

The Presentation of the Lord
February 2, 2025

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 February 2025

2 PSR Class – The Feast of the Presentation of our Lord – Black History Month - National Day of Prayer for the African American Family

Presentation of the Lord—Feast

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph took Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord,” and to offer the sacrifice of “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons,” in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord. ~[Luke 2:22–24](#)

As faithful Jews who obeyed the Law of Moses, Mary and Joseph performed two ritual acts that the law prescribed after the birth of the firstborn son—Mary’s ritual purification and Jesus’ dedication. The Presentation of the Lord is celebrated forty days after Christmas, marking the day that Mary and Joseph would have brought Jesus into the Temple. Though Mary was pure and free from sin from the moment of her conception, and though the Son of God did not need to be redeemed, Mary and Joseph fulfilled these ritual obligations.

At the heart of this celebration is the encounter of Simeon and Anna with the Christ Child in the Temple. Simeon was the first to understand and proclaim Jesus as the Savior of the World. He also prophesied that this salvation would be accomplished by a sword of sorrow that would pierce Mary’s Immaculate Heart. Anna, a prophetess, also came forward and “gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem” ([Luke 2:38](#)). In the ritual acts in the Temple, Jesus’ divine mission was made manifest to the world.

My saving Lord, Your loving parents offered You to Your Father in the Temple in accordance with the Law. In that offering, our souls are purified and offered to Your Father. May my soul always radiate Your light from within me. Jesus, I trust in You.

The National Day of Prayer for the African American Family is celebrated on the first Sunday of February. The day was initiated by Fr. James Goode and invites us to reflect on and appreciate the struggle and resilience of the African American family. This 2025 observance marks the 37th consecutive year of the day’s observance. The theme for the 25th anniversary of the day was a quote from St. Augustine of Hippo: “Pray as though everything depended on God”.

Prayer for African American Family Resilience:

Dear Lord, as challenges arise, grant us the strength and resilience to face adversity. Strengthen our hearts and minds, reminding us of the courage and perseverance of our ancestors. Help us stand firm in faith and determination, overcoming obstacles that come our way.

Black History Month

In celebrating Black History Month, we will attempt to provide the history of some of the Black Leaders in our community that are members and family members of our Church, St. Francis Xavier. Community leaders and Family Members such as the Branco’s, Legard’s, Turners, Delpits, and others as time, space, and research documentation will allow. We will begin this week with the Baranco Family.

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.

Parish Office

2024 Annual Statement of Offerings were mailed on January 31, 2025. If you do not receive your statement, contact the parish secretary.

A number of parishioners requested envelopes in 2024 and did not receive them. Please contact the new parish to verify your new address in order to receive your envelopes. Thank you.

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.

**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**

Upcoming Events in the Parish

- *GriefShare Ministry– Wednesday, 6 pm.
- *Black History– Throughout the Month of Feb.
- *Usher's Fundraiser– Sunday, Feb. 9 after the 8 & 11 AM mass.
- *COPE Workshop: Saturday, Feb. 15, 10am-11:30am.
- 30 days Prayers to St. Joseph, Feb. 18-Mar. 19
- *PSR– Cake Bingo Fundraiser-Saturday, Feb. 22, after the Vigil Mass
- *Black History Month Celebration -Feb. 23, aft 8 am mass

Mass Intentions

Feb 01-05, 2025

Saturday	5pm	Maria P. Rice <i>By: Ronald Saizon</i> Julie Ann Franklin <i>By: Backrow Angels</i>
Sunday	8am	Ronnie & Lester Gauthier <i>By: Mary, Danna, & Edward</i>
	11am	People of the People
Tuesday	5pm	Frazier Jordan III <i>By: Winston, Jackson, Barbara Decuir</i>
Wednesday	9am	St. Francis Xavier School

Stewardship January 26, 2025

Regular Collection:	\$5825.00
Online Support:	\$1505.00
Parish Needs:	\$50.00
School Support:	\$506.00



Thanks for your Generosity!

Today's Readings
Malachi 3:1-4, Hebrews 2:14-18, Luke 2: 22-40

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord
Unwavering Fidelity to God's Will

In the old tradition of the Church, the Christmas season was celebrated up until this day, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. This allowed for 40 days of bringing to mind the glorious day of Christ's birth on earth, similar to the 40 days we celebrate from Easter Sunday until the Feast of the Ascension. While current calendars have us taking down our trees at the Baptism of the Lord, just three short Sundays after the Nativity, today's Feast still holds great significance.

Jesus, our Lord and Savior, was born into a humble Jewish family. His parents were faithful to God's will, whether it be agreeing to a supernatural conception, following instructions given in dreams or fleeing to a foreign land. On this day, they were called to carry out a religious custom. 40 days after birth, the family was to bring their child to the temple to dedicate him to the Lord. A sacrifice was brought for the ritual offering, normally a lamb, but since Mary and Joseph were of humble means, they brought either a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.

But perhaps the most surprising element of this event is the fact that the Holy Family falls into the background. They are not the main characters in this story, but rather two elderly individuals who seemingly come out of the woodwork when the Christ Child is brought into the temple. Simeon and Anna, two righteous and devout people who were awaiting the redemption of Israel, were chosen as some of the first people whose eyes lit up upon seeing our Savior! In fact, Simeon even got to hold Him in his arms!

And that is why some still call this day "Candlemas" as well. They bless candles that symbolize Jesus as the Light of the World. Simeon and Anna experienced first hand the splendor of the Lord and went on to give thanks to God and speak about the child to all who would listen. The light that shone forth from the tiny Babe, went on to shine forth through them, for Jesus illuminates all the nations.

As we gaze upon the unwavering fidelity of Simeon and Anna, Mary and Joseph, what will our response be? Let us ask for the intercession of these saints to imitate their prayerful faithfulness. May we always be ready to follow God's will in our lives and present all that we are to Him in love.

Tom Schmidt