

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER



CATHOLIC CHURCH

1120 MYRTLE WALK
BATON ROUGE, LA 70802

Rev. Ugochukwu Henry Ihuoma, SSJ
Pastor

stfrancixavierbr.org

PARISH OFFICE:

MRS. MARVA KADOR WILLIAMS ~ SECRETARY

1134 JULIA STREET

BATON ROUGE, LA 70802

9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM

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REV. UGOCHUKWU HENRY IHUOMA, SSJ.

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OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

MR JOHN YOUNG ~ DRE 225.343.3075 EXT 212

FAX: 225.388.5458

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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 January 2025

12 PSR Class – The Baptism of the Lord – Today we begin collecting items for the nursing home.

The Baptism of Jesus

“After Jesus was baptized, he came from the water and behold, the heavens were opened [for him], and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove [and] coming upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, saying, ‘This is my beloved son, with whom I am well pleased’” (Mt 3:16-17).

The feast of the Baptism of the Lord celebrates the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist. We know that — since Jesus was born without sin — he did not really need to be baptized. And yet, Jesus welcomes his own baptism as an example for the rest of us and as a sign of his true identity. He is God’s son, the living presence of God on earth. When we renew our baptismal promises, we proclaim our belief in the waters of baptism and our new and ongoing life in Christ.

Take some time this month to talk to your kids about their own baptism (even if you’ve told the story before!). Talk about who was there, how their godparents were chosen and the celebration after the ritual. Our kids love to hear fun details.

We continue our series on the Kings and Prophets of the Bible with: Ahab & His Family vs. Elijah (1 Kings 17 & 18)

The succession of northern kings that oppose the word of the Lord reaches a climax when Ahab takes the throne. 1 Kings 16 says that Ahab did more evil in the sight of the Lord than all the kings before him. King Ahab and his Canaanite wife, Jezebel, together institute the worship of the Canaanite god, Baal, over Israel. His kingdom was one of radical apostasy.

God raised up Elijah, the most prominent Old Testament prophet, to confront Ahab. He quickly becomes Ahab’s greatest nemesis, and we see why in 1 Kings 18, with the famous story of Elijah challenging 450 prophets of Baal to see whose God is the best. He invites the people to give allegiance to the true God, the God who answers by fire. In a dramatic demonstration of power, God consumes Elijah’s sacrifice with fire from heaven, while totally embarrassing the prophets of Baal. The people fall on their faces and declare that Yahweh is the one true God.

After this, Elijah confronts Ahab’s injustice again and announces the downfall of his house in 1 Kings 21. Elijah condemns his evil practices, and God doesn’t allow Ahab’s evil and injustice to continue on. Ahab dies and his house is left desolate when the northern tribes are later taken into exile (1 Kgs. 22). In his ongoing confrontations with Ahab, it’s clear that Elijah is a prophet of the true God, and the word of the Lord is powerfully at work in him.

Next Issue: Jehu vs. Elisha

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.

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.

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

*COPE workshop - Saturday, Jan. 18, 10 am - 2 pm.

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

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.

Mass Intentions Jan 11-15, 2025

Saturday 5pm Richard Campbell, Jr.

By: Backrow Angels

Juanita Culbert

By: Camille Fleet

Sunday 8am People of the Parish

11am John Eric Rice

By: Ronald Saison

Mary Lavern Bouette

By: Shaloma Malveaux

Wednesday 9am Wilbert Jordan III

By: Winston, Jackson, Barbara Decuir

Thursday 9am For those who died in NO

By: Parish

Stewardship January 12, 2024

Regular Collection: \$13,425.30

Online Support: \$1552.00

Parish Needs: \$725.28

School Support: \$55.00



Thanks for your Generosity!

Today's Readings
Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11, Titus 2: 11-14, 3: 4-7, Luke 3: 15-16. 21-22

The Baptism of the Lord

Fear Not

Did the first reading from Isaiah sound familiar? We also hear it on the first Sunday of Advent every few years. I suppose it could be a reminder that John the Baptist appears at the beginning of the Advent/Christmas season and at the end. In Advent we were preparing for Jesus' coming at Christmas. Now we are preparing for his coming at any time.

The reading from Isaiah talks about the Lord coming in mercy to the people whose "guilt is expiated" (Isaiah 40:2). The mountains and hills will be leveled, symbolic of making an easy way to the Lord. In other words, the Lord is approachable. With our sins forgiven we need not fear asking God for help: "Fear not to cry out" (Isaiah 40:9). The Lord comes in power, not to strike sinners down but to shepherd them and lead them.

In the second reading, St. Paul has a similar theme. Jesus gave his life for us on the cross so that we could be free from sin and able to reject evil desires. We are free to give ourselves in love as he did. And he does this, not because we did anything to deserve it, but from his own love and mercy for us. Think about that. No matter how bad I was in the past, the Lord loves me enough to forgive it all, and even better, to give the Spirit to help me stay close to God.

How do we prepare for this? We can start by hearing the words of the readings today, letting them sink into our hearts and minds. Read them again at home, and remind yourself that you have been forgiven, that you can live as a person "eager to do what is good" (Titus 2:14). Ask the Spirit to help you see what things are keeping you from being like Jesus and to give you the strength to say no to them. And look for ways you can be more loving with your family, then with your friends, and eventually with anyone who needs your help. When we let that Spirit guide us, we become like Jesus in that we can listen for God to say, "You are my beloved child; with you I am well pleased" (see Luke 3:22).

Tom Schmidt