

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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OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

MR JOHN YOUNG ~ DRE 225.343.3075 EXT 212
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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
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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 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 April 2025 So Much Mercy

Happy Divine Mercy Sunday! What a wonderful, awesome day St. Pope John Paul II gave us! If you are a Bible reader you already know that Scripture is full of promises of mercy. Some feel that the Lord is selective on who receives His mercy. Not true! God is so generous with His mercy that He would have forgiven Judas if only he would have asked.

What about you and me? Do we have a sin from our past that is following us around? Well, the Lord revealed to Sister Faustina the ways to eternal life, Divine Mercy. Yes, today we have a special day to celebrate this mystery, but we can celebrate it and pray at any time. (By the way, if I have struck a heartstring, then get a copy of Saint Faustina's Diary). For me, Divine Mercy can be a small thing or a great thing. I continue to be amazed at the many things that God does for me each day.

I would like to tell you a story I watched recently on EWTN. It's about a husband and a wife that had two children and were expecting another. A few weeks into her pregnancy the wife had an ultrasound. The doctor had some concerns about the baby's health. A few more weeks went by and another ultrasound revealed heart and brain issues. It was quite serious. She was told that the baby would not survive and was advised to terminate the pregnancy. She said no, no matter what. She and her husband agreed to continue carrying the child in her womb. They both asked family, friends, and neighbors to pray, pray, and pray for the little boy they named Steven.

After another ultrasound many more problems showed up. I believe there were 10 all together. The husband asked the doctor to list all of the issues for him. He wrote them all down on a sticky note and stuck it on the refrigerator. After the next ultrasound the doctor noticed one of the issues had been resolved and was no longer there. The husband went to the refrigerator and crossed it off. A few weeks later two or three more disappeared. Then another and another and another.

Eventually there was only one issue left on the sticky note. It was a serious heart problem. The greatest desire for this mom and dad was to be able to hold a living baby Steven. At 30 plus weeks along, the baby was delivered by C-section. He was alive! Mom and dad got to hold him and love him for a little over an hour! Sad story? No way! God in His infinite mercy allowed their baby to be born.

If you are not familiar with the Divine Mercy Chaplet, I would encourage you to look it up and pray it. Next to the rosary, I think it's the most powerful devotion I have ever prayed.

Serving with joy!

By Deacon Dan Schneider

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

An ancient title for this Sunday is *Dominica in Albis*, or "Sunday in White." During the Easter Vigil, the newly baptized are invested with a white garment, a sign that they have put on Christ. At one time, the garments were worn for a full week of celebration and reflection, and on this Sunday the newly baptized would appear in their robes again in their new place among the faithful for Eucharist.

In later centuries, the energy of new life at Easter was largely forgotten, and this Sunday was renamed "Quasimodo Sunday," or "Low Sunday." In recent years, with the recovery of the insight that Easter is the privileged time for celebrating and renewing baptism, there is nothing "Low" about this Sunday. At a week's distance, the beauty and grace of our Easter celebration is sustained by joyful alleluias, the blessing and sprinkling of holy water, and the comfort of the Lord's presence to us. He is risen, and he summons us together, opening up the scriptures for us, breaking the bread, filling us with new life.

—James Field

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 * Patricia Tyson

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.

Calling all Volunteers

There will be a Parish Fair meeting on Tuesday, April 29, 2025, at 6 pm in the Cafeteria. If you signed up as a volunteer or didn't sign up, please come out and help make the fair a big success. This is going to take a village. Please join us.

Ministry

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. Thanks. Happy Easter.



"Register your child for the SFX School 2025-26, The Mustang Experience Awaits You." For more information, visit www.sfxbr.org or scan the QR Code.

Enrolling Grades K - 8

(225) 387-6639



We are receiving donations for our fish fry fundraiser. Each family can support us by donating \$100 for a case of fish. We accept cash or check. You can also give online on the Parish Website. Please indicate the purpose of your collection on your check or envelope or online giving. Thanks for your continued support.

Upcoming Events in the Parish

- *GriefShare Ministry— Wednesday, 6 pm.
- *Birthday and Wedding Anniversary Celebration, Sunday, April 27 at 9:30 am.
- *Parish Fair Planning Meeting, Tuesday, April 29.
- *Adoration, Praise and Worship, Saturday, May 3, 3 pm - 4:30 pm.
- *First Communion Retreat, Saturday, May 3.
- *First Holy Communion, Sunday, May 4 at the 8 am Mass.
- *Mother's Day Celebration, Sunday, May 11.

Mass Intentions April 26-30, 2025

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| Saturday | 5pm | Faye Boykin
<i>By: Betty Camble</i>
Richard Camble, Jr
<i>By: Betty Camble</i>
Vincent Byrd, Jr & Earl Bourgeois
<i>By: The Family</i> |
| Sunday | 8am | The People of the Parish |
| | 11am | Dr. Melvin Jones
<i>By: The Family</i> |
| Tuesday | 5pm | Melvin Amar, Sr
<i>By: The Amar Family</i> |
| Wednesday | 9am | Isaac Haney
<i>By: The Family</i> |

Stewardship April 13, 2025

Regular Collection:	\$11,718.00
Online Support:	\$2,178.00
Parish Needs:	\$80.00
School Support:	\$43.00



Thanks for your Generosity!

Today's Readings
Acts 5:12 –16, Revelation 1: 9-11a, 12-13, 17-19, John 20:19 –31

Believe It or Not

In today's Gospel we hear Jesus say three times, "Peace be with you." While this was a common greeting, Jesus was using it to remind them of his saying, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid" (John 14:27). The disciples were hiding in fear, so they needed reassurance. Jesus gives them that reassurance in three ways: his resurrection, forgiveness of sins, and a blessing for future disciples.

Now that he is raised from the dead, they can take heart that no one can truly hurt them—even death has been overcome. The disciples had seen Jesus crucified and were afraid any of his followers would be treated the same way. So when Jesus appeared to them, he showed them his wounds and let them touch him. He wanted to show that he was not a ghost (a spirit or vision of someone who is still dead). He has risen from death and it has no more power over him. They can now take courage because they will share in the Resurrection themselves. Breathing on them, he bestows the Holy Spirit, source of our courage.

That leads to the second reassurance, forgiveness of sins. Jesus died to take away our sins; now he shares that with his disciples when he tells them that they can forgive sins also (John 20:23). Anyone troubled by guilt can be forgiven. The disciples themselves probably felt that need, since they had deserted Jesus and one even denied knowing him. As Jesus was sent by his Father, he now sends his apostles with the mission to free others from sin. We too can forgive others (and ourselves) knowing that God has forgiven them and us.

Finally, the story of Thomas and his doubts about Jesus' resurrection gives us some hope. Jesus blesses those who "have not seen and have believed" (John 20:29). That includes everyone down to the present generation who has believed on the word of others—from the apostles in the scriptures to holy people in our own time who have experienced the Lord in their lives. We often think the apostles were "more" blessed for having seen and heard Jesus. But Jesus reverses that expectation; we are blessed, even two thousand years after the Resurrection.

Tom Schmidt