First Sunday of Advent
November 29, 2026

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church

The Josephites
josephite.com

Rev. Ugochukwu "Henry" Ihuoma, SSJ
Pastor

1120 Myrtle Walk
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

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
Fax: 225.388.5458
Email~SECRETARY@SFXC.BRCOXMAIL.COM
Website~STFRANCISXAVIERBR.ORG
Rev. Ugochukwu Henry Ihuoma, SSJ.
Email~ HENRY95UGO@GMAIL.COM
CELL PHONE ~ 240.688.5440

Office of Religious Education:
Mr John Young ~ DRE 225.343.3075 EXT 212
Fax: 225.388.5458
EMAIL: STFRANXAVIERCCD@BELLSOUTH.NET

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:	Eucharistic 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
November 2026

29 No PSR Class **1st Sunday in Advent**

December 2026

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

What is Advent?

Advent is a four-week season dedicated to reflective preparation for the arrival, "advent", of Jesus Christ's Nativity at Christmas time as well and Christ's expected return in the Second Coming. During this important event on the church calendar, each week of Advent focuses on a different theme - hope, peace, joy, and love. Christians from all denominations and backgrounds celebrate Advent in different ways but all focus on the anticipation of waiting for the arrival of Jesus.

How is the Lord calling you to grow this, Advent?

The Advent season is a time when Catholics of all ages are invited to prepare their hearts to celebrate Christ's birth and ponder His second coming at the end of time. Whether it be by an Advent wreath, Advent calendar, Nativity scene, or "O Antiphons" there are so many ways to remind oneself about the upcoming celebration we as a Church are about to celebrate. Let us spend these four weeks of Advent configuring our hearts to Christ, Our Lady and St. Joseph (the patron of our Diocese).

Altar Servers Practice

The Altar Server Ministry is seeking parishioners of all ages (youth to adults) to serve at masses. If you are interested in joining our ministry or are a current Altar Server, please attend our next practice on December 5, 2026, at 9 am in the Church. This is an important practice to review procedures for masses during Advent and the Christmas Season. New and existing Altar Servers are also asked to register for the Altar Server Ministry on the Ministries tab on the St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church website.

Seamstresses Needed

Our new Albs need a simple closure mechanism to be added so that the front of the Alb does not open while being worn. We need volunteers to add closures. If you sew, please help us! Please contact Fr. Henry or Lisa Woodruff-White for more information.

PRAYER LIST

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

Elouise Noel * Betty Dupas * Fred Dejuan * Loretta Warren * Lorenzia Dardone, * Roslyn Jones *Robert Alfred *Walter Johnson

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

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

Parish Census

Have you submitted your census form? Remember to complete your census form by December 31. Please see the ushers for a form. Thank you.

Parish Fall Fair 2026

We want to use this opportunity to thank you all for supporting our Fall Fair 2026. Thanks to all our volunteers, sponsors, and parishioners that make our fair remarkable.

Ministry Leaders Meeting

Our Ministry Leaders meeting will be held on Saturday, December 5, at 10 am. Please each ministry leader is asked to come with their 2027 calendar. Thank you.

POSTPONED
SCHOOL GALA
City Club of Baton Rouge
SFXGala2026.netlify.app

"Register your child for the SFX School 2026-2027, 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

***Feast of St. Francis Xavier, December 03.**
***First Friday Fish Fry, December 04, 10 am - 2 pm.**
***Adoration, Praise, and Worship, Saturday, December 05, 3 pm.**
*** Immaculate Conception of the BVM, Tuesday, December 8, Masses at 9 am and 6 pm.**
***Second Collection: Retirement fund for Religious, Dec. 13.**
*** Advent Penance Service, Wednesday, December 16, 5 pm.**

Mass Intentions
November 28-29, 2026

Saturday	**5 pm**	**Howard L. Louis** *By: Euradean A. Stewart* **Aline "Cookie" Vaughn** *By: Family*
Sunday	**8 am**	**William "Tex" Turner** *By: Lorina Turner*
	11 am	**The People of the Parish**

Stewardship
November 23, 2026

Regular Collection:	**$6764.00**
Online Support:	**$2816.36**
Parish Needs:	**$34.00**
School Support:	**$113.00**

Thanks for your Generosity!

Today's Readings
Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64: 2-7, 1 Corinthians 1:3-9, Matthew 13:33-37

Watch Out!

In Advent, we celebrate our hope that the Lord might come more fully into our lives. The first reading from Isaiah voices the hope of sinners for a redeemer. As sinners, we too hope for forgiveness. Unlike Isaiah, we know that God has come to bring us back, when the Father sent his Son, Jesus, to save us. And God's power was manifest in the raising of Christ from the dead. Our faith in Jesus leads us to a new way of looking at the world. We can see what God is doing as well as remembering what God has done.

The Gospel reminds us to look constantly for signs of God's work. Jesus says simply, "Watch!" Like the gatekeepers in Jesus' short parable, we need to keep our eyes open for him. Just as we expect people driving cars to turn off their cell phones and keep their eyes on the road, so we can stop looking for whatever makes us comfortable and watch for ways to love others as God loves us.

When we only look out for ourselves, we may miss the signs of God's presence around us. Instead of looking at the difficulties of life as obstacles, we can watch for them as opportunities to stretch our faith, to rely on God, or to show God's love to a friend.

The Corinthians were also watching for the Lord to come. Paul encourages them (and us) by his reminder that we "are not lacking in any spiritual gift" (1 Corinthians 1:7). The Holy Spirit gives us all we need to help each other prepare for the Lord's coming. They were thinking of Jesus as coming in glory. Though we don't see the full glory of the Lord, part of that glory is his presence in the sacraments. In them we celebrate not just the coming of the Lord, but his working in the world. He shares his life with us in baptism, gives us his Spirit in confirmation and himself in the Eucharist, heals us in reconciliation and the anointing of the sick, and calls us to make him present to others in holy orders and matrimony. You could almost say his second coming is taking place now. Watch for it.

By Tom Schmidt