

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord
April 20, 2025

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
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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
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FAX: 225.383.1215
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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

The Empty Tomb Changed the World

The significance of the empty tomb cannot be overstated. It is the foundation of our faith and the source of our hope. As Catholics, our actions would be in vain if the tomb was not empty. But it was, and this is what gives our faith its purpose and our hope its substance. We are called to live out this faith and pass it on to others, just as previous generations have done for over two thousand years.

As Catholics, Easter is not a one-day event but a life-changing reality that transforms our perspective and gives us hope to be with the Lord for all eternity. Our faith is not fantasy but reality, a reality that we get to live and share with our family and those we interact with on a daily basis. The Church affirms this reality by inviting us to celebrate the Octave of Easter (8 days ending on Divine Mercy Sunday) and the Easter Season (50 days ending on Pentecost).

As we read in the Gospel, Mary Magdalene was the first to witness the empty tomb, the first to enter into it. St. Thomas Aquinas called her the "Apostle of the Apostles." Imagine sharing the Good News of Jesus' Resurrection with His very own followers!

This Easter, may we worship, thank the Lord, celebrate, and be filled with the joy of Jesus, just like the first witnesses of His resurrection did. May the powerful truth of this greatest of Feasts pour into the ordinary moments of our lives and sanctify them. The details of how we live the faith matter, for from our heart spills out our love, belief, and faith in Jesus, which we then share with our family, friends and the greater community.

The tomb is empty, just as He said! Have a blessed and joyful Easter!

By Emily Jaminet

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Over the centuries, the Church has demonstrated a wonderful ability to adopt a culture's favorite symbols and customs and assign them new meaning. Easter eggs have a very ancient pedigree: nature's perfect package, emblem of new life, dyed and decorated and given as gifts in ancient Egypt, Rome, China, and Persia. Just as the long hard winter is over, the egg bursts with promise of life and nourishment. Long ago, Christians came to see the egg not as a symbol of spring's rebirth, but of ours, and as a sign of Christ's tomb. A Polish legend says that Mary, in compassion for the soldiers at the cross, gave them eggs, but that her tears stained their shells with brilliant color. Legends have their origin in tales told around a hearth, but they often contain a profound truth. The idea of Mary, the first Christian, engaged in a merciful act of forgiveness and tenderness even in the shadow of the cross, describes the age-old wish that Christ "Easter in us."

—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.
- *Parish Council Meeting, Tuesday, April 22.
- *Fish Fry Crew Appreciation Luncheon, Saturday, April 22, 12 - 2 pm.
- *The Knight of SPC Fundraiser, Saturday, April 26.
- *Divine Mercy Sunday, April 27.
- *Birthday and Wedding Anniversary Celebration, Sunday, April 27 at 9:30 pm.
- *Parish Fair Planning Meeting, Tuesday, April 29.

Mass Intentions April 19-20, 2025

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| Saturday | 5pm | Wilson & Shelvia Stewart
<i>By: Betty Camble</i>
Richard Camble, Jr
<i>By: Betty Camble</i>
Dr. Melvin Jones
<i>By: The Family</i> |
| Sunday | 8am | Nickerson & Leola Kador
<i>By: Marva Kador Williams</i>
Christopher Kador
<i>By: Marva Kador Williams</i> |
| | 11am | The People of the Parish |

Stewardship April 13, 2025

Regular Collection:	\$12,098.07
Online Support:	\$4,549.83
Parish Needs:	\$377.00
School Support:	\$10.00



Thanks for your Generosity!

Today's Readings
Acts 10:34a, 37-43, Colossians 3: 1-4, John 20:1-9

Childish or Child-like?

The Gospel for Easter this year reminds me of little children. Mary of Magdala runs from the tomb when she sees it has been opened. Then Peter and the other disciple race each other to the tomb. The other one wins the race but Peter goes in first (John 20:1–5). I can picture the disciple stopping suddenly and Peter running into him, tripping and ending up in the tomb. But putting slapstick aside, there is another way they are like children.

Remember the Gospel about St. Thomas, who would not believe Jesus' resurrection until he could see him? Compare that to the disciple in today's reading, who "saw [the empty tomb] and believed" (John 20:9). That is real faith. For all he knew, someone could have taken Jesus' body and left the cloths behind. But he must have remembered Jesus saying that he would rise again. That is the kind of faith we find in a little child.

Children will believe in things they cannot see, especially if there is a good reason. We "bribe" them into believing in Santa Claus or the tooth fairy by giving them Christmas presents or money under the pillow. They will also believe in Someone real who they cannot see. If we teach them that God made them and loves them, if we love them ourselves and teach them to love others, they will have good reasons to believe in God. As they get older, we can teach them how to pray, save money for the poor, visit the sick, or volunteer to help the homeless. We can reinforce what they learn in religion class and encourage them as they prepare for First Communion or confirmation.

Jesus didn't say that only children could enter the Kingdom. He said we must become like children if we want to enter the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 18:3). What he means is that not only can we help teach children how to have faith, we can also learn from them about faith. Becoming like children does not mean being selfish or stubborn, throwing tantrums when we don't get our way. Those are childish behaviors that we put aside. Instead, we can keep a child-like faith and trust in God. Teaching them about God is a great way to help our own faith to grow. By giving them real examples of God's love for them, they will continue to believe long after they have given up the fairy tales of childhood.

Tom Schmidt