

# ST. FRANCIS XAVIER



## CATHOLIC CHURCH

1120 MYRTLE WALK  
BATON ROUGE, LA 70802

Very Rev. Edward Chiffriller,  
SSJ

Rev. Joseph Rodney, SSJ  
In Residence

[stfrancisxavierbr.org](http://stfrancisxavierbr.org)

### PARISH OFFICE:

**MS. EBONY RILEY - SECRETARY**

1134 JULIA STREET  
BATON ROUGE, LA 70802  
8:00 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. EDWARD CHIFFRILLER CELL: 225.571.8233

EMAIL~ PASTOR@SFXC.BRCOXMAIL.COM

### OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

**MR JOHN YOUNG - DRE** 225.343.3075 EXT 212

FAX: 225.388.5458

EMAIL:SFXPSR@SFXC.BRCOXMAIL.COM

### SCHOOL OFFICE:

**MS. PAULA JOHNSON - 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: PJOHNSON@SFXBR.ORG

WEBSITE: STFRANCISXAVIERBR.COM

### SFX HEADSTART CENTER

1145 TERRACE AVE.  
BATON ROUGE, LA 70802  
8:00 AM TO 3:30 PM  
225.387.4877



### 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 - THURS:

6:30 AM IN CONVENT

HOLYDAYS:

9:00 AM & 6:00 PM

FRIDAY:

SCHOOL MASS 9:00AM

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM** IS CELEBRATED ON THE 4TH 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.

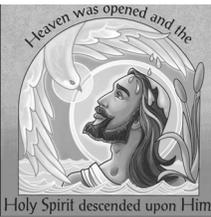
**CARE OF THE SICK:** PLEASE CALL THE PRIEST FOR THE SACRAMENT OF THE SICK AND /OR HOSPITAL VISITATION. IF THE SACRAMENT OF THE SICK IS CRITICALLY NEEDED, PLEASE CALL REV. EDWARD CHIFFRILLER NUMBER LISTED ABOVE OR THE CHAPLAINCY OFFICE AT THE HOSPITAL.

**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

**January 2019**

**Why was Jesus baptized?**

**Question: "Why was Jesus baptized? Why was Jesus' baptism important?" Part I**

**Answer:** At first glance, it seems that Jesus' baptism has no purpose at all. John's baptism was the baptism of repentance (Matthew 3:11), but Jesus was sinless and had no need of repentance. Even John was taken aback at Jesus' coming to him. John recognized his own sin and was aware that he, a sinful man in need of repentance himself, was unfit to baptize the spotless Lamb of God: "I need to be baptized by You and You are coming to me?" (Matthew 3:14). Jesus replied that it should be done because "it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness" (Matthew 3:15).

There are several reasons why it was fitting for John to baptize Jesus at the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. Jesus was about to embark on His great work, and it was appropriate that He be recognized publicly by His forerunner. John was the "voice crying in the wilderness" prophesied by Isaiah, calling people to repentance in preparation for their Messiah (Isaiah 40:3). By baptizing Him, John was declaring to all that here was the One they had been waiting for, the Son of God, the One he had predicted would baptize "with the Holy Spirit and fire" (Matthew 3:11).

Jesus' baptism by John takes on an added dimension when we consider that John was of the tribe of Levi and a direct descendant of Aaron. Luke specifies that both of John's parents were of the Aaronic priestly line (Luke 1:5). One of the duties of the priests in the Old Testament was to present the sacrifices before the Lord. John the Baptist's baptism of Jesus could be seen as a priestly presentation of the Ultimate Sacrifice. John's words the day after the baptism have a decidedly priestly air: "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29).

### 13 Feast of the Baptism of the Lord



**The Baptism of Jesus.** Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. John tried to prevent him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?" Jesus said to him in reply, "Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed him. After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened [for him], and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove [and] coming upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, saying, "This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased. *Matthew 3:13-17*

#### Mass Intentions for January 12-15, 2019

**Saturday 5:00 James Raby, Jr.**  
*By: The Family*

**Sunday 8:00 Elliott Sr., Mabel & Frances Darenbourg**  
*By: The Family*

**11:00 Christopher Bourgeois**  
*By: The Family*

**Tuesday 5:00 Noella Harris**  
*By: Ike Harris, Jr.*

#### PRAY FOR US

Richard Camble, Jr.	John Paul Moore	Walter Lewis
Zula Comeaux	Loriene Perry	Catherine Murray
Ora Lee Jordan	Martha Proctor	Joyce Decuir
Frazier Jordan	Maria Rice	Cenia Richard
Elizabeth Whitfield	Whitney Robiho	Vivian LeDuff
Rosemary Daniels	Shelvia Stewart	Rebecca Nelson
Zelda Bates	Mary Johnson	Mildred Anderson
Myrtle Moran	Judy Franklin	Charles Taylor



***Through trials and tribulations, by God's grace, we triumph!***

**TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION**

Merry Christmas! Share that cheerful greeting with some folks today. They may wonder if you have had any Elvis sightings lately, attended Star Trekkie conventions, or were Cleopatra in a previous lifetime. Despite the skeptics, today is solidly within the Christmas season. In fact, in some strands of the Christian tradition it represents the clearest manifestation of the mystery of the Incarnation. On Christmas Day, for example, the Gospel reading is the Prologue of John's Gospel, which reveals the glory of Christ shining through our humanity precisely in his baptism.

At any rate, this is an ancient feast, celebrated first in Egypt sixteen centuries ago. More than most other ancient people, the Egyptians understood the life-giving properties of water. On this day, they drew water from the Nile, so central in the history of their people, and reserved it in honor. Many other places copied the custom, so that St. John Chrysostom wrote of people in Antioch gathering at midnight to collect flowing water into vessels they brought from home since "today there is a blessing on the water." At home for dinner tonight, decorate the table with beautiful bowls of water and white candles, toast one another with goblets of sparkling water, and light a Christmas candle in the window one last time.

**Broken & Blessed**

Copies of Father Josh Johnson's book "Broken & Blessed" are on sale for \$20.00 each. Please support Father Josh.

**CALLED TO SERVE**

For many weeks now, we have been celebrating the appearance of the divine presence in human form. As a child, he came to Mary and Joseph, was seen by the shepherds, and then by some wandering magi from the East. Today we celebrate another showing, later in time, to a group gathered at the Jordan River.

John hesitated to baptize Jesus, whom he recognized as "one mightier than I." But he did as Jesus asked, and the "Holy Spirit descended" and heaven's voice spoke to Jesus, "You are my beloved Son." Jesus was beginning his public life of teaching and service. Soon he would start calling others to join him.

Peter was one of the first to be called by Jesus. In today's second reading, he announces the heart of the message, "peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all." Peter was called, and you and I are called to spread that message and to serve God's word.



**Stewardship  
January 6, 2019**



**Regular Collection**  
\$8,606.80  
**Parish Needs**  
\$581.00  
**Food Pantry**  
\$210.00