

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
March 29, 2026

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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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

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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 March 2026

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Most Christians today receive a bunch of palm fronds, olive branches, pussy willow, or forsythia (a relative of the olive) to carry in procession and to bear home in blessing. Some even offer sprigs of palm or other branches as a gesture of peace to those they have offended. The desire is to make a clean sweep of your spiritual house before the Easter feast.

Accepting the branch is a token of the bearer's willingness to journey with the Church through a grateful remembrance of Jesus Christ's passion, death, and life-giving resurrection. Traditionally, the plants associated with today's feast are planted in cemeteries as a sign of Christ's victory over death and the promise of new life.

The joy of this day's opening procession soon gives way to a solemn reading of the Passion, this year according to Matthew. The ritual is meant not only to strengthen us to hear this account, but to stir us up to accompany the Church on this journey through Holy Week. It also prepares us for next Sunday's joyful renewal of our baptismal vows.

—Rev. James Field

SAINT OF THE WEEK

SAINT FRANCIS OF PAOLA (1416-1507)

April 2

A witness to miracles from a young age, Francis of Paola later went on to perform many himself. His parents struggled with infertility, so turned to the intercession of St. Francis of Assisi. Their devout prayers bore them a son, whom they named Francis out of gratitude. As an infant, Francis suffered from swollen eyes and was again healed by his namesake. His parents promised him a friary education, where young Francis voluntarily abstained from meat, practiced solitude, and prayed fervently. After a year, he went on a pilgrimage with his parents to Assisi which deepened his devotion. Upon their return, Francis committed to the life of a hermit, first on family property before moving to a remote cave near the sea. A couple others were inspired by his journey and joined him, forming a small hermitage with a chapel. Over several decades, they expanded to a larger church and monastery as more followers joined. They became known as the Minims Friars, *minim* meaning least to convey their humility. They valued poverty, chastity, obedience, and later added veganism to their vows. Francis is said to have performed many miracles: prophetic speaking, food appearing from nothing, casting out demons, and raising the dead. Despite a life of solitude, he was sought out by many, popes and kings even calling on him for counsel. In his old age, Francis returned to complete solitude for three months, before passing on Good Friday—fitting for a life of perpetual Lent. Francis embodied love for God through radical vocation, giving his all in everything he did. While we may not be as radical in our own lives, the same call of love is extended to us today.

—Meghan McDonagh

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

- *GriefShare Ministry, Wednesday, April 01, 6 pm.
- *Holy Thursday, April 02, Mass 6 pm.
- *Good Friday Services, April 03, 12 pm and 3 pm.
- *Holy Saturday, April 04, Mass 8 pm.
- *Easter Sunday, April 05, Mass 8 am and 11 am.
- *Food Pantry Distribution, Thursday, April 09, 10 am.
- *GriefShare Ministry, Wednesday, April 08, 6 pm.
- *Bible Study, Thursday, April 09, 6 pm.
- *School Mass, Friday, April 10, 9 am.
- *Sacrament of Confirmation, Tuesday, April 14, 7pm.

Mass Intentions March 21-22, 2026

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| Saturday | 5 pm | Leo M. Beauregard, Jr.
<i>By: Stephanie & Harlan Jones</i>
Doris Vavasseur
<i>By: Gail Vavasseur Jones</i> |
| Sunday | 8 am | Tyler Irvin and All Who Are Deployed
<i>By: Catrina Irvin & family</i>
William "Tex" Turner
<i>By: Lorina Turner</i> |
| | 11 am | The People of the Parish |

 "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 22, 2026

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Regular Collection: | \$6979.45 |
| Online Support: | \$1402.00 |
| Parish Needs: | \$595.00 |
| School Support: | \$560.00 |



Thanks for your Generosity!

Today's Readings
Isaiah 50:1-11, Philippians 2:6 -11, Matthew 26:14– 27:66

My Will Be Done

One of the most comforting parts of the Passion story for me is the agony in the garden. That might sound odd, considering how the disciples fall asleep while Jesus is in distress. I suppose I could identify with them as they show weakness when Jesus needed strength. But I am really comforted by Jesus' words. If the Son of God had to tell himself and his Father, "not as I will, but as you will" (Matthew 26:39), I should be able to say the same. There are times when I would much rather have things always go my way, but that is not going to happen. So it's comforting to know that Jesus did not take the easy way out, but accepted the Father's will that he should suffer and die.

Whenever we say the Lord's Prayer we pray, "Thy will be done." But how often do we still take the easy way out? Ever hear someone tell a lie or spread gossip that hurts a person's reputation? We can choose to do nothing (the easy way) or gently reproach the other with a simple question, "What would Jesus do?" When I have a chance to help someone in need, do I tell myself it's none of my business, or do I ask if there is anything I can do? When I am hurt by the death of a loved one, or am injured in an accident, do I get angry at God for letting this happen, or do I say with Jesus, "Not my will, but yours be done"?

Luke's Gospel ends the temptation of Jesus in the desert with the phrase, "When the devil had finished every test, he left him until an opportune time" (Luke 4:13). That time came in the garden. and again Jesus had the last word, choosing to do his Father's will. Our temptations continue every day as we face frustrations, desire for things we can't have, unanswered prayers, or our own weaknesses. Even though we know God always does what is best for us when we would rather have what *we* think is best, at least remember to say, "Not my will, but yours be done."

Tom Schmidt