

Seventh Sunday In Ordinary Time
February 23, 2025

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER



CATHOLIC CHURCH

1120 MYRTLE WALK
BATON ROUGE, LA 70802

Rev. Ugochukwu "Henry" Ihuoma, SSJ
Pastor

stfrancisxavierbr.org

PARISH OFFICE:

MRS. MARVA KADOR WILLIAMS ~ SECRETARY

1134 JULIA STREET

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9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM

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OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

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SCHOOL OFFICE:

CHRISTOPHER J. ROGERS, PhD ~ PRINCIPAL

1150 SOUTH 12TH STREET

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7:30 AM TO 4:00 PM

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MASS SCHEDULE:

SATURDAY:

SUNDAY:

TUESDAY:

WED-FRI:

HOLYDAYS:

FRIDAY:

SATURDAY:

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

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION- 3:30 PM

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

23 PSR Class – 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

PSR News March 2025

02 No PSR Class – Happy Mardi Gras

05 Ash Wednesday

09 PSR Class – 1st Sunday in Lent - Rite of Sending and Election – Welcome Candidate Tiffany Watson

Mardi Gras

Feasts and fasts. These two words play a powerful role in the life of a Catholic. We feast as a reminder of God's abundant generosity and the goodness of life. We fast to train our bodies and souls to rely more fully upon God.

Fat Tuesday is the great feast before Lenten fasts begin. Traditionally, Catholics have embraced Fat Tuesday as a way to get rid of all the fats and desserts in the house in preparation for Lent. With these tempting goodies already consumed, it's easier to more fully engage in Lent and experience spiritual growth.

The deeper meaning for Fat Tuesday actually comes from its traditional name, Shrove Tuesday. The word "shrove" means to give absolution—to be forgiven! Shrove Tuesday is an invitation to reflect on your life, seek forgiveness and peace, and get ready for 40 days of spiritual renewal during Lent.

Ash Wednesday

You might be wondering why we get ashes on our foreheads for Ash Wednesday. Throughout history, ashes have been a powerful outward symbol of interior repentance and spiritual awareness. Here are some examples of ashes in the Bible:

- "Therefore I disown what I have said and repent in dust and ashes." (Job 42:6)
- "Daughter of my people, dress in sackcloth, roll in the ashes." (Jeremiah 6:26)
- "I turned to the Lord God, to seek help, in prayer and petition, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes." (Daniel 9:3)

"When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, laid aside his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. Then he had this proclaimed throughout Nineveh: "By decree of the king and his nobles, no man or beast, no cattle or sheep, shall taste anything; they shall not eat, nor shall they drink water. Man and beast alike must be covered with sackcloth and call loudly to God; they all must turn from their evil way and from the violence of their hands." (Jonah 3: 6-8).

The Early Christians used ashes to show repentance as well, but not just on Ash Wednesday! After going to confession, it was common for the priest to give the person ashes on their forehead. Catholics have been receiving ashes on Ash Wednesday since the time of St. Gregory the Great. In 1091, Pope Urban II encouraged the entire Church to use ashes on Ash Wednesday.

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 & Wedding Anniversary Celebration

On the last Weekend of each Month, we will say a prayer at each mass for those celebrating their birthday and anniversary for that Month and have a light refreshment for them on Sunday at 9:30 am. Join us.!

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.



We are receiving donations for our fish fry fundraiser. Each family can support us by donating \$100 for a case of fish. We receive cash and check. You can also give online on the Parish Website. Please indicate the purpose of your collection on your check or envelope or online giving. Thanks for your continued support.

Upcoming Events in the Parish

- *GriefShare Ministry– Wednesday, 6 pm.
- *Black History– Throughout the Month of Feb.
- *30 days Prayers to St. Joseph, Feb. 18 - Mar. 19.
- *Parish Pastoral Council meeting, Feb. 25 @ 6 pm.
- *Food Pantry, Feb. 27 @ 10 am.
- *Adoration, Praise, Worship, Saturday, Mar. 1 @ 3 pm.
- *Food Pantry Personal Hygiene Drive begins on March 1.
- *Second Collection for Black and Indian Mission, March 9/10.

Mass Intentions

Feb 22-27, 2025

Saturday	5pm	People of the Parish
Sunday	8am	Glenn Jones & Walter Martin By: Wilma Greene & Family
	11am	Chavon White By: Denise Williams Lionel Calvin Thymes, Sr. By: Roderick Thymes Alvin Jr. & Shirley Domain By: The Crockett Family
Tuesday	5pm	Melvin Amar, Sr. By: Theresa Bitz
Thursday	9am	Lester Malveaux By: Shaloma Malveaux

Stewardship February 16, 2025

Regular Collection:	\$6,752.00
Online Support:	\$2,637.54
Parish Needs:	\$121.00
School Support:	\$240.00



Thanks for your Generosity!

Today's Readings
1 Samuel 26: 2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23, 1 Corinthians 15: 45-49, Luke 6: 27-38

Stagnant or Overflowing?

We find ourselves in the midst of a short, seven and a half week stint of Ordinary Time. It can seem like we are somewhat lost in time - no longer in the Christmas season and not yet in the throes of Lent. It can also be a dreary time. All of the exterior lights are extinguished; the days are still short and the nights still long. The gray clouds and threats of snow linger on in some parts, yet without the childlike anticipation to pull us through. What do we have to look forward to now? How can we not grow stagnant in our walk of faith during this time?

A friend once told me that Ordinary Time was his favorite season of all. When he first said it, I thought he was crazy. How can anyone enjoy Ordinary Time more than Christmas or Easter?! But then he shared that, just as the liturgical color green indicates, Ordinary Time is a season of growth. As we muddle through the mundane, tackle the trivial and battle the boredom, we are invited to continue blossoming and blooming.

In today's first reading we discover Saul and David in the middle of a cat and mouse chase. Saul finds himself in a jealous rage and wishes to extinguish David, while David's men encourage him to obliterate Saul. David could have just as easily become enraged. After all, his best friend's father wanted to chop his head off! But he fled in self defense, and when afforded the opportunity to retaliate, refused to lay a finger on the Lord's anointed one. He acquiesced to God rather than anger.

Jesus puts the actions of David into words saying: "love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you... Do to others as you would have them do to you... and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked." Sounds selfless and saintly and... super hard. To act in a way that gains no reward, not even a tiny bit of dopamine, sounds just horrible. It offers my humanness no motivation, my pride no boost.

Yet we live for the promise of a different kind of reward all together: "then your reward will be great and you will be children of the Most High...gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down and overflowing..." So let us shake off the ordinaryness of this time and dive into the growth, so that our heavenly reward may be overflowing.

Tami Urcia