

Second Sunday In Ordinary Time
January 19, 2025

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER



CATHOLIC CHURCH

1120 MYRTLE WALK
BATON ROUGE, LA 70802

Rev. Ugochukwu Henry Ihuoma, SSJ
Pastor

stfrancisxavierbr.org

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MRS. MARVA KADOR WILLIAMS ~ SECRETARY

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9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM

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SCHOOL OFFICE:

CHRISTOPHER J. ROGERS, PhD ~ PRINCIPAL

1150 SOUTH 12TH STREET

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MASS SCHEDULE:

SATURDAY:

SUNDAY:

TUESDAY:

WED-FRI:

HOLYDAYS:

FRIDAY:

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

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 January 2025

19 PSR Class – 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ordinary Time

Christmas Time and Easter Time highlight the central mysteries of the Paschal Mystery, namely, the incarnation, death on the cross, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ, and the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The Sundays and weeks of Ordinary Time, on the other hand, take us through the life of Christ. This is the time of conversion. This is living the life of Christ.

Ordinary Time is a time for growth and maturation, a time in which the mystery of Christ is called to penetrate ever more deeply into history until all things are finally caught up in Christ. The goal, toward which all of history is directed, is represented by the final Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe.

We continue our series on the **Kings vs. the Prophets** in the Bible with **Jehu vs. Elisha** and **Hezekiah vs. Isaiah** (2 Kings 18-20)

Jehu vs. Elisha

The centrality of the prophetic word continues in Elijah and his disciple, Elisha. In fact, a large textual stretch covering fourteen chapters (1 Kgs. 17 through 2 Kgs. 9) focuses primarily on the work of these two prominent prophets. It's their prophetic activity that drives the narrative forward.

One of Elisha's more notable confrontations is with King Jehu. He anoints Jehu in 2 Kings 9 and instructs him to wipe out Ahab's house. Upon becoming king, there's a bloody battle and assassination, and the story gets pretty messy. Then, in 2 Kings 10, Jehu destroys Baal worship from Israel as he should have but then continues to worship Jeroboam's golden calves at Bethel and Dan! He was not attentive to the word of the Lord, and he continued to lead Israel down a path of no return.

Israel was headed for disaster, and no one was to blame but themselves. The author pauses in 2 Kings 17 to make sure we know this. All the disaster that came on the northern kingdom was a direct result of its rejection of the word of the Lord. God sent them prophets to confront and correct them, but they persisted in patterns of idolatry, injustice, and rebellion until one day they were wiped out.

Hezekiah vs. Isaiah (2 Kings 18-20)

Unfortunately, Judah was headed towards the same outcome as her big sister. God sent prophets to warn Judah against imitating the ways of Israel. King Hezekiah responded positively to the prophetic word. He removed the high places and cut down the Asherah poles. 2 Kings 18-19 says that Hezekiah held fast to the Lord and kept his commandments. When Assyrian threat came, he cried out to God for help. Through the mediation of the prophet Isaiah, God heard and responded to Hezekiah. Finally a good guy! Right?

If only it were that simple. Later in his reign, Hezekiah makes some pretty foolish moves. When the superpower Babylon emerges as a world threat, Hezekiah invites Babylonian envoys into his storehouses and shows off all of his wealth. His pride makes him and his kingdom vulnerable to attack. This folly incites an oracle of judgment from Isaiah – Judah will also go into exile (2 Kgs. 20).

Next issue we conclude Kings vs. Prophets in the bible with: **Josiah vs. Huldah** and finish our series with **Prophetic History vs. Modern History**

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
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!

Bible Study

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

Birthday Celebration

On the last Sunday of each Month, we will say a prayer at each mass for those celebrating their birthday for that Month and have a light refreshment for them after the 8 am mass. Please join us. Don't miss Out.

GriefShare Ministry

A GriefShare support group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. At this 13-week group, you'll receive valuable guidance and tips, leading you to relief, comfort, and peace of mind. This ministry will begin on January 22, 2025. Please contact Paulette 888-6528, Jamie 975-7577 for more information.

Ministry

Is God calling you to join a ministry in our parish? Please feel free and sign up. There are applications at the back of the church for various ministries. You can meet the pastor or the ushers for further information. Thanks.

Proclaimers/Lectors: Seasoned and New

We will have a mandatory workshop for all Proclaimers on **Saturday, January 25, 2025**. This is an excellent opportunity for anyone wishing to join this ministry to attend the workshop as well. There will be a sign-up sheet at the back of the church. Please make every effort to attend.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Linda Narcisse at 225-937-4179 or email narc501@bellsouth.net.

Upcoming Events in the Parish

*GriefShare Ministry– **Wednesday, Jan 22, 6 pm.**

Altar Servers of all Ages

The Altar Server Ministry is seeking parishioners of all ages (youth to adults) to serve at masses. If you are interested in joining our ministry or are a current Altar Server, please attend our next training on January 25, 2025 at 9am in the church. New and existing Altar Servers are also asked to complete an Altar Server Information form located in the back of the church.

Mass Intentions Jan 18-23, 2025

Saturday	5pm	Maria P. Rice <i>By: Backrow Angels</i> Juanita Culbert <i>By: Camille Fleet</i>
Sunday	8am	People of the Parish
	11am	Ruben Davis <i>By: Family</i> Chavon D. White <i>By: Denise Williams</i>
Thursday	9am	Wilbert Jordan III <i>By: Winston, Jackson, Barbara Decuir</i>

<u>Stewardship January 12, 2024</u>	
Regular Collection:	\$7236.38
Parish Needs:	\$80.00
School Support:	\$20.00



Thanks for your Generosity!

Today's Readings
Isaiah 62:1-5, 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, John 2: 1-11

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Flipped-out Pharisees

The Gospel reading for this Sunday is not only the first miracle in John's Gospel, it is also John's first mention of Jesus' mother. I used to find it odd that Jesus addressed her as "Woman." I can't imagine my Dad letting me get away with that. But in that time the word was more respectful; it could even be affectionate. (The last time Jesus speaks to his mother—John 19:26—he also calls her "Woman." He certainly wasn't being disrespectful on the cross.) Jesus does help as his mother requested, but he does so in a way that doesn't draw attention to himself and also is a lesson about God's love.

You have probably heard how the Jewish people in Jesus' time performed purification rituals before eating anything. The cleansings were a sign that they wanted to be like God, completely free from sin. Eventually, it came to mean that you could not approach God until you cleansed yourself. Jesus used the miracle to show us a different way of understanding holiness. Jesus could have made the wine in bottles or wineskins to show that it was new. But he used the "six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings" (John 2:6). That meant that once they were full of wine, no one could wash themselves from the jars. I wonder how many Pharisees flipped out when they saw that.

The point is that no one can cleanse themselves. We don't purify ourselves in order to come to God—we come to God to be purified. God is the only one who can make us holy. God offers this to sinners especially, because sinners who know they need forgiveness are the only ones to receive it. Not because God excludes the rest. Those who don't think they are sinners or don't think they can be forgiven won't ask for it. God never forces mercy on anyone. It is offered to those who ask for it. The amount of wine (six big jars of about twenty-five gallons each) symbolizes the extent of God's mercy. As there was now more than enough wine for the wedding, God has more than enough mercy for those who need it. Wine is also a symbol of joy in the Old Testament. There is no greater joy than knowing that you have been forgiven by the Lord.

Tom Schmidt