

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
225.383.3479 OR 225.343.3709
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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:	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

22 **PSR Class – 5th Sunday of Lent**

28 **(Saturday) Live Stations Rehearsal and Reconciliation** – 10:00am – 12:00 noon - *All youth to participate.*

29 **PSR Class – Palm Sunday**

As the end of our Lenten season rapidly approaches, we have discussed Almsgiving and Fasting. We wrap-up our sessions with Penance and renewing our Baptismal Promises.

Penance

For many Catholics, Lent involves giving up coffee, chocolate or other guilty pleasures. Others forgo television or commit to attending daily Mass.

The 40 days that stretch between Ash Wednesday and the onset of the Easter Triduum on Holy Thursday are set aside each year as a way for the faithful to draw closer to God through prayer, fasting, almsgiving and acts of penance.

Blessed John Paul II, in his apostolic exhortation “Reconciliation and Penance,” emphasized the importance of self-mortification.

Penance, the late pontiff said, is “an effort to put off the old man and put on the new... to overcome in oneself what is of the flesh in order that what is spiritual may prevail.” These acts of sacrifice, he said, help to re-establish the harmony with God that was broken by sin.

Renewing our Baptismal Promises

The Renewal of Baptismal Promises is a beautiful and powerful Catholic practice, especially celebrated every year at the Easter Vigil and on Easter Sunday. Through this renewal we once again reject Satan and all his works, profess our faith in the Holy Trinity, and recommit ourselves to live as children of God and members of Christ’s Church. It is ideal for personal prayer anytime we wish to reaffirm our baptismal grace.

Not all the family can attend the Easter Vigil due to its time and length. However, it is highly recommended that the family members renew their baptismal vows and sprinkle themselves with the Easter Water is performed during the vigil celebration. Everyone's baptismal candles and garments can be put on display on the family altar or as a table centerpiece to remind us of our baptism and commitment to our baptismal vows.

Renewing baptismal promises can also be done at home on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord in January, and on the anniversaries of baptism.

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

- *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.
- *Bible Study, Thursday, March 26, 6 pm.
- *School Mass, Friday, March 27, at 9 am.
- *Stations of the Cross, Friday, March 27, 2pm and 3pm.
- *Birthday and Wedding Anniversary Celebration, Sunday, March 29, 9:30 am.
- *Holy Thursday, April 02, Mass 6 pm.
- *Good Friday Services, April 03, 12 pm and 3 pm.

Mass Intentions March 21-22, 2026

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| Saturday | 5 pm | The People of the Parish |
| Sunday | 8 am | Ernel Cambrice
<i>By: Jeanine Plante</i>
Aline "Cookie" Vaughn
<i>By: Joandell Poydras</i> |
| | 11 am | Tyler Irvin and All Who Are Deployed
<i>By: Catrina Irvin & family</i>
Ronald Gathe, Sr.
<i>By: Willard & Mary Ellois</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 15, 2026

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Regular Collection: | \$8144.00 |
| Online Support: | \$2632.00 |
| Parish Needs: | \$205.00 |
| School Support: | \$476.00 |



Thanks for your Generosity!

Today's Readings
Ezekiel 37:12-14, Romans 8:8 -11, John 11:1- 45

Greater Than You Expect

Sometimes a prophet says more than he intended. Ezekiel in the first reading is talking about restoring Israel after the Babylonian exile. The Jews saw the Exile as punishment for their sins, especially the sin of relying on false gods or political leaders for their safety. God demonstrates forgiveness by bringing them back to Israel; God also shows them divine power and glory so that they return to the Lord for their protection.

Ezekiel uses the image of the dead rising from their graves (37:12). Jesus came to show us God in a new way and to fulfill the promises of all previous prophecies. Notice how the first reading repeats two phrases: “open your graves” and “know that I am the Lord.” Jesus demonstrates that God’s promise is much greater than anything Ezekiel expected.

First, the Gospel. When Jesus went to the tomb of Lazarus, he apparently waited till his friend had died. He knew that he was going to raise Lazarus from death to help his disciples believe. So why was he “perturbed and deeply troubled”? It could be that he was disappointed that his friends did not seem to believe that he could raise Lazarus. Notice Jesus became perturbed again when some of the crowd question Jesus’ ability to do so (John 11:37–38). Like Ezekiel, the people of Jesus’ time did not expect him literally to raise the dead. But God used the prophet’s message to prepare for Jesus’ message that not only would he rise from the dead, but we will also. And like the friends and relatives of Lazarus, we too may find it hard to believe, or at least question how it could be possible. Fortunately, Jesus helps with that, too.

Look at the second reading to the Romans. Because we have God’s Spirit living in us, we who are sinners can be raised to new life by that Spirit. When our sins are forgiven, we begin to live a new life by loving the people we hurt by our sins, forgiving people who have hurt us, being more concerned for the poor than for our own comfort. We are freed from worrying about the future, from holding onto grudges, and perhaps even from the fear of death itself—all because we have experienced the new life of God’s Spirit and, as Ezekiel says, know that God is the Lord.

Tom Schmidt