that we can adjust our calendar in order that the fullest possible gathering of the Church can be achieved.

—Rev. James Field



Mass Intentions - May 11-17, 2024

Saturday	5pm	Desmond Jackson, Jr. <i>By: Patrick & Desmarie Jackson Decuir</i>
Sunday	8am	Happy Mother's Day
	11am	Happy Mother's Day
Tuesday	5pm	Father Coates 35th Anniversary <i>By: Leslie Coates & Courtney Lee Jackson</i>
Friday	5pm	Juanita Culbert <i>By: Camille Fleet</i>

Stewardship - May 5, 2024



Regular Collection
\$9,107
School Support
\$190
Parish Needs
\$668
Building Fund
\$700



The Ascension of the Lord - Exalted in Glory

All three readings talk about Jesus being taken up into heaven or in a cloud or on high. Remember that in the Old Testament, a cloud was a sign of God's presence. So these descriptions of the ascension actually tell us that Jesus is reunited with his Father and exalted in glory with the Father. Jesus not only has a new life that cannot be ended by death, he also is no longer limited by time or space as he was before he died. So what does that mean for us?

Because he is not limited, he can be with us everywhere. So everything we do for him (being patient with a child or elderly person, caring for the poor or the sick, forgiving someone who hurt us) is done with Jesus. Through his Spirit, he gives us the power and the courage to act as Jesus and the vision of faith to see Jesus in others.

Seeing Jesus in others takes some practice. Think of it as a learning process. One way we learn is through the lives of the saints. They start out as ordinary people who give their lives to Jesus. As we read or hear about them, we see how God works through them to do great things. We learn that they become more and more like Jesus, in how they treat others with love and respect.

But if the saints seem too distant, we can look at someone we love. Whether it is a parent, spouse, brother, sister or friend, the good that they do and the love they show is from God. So we can learn about God's love for us by letting ourselves be loved by another. Take time to thank God for those who love you and ask him to open your eyes to see Jesus in them.

The other side of the coin is seeing Jesus in ourselves. We may have to forgive ourselves for the bad choices we have made in the past, or the bad habits we still have. We also have to accept that God really does love us as his children. And we have to accept that sometimes, even when we do our best, we still seem to fail. Remember, to the world of Jesus' time, he looked like a failure: He was executed as a criminal, his few followers all went into hiding, and the one he picked as his successor (Peter) denied even knowing him. But the God who brings life out of death also brings success out of failure. So trust his promise that we have Jesus in us. Then do your best to follow Jesus and you may lead someone else to him.

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