

# ST. FRANCIS XAVIER



## CATHOLIC CHURCH

1120 MYRTLE WALK  
BATON ROUGE, LA 70802

Rev. Ugochukwu Henry Ihuoma, SSJ  
Pastor

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

### PARISH OFFICE:

#### 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:SFXPSR@SFXC.BRCOXMAIL.COM

### 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

**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. 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 DECEMBER 2024

**8 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**9 The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Mass is at 9 am and 6 pm**

### **The Immaculate Conception**

Even though many Catholics connect this story in Luke's gospel with the term *immaculate conception*, the doctrine itself refers to something different. It still refers to Mary, but it is not about how Mary became pregnant with Jesus. It is about how Mary's mother became pregnant with her—deemed immaculate due to the absence of transmitting original sin.

Rather than revise the doctrine of original sin, (*that sexual intercourse transmitted original sin*), Pope Pius IX and his theologians proposed another solution: the immaculate conception of Mary. By doing this, they protected the sinlessness of Jesus—and thus the possibility of salvation for humankind—and further elevated the most venerated and beloved of all the saints: Mary of Nazareth. Moreover, in a context in which many of the church's European leaders felt attacked by the Enlightenment and the intellectual tools of modern reason, they did not have to concede ground to the rational logic of modernism that was later condemned in 1864 by Pius IX's *The Syllabus of Errors*.

**We continue our series on the Kings of the Bible**

### **The Kings in the Bible?**

In the Bible, monarchies were the common system of governance for nations. These monarchies were ruled by Kings, ranging in notoriety and moral actions. Some of the most well-known kings in the Bible include Saul, David, Solomon and of course, the king of kings, Jesus Christ. Beyond these, there are many other kings in scripture from Israel and Judah. (*see in our previous bulletin series on the Kings of the Bible*)

### **King Saul**

Saul is the first king of the Kingdom of Israel and Judah. His reign, traditionally placed in the late 11th century BCE, led a shift from a tribal culture to statehood. The biblical descriptions of Saul's life are found in the Books of Samuel.

### **King David**

David is described in the Old Testament as the second king of the United Kingdom of Israel and Judah after Saul. In the biblical narrative, David was a shepherd who earns recognition first as a musician and later by defeating the champion Goliath. He then obtains the favor of King Saul and friendship of Saul's son Jonathan. Following Saul and Jonathan killed in battle, David is selected as King. David captures Jerusalem, bringing the Ark of the Covenant into the city, and building the kingdom established by Saul.

### **King Solomon**

According to the Old Testament, Solomon was a rich and clever king of Israel who succeeded his father, King David. The traditional dates of Solomon's ruling are circa 970 to 931 BCE. He is described as the third king of the United Monarchy, which would break apart into the northern Kingdom of Israel and the southern Kingdom of Judah shortly after his death.

### **Jesus Christ, the King of Kings**

In Revelation 19:16 Jesus is named as the "KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS". This title designates the sovereignty of Jesus as the Son of God. While the Kings of man ruled over their respective domains, Jesus and the Heavenly Father rule over all of creation.

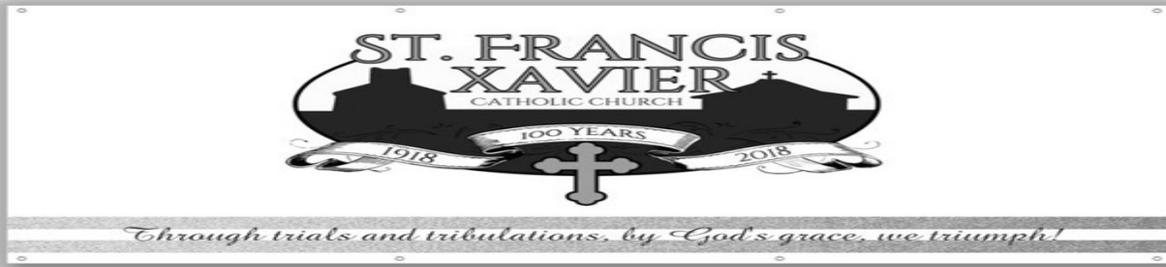
## PRAYER LIST

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

Elouise Noel \* Betty Dupas \* Denise Chutz \* Fred Dejuan \* Loretta Warren \* Lorenzia Dardone \* Patricia Tyson

Elizabeth Whitfield \* Linda Gills-Beshears \* Phyllis White \* Mary E. Bourgeois \* Easton Charles

# 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](http://www.stfrancisxavier.org) \*Text the word "GIVE" to (225) 396-4347  
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!

