

Holy Family
December 29, 2024

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER



CATHOLIC CHURCH

1120 MYRTLE WALK
BATON ROUGE, LA 70802

Rev. Ugochukwu Henry Ihuoma, SSJ
Pastor

stfrancisexavierbr.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

FAX: 225.388.5458

EMAIL~SECRETARY@SFXC.BRCOXMAIL.COM

WEBSITE~STFRANCISXAVIERBR.ORG

REV. UGOCHUKWU HENRY IHUOMA, SSJ.

EMAIL~ HENRY95UGO@GMAIL.COM

CELL PHONE ~ 240.688.5440

OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

MR JOHN YOUNG ~ DRE 225.343.3075 EXT 212

FAX: 225.388.5458

EMAIL:SFXPSR@SFXC.BRCOXMAIL.COM

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:

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 DECEMBER 2024

29 No Class - **The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph**

January 2025

01 **Happy New Year**

05 PSR Class - **The Epiphany of the Lord**

12 PSR Class - **The Baptism of the Lord** – Next week we begin collecting items for Nursing Home visit.

The Holy Family; Jesus, Mary and Joseph



To live the gospel of the family is not easy today. Those who want to defend life from the moment of conception are criticized or attacked. Yet in the Gospel we find the way to live a beautiful life on the personal and familial level, a way that is certainly challenging, but attractive and all-embracing. It is a way that still deserves to be trusted and undertaken after the example and

through the intercession of the Holy Family of Nazareth itself. There are happy and sad, serene and difficult moments in every family. This is life. To live the “gospel of the family” does not exempt us from experiencing difficulties and tensions, of encountering moments of pleasant fortitude and painful weakness. Families who are wounded and marked by weakness, failure, difficulty...can rise again if they learn how to draw from the font of the Gospel. There, they can rediscover new possibilities of starting over.

The Bitter Confrontations of Rehoboam vs. Shemaiah

We'll pick up the story in 1 Kings 11. By now, any hopes you had that Solomon could be the promised king of Israel to rule the nations are forever dashed. His kingdom (and his own heart!) was compromised by idolatry and injustice, eventually leading to disaster. Enter the first prophet of the book – Ahijah.

Ahijah confirms God's word in 1 Kings 11. Solomon dies and his son, Rehoboam, is a total punk. As a result, the kingdom splits into two: Israel in the north and Judah in the south. This leads to a pivotal moment in Israel. In 1 Kings 12, Ahijah speaks on behalf of God's covenant with Israel and David. He says that all of Israel's history is going to be determined by the people's responsiveness to these covenants. Would they listen to God's prophetic word? Let's see.

Rehoboam vs. Shemaiah (1 Kings 12)

Rehoboam reigned over the southern tribe of Judah but lost control of the northern tribes to Jeroboam. In 1 Kings 12 he decides to gather an army and fight for the house of Israel in hopes that his kingdom would be restored. However, his plans are thwarted when the word of God comes to the prophet (or the “man of God”) Shemaiah. Shemaiah confronts King Rehoboam and the house of Judah and brings this word from the Lord, “You shall not go up or fight against your relatives the people of Israel. Every man return to his home, for this thing is from me” (1 Kgs. 12:24). That was it. 1 Kings 12:24 says, “So they listened to the word of the Lord and went home again, according to the word of the Lord.” Prophet one point, king zero. The word of the Lord trumped the plans of the king. *****Next time: **Jeroboam vs. “A Man of God” and Ahijah (1 Kings 13 & 14)**

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

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.

Parish Office

The Parish Office will be closed from December 23 through December 31. It will reopen on January 2, 2025. Thank you.

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.

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.

COPE Workshop

Together Baton Rouge and Communities Organizing for Power Through Empathy (C.O.P.E) workshop series is gearing up for a mental health workshop at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church. Communities Organizing for Power through Empathy is a structured series of small group interactive workshops that reconnect people to each other and to their community. COPE builds skills identifying our reactions to stress and trauma, methods for supporting others, and work together to identify resources and take action.

The first session is scheduled for January 18, 2025, from 10:00am -2:00pm at the church. Adults ages 18 years old and older at Francis Xavier Community and friends who are interested can sign up at the back of the Church. A flyer is attached to the church bulletin board with the dates and more information about COPE. We'd love to have you sign up and join the discussion on managing stress, supporting others in distress, and collective community mapping. Thank you.

Upcoming Events in the Parish

- *Mary, Mother of God (H) – Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2025. Mass at 9 am.
- *Adoration, Praise and Worship - Saturday, Jan. 4, 3 pm - 4:30 pm.
- *COPE workshop - Saturday, Jan. 18, 10 am - 2 pm.
- *GriefShare Ministry– Wednesday, Jan 22, 6 pm.
- *Ministers of the Word Workshop, - Saturday, Jan. 25, 10 am - 11 am.

Mass Intentions Dec 28– Jan 2, 2025

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------|--|
| Saturday | 5pm | Myrtle Coates
By: Leslie Coates
Richard Campbell, Jr.
By: Wife and Backrow Angels
Juanita Culbert
By: Camille & Kirkland
Ike Haney
By: Weesie |
| Sunday | 8am | Brenda Landry
By: Davis & Torrence Families |
| | 11am | Brenda White Jackson
By: Owanda Campbell
Chavon D. White
By: Denise Williams
Deceased Usher Members
By: SFX Ministry of Hospitality |
| Tuesday | 5 pm | Rebecca Nelson
By: Family |
| Thursday | 9 am | Carl Marcelle
By: Family |

Stewardship December 22, 2024

To be posted on the next Bulletin.
Thanks so much for your generosity.

Today's Readings
1 Samuel 1:20-22, 1 John 3: 1-2, 21-24, Luke 2:41-52

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
We Are Family

On the feast of the Holy Family, it is tempting to compare our own families to the family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. If your parish used the year A readings that were traditionally used for this feast, the second reading from Colossians has much practical advice for our families. However, while living as a family today is challenging enough, the Gospel for year C reaches a lot farther.

Luke's narrative of the twelve year old Jesus in the temple is not a warning for parents to watch their children closely while travelling. The story looks forward to the time Jesus would be "lost" in the tomb after his crucifixion. Just as his parents found him on the third day, so Jesus would rise from the dead on the third day. And Jesus' remark, "I must be in my Father's house" (Lk 2:49) gives us a hint at who is Jesus' family.

Luke was well aware that the Temple was considered God's dwelling place. So to call it his Father's house showed that Jesus was the Son of God. Keep that in mind as you look at the second reading from the First Letter of John: "we may be called children of God." (1 Jn 3:1) Like Jesus, we call God our father, and like Jesus, we are part of a larger family than the one we live with. That family of all God's children is the one we are called to serve.

But remember Jesus was 12 in this part of the gospel. So his duty to God included being obedient to his parents. We too have a tension between obedience to our parents and following God's call, a tension between taking care of our children and giving time to God's children in the church and the community. At election time we have the tension of voting for candidates who will keep our family safe, or for those that help the poor or the aged. Just remember that, while we have a warm, cozy picture of the Holy Family, Jesus' ultimate duty was to give his life for all, especially sinners. Let us ask God to help us appreciate what our family obligations really are.

Tom Schmidt