

Second Sunday of Advent
December 07, 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

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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

225.387.6639 OR 225.387.6630

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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 3RD 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 2025

7 PSR Class – **2nd Sunday of Advent** – Nativity Rehearsal. Acceptable for service hours.

8 Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin

In 1854, Pope Pius IX issued an apostolic constitution called *Ineffabilis Deus* by which he declared the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary to be a dogma of faith. This definition was a response to the longstanding devotion and theological consensus that had built up over the centuries. By declaring a dogma of faith, the Holy Father used his highest papal teaching authority, binding every Catholic to accept this teaching.

Ineffabilis Deus begins by stating that the creation of the Blessed Virgin Mary was in the mind of God from all eternity. She is the Father's "singular delight," and "under God, one cannot even imagine anything greater, and which, outside of God, no mind can succeed in comprehending fully." This statement should leave us with a profound faith in the Immaculate Conception and an acknowledgment of the great and incomprehensible mystery we celebrate. Only in Heaven, as we behold the Beatific Vision, will our minds also behold the beauty and profound mystery of God's greatest act of creation in the person of the Mother of God. Her life is not an end in itself. She is not worshiped. She is not God. She is, however, to be loved and honored in a singularly unique way, for she is God's most glorious creation and will be honored as such forever.

The first thing we must know about our Immaculate Mother is that she needed a Savior, just as all humans do. Her Savior is her Son, just as He is our Savior. However, in her, salvation was given "by a singular grace and privilege." We are saved by the washing away of original sin through baptism. The Blessed Virgin Mary was preserved from original sin from the first moment of her conception. Her salvation transcended time in that the merits of salvation won by her Son Jesus' Incarnation, death, and resurrection saved her from original sin at the very moment of her creation.

Mary's role is first alluded to in the book of Genesis. We read about the fall of Adam and Eve, introducing Original Sin into human nature, thus requiring a Savior. [Genesis 3:15](#) presents what many have called the *Protoevangelium* or "First Gospel" because, in mysterious language, it presents Christ as the New Adam and the Blessed Virgin Mary as the new Eve: "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; They will strike at your head, while you strike at their heel." The "enmity" between the serpent and the "woman" reveals Mary's complete opposition to the evil one and to sin. The "offspring" is Jesus and He will crush the head of Satan, destroying sin and evil forever. This passage also reveals that Jesus invites His mother to participate in this act of salvation in a unique way. "They will strike at your head..." implying both Jesus and the Blessed Virgin Mary overcame sin and Satan together, by the power of God, but through the motherhood of Mary, the new mother of all the living and the mother of those in the new order of grace.

<https://mycatholic.life/saints/saints-of-the-liturgical-year/8-december-immaculate-conception-of-the-blessed-virgin-mary-solemnity/>

PRAYER LIST

John Paul Moore * Geraldine Christopher * Loraine Perry * Martha Proctor * Whitney Robiho * Joyce Decuir * Patricia Armstrong

Elouise Noel * Betty Dupas * Denise Chutz * Fred Dejuan * Loretta Warren * Lorenzia Dardone, * Roslyn Jones * Anita Liggins

*Elizabeth Whitfield *Linda Gills-Beshears Phyllis White * Mary E. Bourgeois *Easton Charles *Erica H. Louis*Alphonse Deconge III

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 or scan the QR Code.
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!



SCAN ME

Bible Study

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

Sock It To Me Campaign

We have kicked off our "Sock It To Me" campaign. Collection boxes for new socks are located at the entrances to church. We are asking for your support in collecting 1000 pairs of socks to donate to infants, children, and adults in need. The campaign is a service project of the Junior Daughters and will be ongoing through the month of December. Thanks for your continued support.



"Register your child for the SFX School 2026-27, The Mustang Experience Awaits You." For more information, visit www.sfxbr.org or scan the QR Code.

Enrolling Grades K - 8

(225) 387-6639



Join us for
Adoration, Praise, and Worship
Every First Saturday from 3:00 - 4:30 pm

Upcoming Events in the Parish

*Immaculate Conception, Monday, December 8, Mass at 9 am and 6 pm.
*Food Pantry Distribution, Thursday, December 11, 10 am.
*Second Collection: Retirement Fund for Religious, December 14.

Mass Intentions December 06-07, 2025

Saturday	5 pm	The People of the People
Sunday	8 am	Lester & Ronnie Gauthier <i>By: Mary, Danna & Edward</i> Leah P. Beauregard <i>By: Stephanie & Harlon Jones</i>
	11 am	Christopher Vaughn <i>By: Betty Davis</i> Special Intentions <i>By: Bridgette Richard</i> Ruben Davis <i>By: Gospel Choir</i> Keith Thierry <i>By: Gospel Choir</i> Tyler Irvin & Those Who are Deployed <i>By: Catrina Irvin & Family</i>

Stewardship November 23/30, 2025

Regular Collection:	\$7806.00	\$6223.00
Online Support:	\$1596.00	\$1747.45
Parish Needs:	\$1316.00	\$68.00
School Support:	\$80.00	\$411.00



Thanks for your Generosity!

Today's Readings
Isaiah 11:1-10, Romans 15:4-9, Matthew 3:1-12

Gifts of the Spirit

The reading from the prophet Isaiah is a very hopeful description of the Messiah. And part of that description in verses 2-3 contains the traditional seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Messiah, and looking forward to His coming in glory, let's take a look at those gifts and see how we can use them.

Wisdom is first and it is not a matter of tossing out proverbial quotes. This wisdom is the gift of seeing God in his creation. It means that we value the things of this world only as they help us to know and love God more. The second gift, Understanding, follows from Wisdom: as we appreciate God in His creation, we understand what God expects of us in dealing with creation and other people. This gift helps us to know how to act in a world that seems to ignore God.

Counsel follows from Understanding as the gift of making correct judgments on how to act, how to follow those commands of God. For example, Understanding can lead us to love others. Counsel guides us to love them in appropriate ways.

Strength or fortitude, is the gift that enables us to do those things inspired by understanding and counsel, even if they are difficult. John the Baptist shows that gift in the gospel, when he challenges the Pharisees. It gave him the courage to die for his faith.

Knowledge is similar to counsel (knowing how to act) in that we begin to see what God wants for us in this world. It includes an understanding of Scriptures and how God's Word applies to our lives. Knowledge leads us to deeper revelations of the truths of our faith. This can lead to the sixth gift (seventh in Isaiah's text: "delight in the Lord") of Piety. This is a willingness to worship and love God, a desire to be close to Him in prayer. Piety leads us to totally rely on God and humbly ask his help.

The final gift, Fear of the Lord, is more than just being afraid: It is the awe and wonder of recognizing how great God is, how much he loves us, and so how much we want to stay close to Him. The desire to be close to God leads back to Wisdom, where we see God in his creation.

Tom Schmidt