### Bible Study

We will be having our Bible Study every Thursday at 6 pm at the Parish Office.

### Second Collection for Retirement Fund for Religious

Support those who have given a lifetime. Women and men religious have dedicated their lives to service—praying, teaching, and caring for those in need—usually for little to no pay. Today, many of their religious communities do not have sufficient retirement savings. Your donation now to the 2024 Retirement Fund for Religious provides for the essential care, medicine, and daily needs of thousands of senior women and men religious. Please give generously.

"A voice is calling." Is Christ calling you to let Him manifest HIS love in you as a priest or consecrated religious? Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at 225-336-8778 or via email: [jjohnson@diobr.org](mailto:jjohnson@diobr.org)

Is God calling you to join a ministry in our parish? Please feel free and sign up. There are applications at the back of the church for various ministries. You can meet the pastor or the ushers for further information.



### Upcoming Events in the Parish

- \*Immaculate Conception (H) – Monday, Dec 9. Mass at 9 am and 6 pm.
- \*Advent Penitential Service - Wednesday, Dec 18, at 5 pm.
- \*Christmas Vigil/Eve – Tuesday, Dec. 24. Mass at 5 pm.
- \*Midnight Mass – Wednesday, Dec. 25. Mass at 12 am.
- \*Christmas Mass – Wednesday, Dec. 25. Mass at 9 am.
- \*Parish Anniversary – Wednesday, Dec. 25.
- \*Mary, Mother of God (H) – Wednesday, Jan. 1. Mass at 9 am.

### Mass Intentions December 7-11, 2024

- |           |      |  |
|-----------|------|--|
| Saturday  | 5pm  | <b>Juanita Culbert</b><br><i>By: Food Pantry Family</i><br><b>Richard Campbell, Jr.</b><br><i>By: Betty &amp; Val Lowery</i> |
| Sunday    | 8am  | <b>Brenda Landry</b><br><i>By: Lorina Turner</i>   |
|           | 11am | <b>Maria P. Rice</b><br><i>By: Ronald Saison</i>   |
| Tuesday   | 5 pm | <b>Chavon White</b><br><i>By: Denise Williams</i>  |
| Wednesday | 9 am | <b>Frazier Jordan, III</b><br><i>By: Winston, Jackson &amp; Barbara Decuir</i>   |

### Stewardship December 1, 2024



Regular Collection:	\$14,131.00
Online Support:	\$1099.00
Parish Needs:	\$434.00
School Support:	\$665.00

**Today's Readings**  
**Baruch 5: 1-9, Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11, Luke 3: 1-6**

**Second Sunday of Advent**  
**Could Nachos Be Bad?**

It seems the early Church had a different view of Advent than we do. Christmas was not even celebrated in the first two centuries after Christ. Easter was the original great feast of the Church. After the resurrection, Christians looked for Jesus to return in glory. They expected this return to happen soon, so we see references in Paul's letters to the "coming of the Lord Jesus" (1 Thess 3:13) or to the "day of Christ Jesus." (Phil 1:6) So in a sense, the rest of their lives were a long Advent, a time of waiting for the Lord.

In the second reading this week, we hear what Paul recommends for the people of Philippi as they wait for the Lord to return. He prays that their love will grow and mature, so that they will be able to "discern what is of value." (Phil 1:10) This may sound vague, but is very good advice, even for us today.

As we grow to be better Christians, we learn to love what is important. Remember when you were young and loved junk food? As you grew up, you learned to like healthier foods. That doesn't mean that some foods are bad, (how could nachos be bad?) just that there are better choices. So Paul encourages us to make better choices: friends we like, books we read, how we spend our free time, causes we donate to, and values we teach to our children. For example, it is good to teach our children to work hard and save money; it may be better to teach them to answer God's call and to be generous to the poor. A good way to relax might be reading a novel by our favorite author; a better way could be reading a good spiritual book.

With less than three weeks of Advent remaining, let us ask the Lord to help us "discern what is of value" in our lives. We also await His coming and we have the advantage of knowing that the Lord comes to us in Word and Sacrament. We don't have to wait for the end of time or even till Christmas, so why not try to be ready now?

*Tom Schmidt*