

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
BATON ROUGE, LA 70802
9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM
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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:	VIGIL ~ 5:00 PM
SUNDAY:	8:00 AM & 11:00 AM
TUESDAY:	OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP NOVENA— 5:00 PM
WED—FRI:	9:00AM
HOLYDAYS:	9:00 AM & 6:00 PM
FRIDAY:	SCHOOL MASS 9:00AM
SATURDAY:	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 March 2026

SAINT OF THE WEEK

SAINT JOSEPH, HUSBAND OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

March 19

Joseph, someone once joked, was indeed the perfect husband: the only major character in Jesus' story who never utters a word! But the Gospel recounts and the liturgy celebrates his silent witness of faith-filled deeds: "With a husband's love he cherished Mary, the Virgin Mother of God; with fatherly care he watched over Jesus" (Preface of Saint Joseph, *Sacramentary*). Catholic devotion, therefore, hails him as patron-protector of the universal Church. Some cultures set a festive "Saint Joseph's Table," welcoming the poor and strangers to feast with family and friends. Tradition keeps today as the anniversary of his death, which we presume was peaceful, with Jesus and Mary present. Thus, Catholics invoke Joseph as "patron of a happy death." Descended from David's house, which God finished "building" through Joseph's provision of a home for Mary and Jesus, he was, fittingly, a carpenter by trade; thus, patron of workers. Spring, nature's rebirth, begins between his feast and Annunciation (March 25), appropriately, since Joseph's silent obedience and Mary's "Let it be done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38) usher in humanity's spiritual rebirth.

—Peter Scagnelli

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Centuries ago, these Lenten days were a time of intense final preparation for the candidates for baptism. By now, they had already been numbered among the "elect" for Easter baptism, and were daily challenged to excel in prayer, in fasting, and in works of charity. As is true today, at a certain point in the weekly assembly for Eucharist, the nonbaptized were dismissed from the assembly for their own learning and prayer. While they might have had impressions about the Eucharist, they had no direct experience. The rites of the church were secret and its worship places off-limits.

For the Easter Vigil, those to be baptized arrived very hungry from long fasting, and perhaps very apprehensive as to how initiation was to be accomplished. A long night of vigil and storytelling, a shimmering pool of baptism, the anointing with oil and clothing with white robes came as something of a surprise. At the end of a long, life-changing night of embrace by Christ and the community, as the eucharistic feast ended, a final surprise was brought forward. To address the deep hunger of the newly baptized, the church offered a bowl of milk and honey, sign of promises fulfilled, sign of community, prosperity, and peace, and yet another foretaste of heaven's banquet.

—Rev. James Field

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 * Robert Alfred

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

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



SCAN ME

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.

Announcements

Fish Fry Fundraiser 2026

We are receiving donations for our fish fry fundraiser. Each family can support us by donating \$100 for a case of fish. You can make your payment via envelope or online giving. Please indicate the purpose of your collection. Thanks for your generosity.

Upcoming Events in the Parish

- *Feast of St. Patrick, Tuesday, March 17, Mass at 5 pm.
- *Feast of St. Joseph, Spouse of the BVM, Thursday, March 19, Mass at 9 am.
- *Bible Study, Thursday, March 19, 6 pm.
- *School Mass, Friday, March 20, at 9 am.
- *Stations of the Cross, Friday, March 20, 2pm and 3pm.
- *Parish Council Meeting, Tuesday, March 24, 6 pm.
- *Annunciation of the Lord, Wednesday, March 25, 9 am.
- *Food Pantry Distribution, Thursday, March 26, 10 am.

Mass Intentions March 14-15, 2026

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| Saturday | 5 pm | Dr. Melvin Jones
<i>By: Carmen Jones</i>
Solomon Beauregard, Jr.
<i>By: Stephanie & Harlan Jones</i> |
| Sunday | 8 am | The People of the Parish |
| | 11 am | Tyler Irvin and All Who Are Deployed
<i>By: Catrina Irvin & family</i>
Chris Bourgeois
<i>By: Family</i> |

 "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

Stewardship March 08, 2026

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Regular Collection: | \$4944.69 |
| Online Support: | \$2076.00 |
| Parish Needs: | \$30.00 |
| School Support: | \$35.00 |



Thanks for your Generosity!

Today's Readings
1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10 -13a, Ephesians 5:8 -14, John 9:1- 41

Beware of the Dark Side

Do you remember the *Star Wars* movies, in which the Dark Side was a symbol of evil? In our second reading Paul tells the Christians in Ephesus that they were once in darkness. Paul uses darkness as a symbol of shame. Shame is not just sorrow for sins; it is the fear of being caught in sin, or of telling our weaknesses to another because we think the other will look down on us. Or you might fear the punishment you think you deserve. Paul was a sinner himself and was blinded when Jesus appeared to him, asking, "Why do you persecute me?" So he knew that the only way to be free of shame is not to hide sins, but to expose them.

Does that mean we have to broadcast our sins on the evening news, or post them all on our social media pages? No; we just need to confess them to God and receive God's forgiveness. We can do this through the sacrament of reconciliation. The priest shows that God loves sinners, no matter what they have done. When you injure your arm, you explain how you hurt it, so the doctor knows how to treat it. If you wreck your car, you take it to the repair shop and tell the mechanics what is broken so they can repair it. In reconciliation we bring our sins to the priest so that we can experience forgiveness. You could leave your car at the shop overnight, with enough cash to make the repairs, but until you come back and claim your car, you will never know if it was fixed.

Sometimes other people try to shame us. In today's Gospel, Jesus' disciples asked whose sin caused the man to be born blind. The Pharisees told the man that he was born in sin. Jesus, however, told his disciples that the man had not sinned, and furthermore, the Pharisees themselves were the sinners because they had judged the blind man. So when we know that God forgives us and still loves us, we don't have to fear what others might think. Let us instead hold our sins up to the light of forgiveness and be free of our shame.

Tom Schmidt