

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
April 13, 2025

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER



CATHOLIC CHURCH

1120 MYRTLE WALK
BATON ROUGE, LA 70802

stfrancisxavierbr.org

Rev. Ugochukwu "Henry" Ihuoma, SSJ
Pastor

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
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:	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

- 12 PSR Class – **Palm Sunday** – Final Live Stations Dress Rehearsal
- 17 **Holy Thursday** – Mass- **Washing of the feet**
- 18 **Good Friday** – **Live Stations of the Cross 12 Noon – 3pm Veneration of the Cross**
- 19 **Holy Saturday** – **Easter Vigil – The Elect, Tiffany Watson, Received in Full Communion**
- 20 No PSR Class – **Happy Easter – He is Risen, Hallelujah, Hallelujah!!!**
- 27 PSR Class – **2nd Sunday of Easter**

Easter Triduum

The summit of the Liturgical Year is the Easter Triduum—from the evening of Holy Thursday to the evening of Easter Sunday. Though chronologically three days, they are liturgically one day unfolding for us the unity of Christ's Paschal Mystery.

The single celebration of the Triduum marks the end of the Lenten season, and leads to the Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord at the Easter Vigil.

The liturgical services that take place during the Triduum are:

- Mass of the Lord's Supper
- Good Friday of the Lord's Passion
- Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Later this week, the Chrism Mass is celebrated in every cathedral in the world in preparation for the Easter Triduum. Only a bishop can consecrate chrism, pure olive oil infused with rich fragrance, so this liturgy is a sign of the unity of the local Church and the bishop's ministry to all who will be baptized and confirmed in our parishes in the coming year. Chrism is also used in the ordination of priests and bishops and the consecration of new altars. Two other sacramental oils, the unscented olive oil for catechumens and for the sick, will be blessed in the same liturgy and transported carefully to every parish by the beginning of the Triduum.

Remember when Noah's dove returned with the sign of the world's rebirth? The dove carried an olive branch, a pledge that God was breathing the world to life again. Yet olives require human nurture. Olives are inedible unless they are cured by human labor. Olive trees grow on sunny slopes, away from the shade of city walls, so they can only be properly tended, cured, and laboriously pressed in peace time. The Chrism Mass with its olive oils expresses God's deepest desires for us, and our resolve to place our lives in service to God's saving, healing, loving plan.

—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.

Easter Announcements

We are now accepting donations for our SFX annual Easter wagons. Donations may be made in the form of individually wrapped candy or monetary contributions. Donations may be dropped off at the Parish office or given to Pat Smith. Questions - please phone/text either Pat Smith (2259783405) or Bernadette Wilkinson (2254459799). Thank you.



"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.
- *Fish Fry, every Friday, 10am -2pm.
- *Stations of the Cross, every Friday, 3 pm.
- *Chrism Mass at St. Joseph Cathedral, Tuesday, April 15, at 10:30 am.
- *Lenten Penance Service, Wednesday, April 16, 5 - 7 pm.
- *Holy Thursday, April 17, Mass at 6 pm.
- *Good Friday, April 18, Live Stations at 12 pm and Service at 3 pm.
- *Holy Saturday, April 19, Mass at 8 pm.
- *Easter Sunday, April 20, Mass at 8 am & 11 am.
- *Parish Fair Planning Meeting, Tuesday, April 22.

Mass Intentions April 12-13, 2025

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| Saturday | 5pm | Juanita Culbert
<i>By: Camille & Kirkland</i>
Charles Williams
<i>By: Mary Ingrid</i> |
| Sunday | 8am | The People of the Parish |
| | 11am | Geraldine Jack
<i>By: Caemalita, Celiaka, Freddie Jr., Grand children and Great Grandchildren</i>
Chavon D. White
<i>By: Denise William</i> |

Stewardship April 06, 2025

Regular Collection:	\$10,473.89
Online Support:	\$1,770.00
Parish Needs:	\$450.00
School Support:	\$160.00



Thanks for your Generosity!

Today's Readings
Isaiah 50:4-7, Philippians 2: 6-11, Luke 22:14—23:1-49

One Who Serves

In the long form of the Passion from Luke's Gospel, Jesus refers to himself as "the one who serves" (Luke 22:27). He was chiding the apostles who were arguing about which one was the greatest disciple. This reminds me of today's second reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians. He says that Christ "emptied himself, taking the form of a slave" (Philippians 2:7). Jesus is not just being humble here. He gives us an example of how far God will go for love of humanity.

I suspect the apostles were confused when Jesus talked this way. Jews considered the firstborn son to be the one to inherit the bulk of the family estate. The youngest would get the least. Yet he tells them to be like the youngest: expect little reward for what you do for others. Now the apostles might have thought, "Sure, I can do that. I'll preach about the Kingdom of God for free. Then I'll really look important *and* holy." So Jesus reminds them that the world looks at the person being served as more important than the servant. But he is one who serves, and if the apostles are to be leaders of the church, they will need to be servants, too. Why? Because that is how God comes to the people—as a child born in a manger, a man who feeds the hungry but goes for forty days in the desert without food for himself, a man who washes the feet of his own disciples, and who heals the sick but accepts the suffering of crucifixion.

In the Passion according to Luke, Jesus heals one of the men sent to arrest him. He even makes friends of those who were enemies, Pilate and Herod (Luke 23:12). Barabbas, a murderer, is set free so Jesus can be crucified. As he is led to the cross, he consoles the women who weep for him. And even on the cross, he is the suffering servant who asks the Father to forgive those who are killing him. He accepts the faith of the criminal who is also being executed and promises him a place in Paradise.

With the example of service that Jesus shows toward those who put him to death, can we at least be "one who serves" those around us? Can we at least forgive those who hurt us—maybe even pray for our leaders, especially the ones with whom we disagree?

Tom Schmidt