

# 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:

MRS. MARVA KADOR WILLIAMS ~ 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  
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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
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 May 2025 Faith and Newness and Love

Happy Easter! Happy Fifth Sunday of Easter, to be specific, but Happy Easter just the same! The Church, in its wisdom, knows the glory of the Resurrection cannot be contained in just one day, or one week, or one month, not even in the multi-week Easter season of each year's Liturgical Calendar. The glory of the Resurrection continues to this day, but it continues even further - into eternity.

Thus, today's readings are a kind of roadmap for us impatient children of God, sitting here with our "Are we there yet?" attitudes. Luke, writing about the first missionary journey of Paul in the Acts of the Apostles, John at Patmos writing his visions in the Book of Revelation, and the same John sharing his recollections of Jesus at the Last Supper, give us a few directives to help us get to where we hope to be going, and to reassure us while we are getting there.

Paul tells the disciples the hard truth: "It is necessary for us to undergo many hardships to enter the kingdom of God." Faith requires perseverance and, unfortunately, too many decide the journey is too hard, failing to recognize the glory that awaits those who do persevere.

John's vision in Revelation reminds us of that glory, a new Jerusalem where we, the bride, will be adorned for our husband, Jesus Christ, risen and ascended and seated on His glorious throne. Then John tells us something that should bring us joy: "God's dwelling is with the human race." That's right, God will be with us! We lowly creatures who have believed and have faith and persevere will belong to God and be with God, who will "make all things new."

Jesus tells us plainly in John's Gospel how we get to that point: "love one another." Jesus says this is a new commandment, but hasn't God been telling us to love one another all through the books of the Old Testament? The difference, the newness, is in Jesus' next line: "As I have loved you, so you also should love one another."

How Jesus has loved us is everything here. Completely. Selflessly. Despite His divinity, becoming human for us. Despite His humanity, becoming heavenly food for us. Despite His greatness so far above us, becoming a sacrifice for us to save us from our sins. Jesus loved us so much that He laid down his life for us, making "all things new." Jesus is calling us to love others so much that we would be willing to do the same. The reward, then, is that newness bestowed on us in His heavenly presence forever. The road may be long and difficult, but please, dear Lord, grant us the grace we need to get there.

By Mike Karpus

### SAINT RITA OF CASCIA (1381-1457)

May 22

If you're ever in Philadelphia on May 22, forget parking anywhere near Saint Rita's shrine. Cars line streets and fill medians as throngs pack a candlelight vigil and six Masses, honoring this patroness of lost causes, hopeless situations, and—as her statue in countless churches built by twentieth-century immigrants testifies—difficult marriages, troubled homes, and alienated children. Wise people warn, be careful what you pray for. "Divine Savior," Rita prayed, "let me suffer like you!" Obedient to parents who refused her wish to become a nun, Rita married a man who returned her devotion with twenty years of abuse. When enemies murdered him, Rita's two sons swore revenge. Paintings depict her pointing the angry boys toward Christ crucified, whom she begged to restrain them. Within the year, both sons died. Alone now, Rita went to the convent but was refused. The nuns feared violence, since one of them was related to the murderer. Rita arranged peace between the families, made vows, and became much sought after as a counselor and intercessor for forty years on earth—and ever since in heaven.

—Peter Scagnelli

### 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](http://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.

### Graduate Recognition

Calling all 2024-2025 graduates, from 8th grade diplomas to post graduate degrees. Let us help you celebrate your wonderful accomplishment. You will be recognized at the 11:00 mass on Sunday, June 8, 2025. If you are a graduate, or the parent of a graduate, please sign-up. The sign-up sheet is on the table at the entrance of the church. If you have a graduation picture you would like to share please email it to [secretary@sfxc.brcoxmail.com](mailto:secretary@sfxc.brcoxmail.com). Also, please wear your cap and gown to church that Sunday. The last day to sign-up will be May 18, 2025.

### 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](http://www.sfxbr.org) or scan the QR Code.

**Enrolling Grades K - 8**

**(225) 387-6639**



The knights of Peter Claver, Ladies Auxiliary, Inc., St. Francis Xavier Court 12 is offering its Annual Scholarship of \$500.00 to a worthy young lady or young man graduating from high school this year that plan to attend college or university of their choice. The applications are located in the back of the church. The application must be returned on or before May 28, 2025. For additional information, please contact the Grand Lady Janet @ 572-4681.

### Upcoming Events in the Parish

- \*GriefShare Ministry– Wednesday, 6 pm.
- \*Pantry Distribution, Thursday, May 22, 10 am.
- \*Birthday and Wedding Anniversary Celebration, Sunday, May 25, 9:30 am.
- \*Parish Council Meeting, Tuesday, May 27, 6 pm
- \*Holy Spirit Novena Begins, Friday, May 30.
- \*Junior Daughters Initiation, Saturday, May 31, 10 am.

### Mass Intentions May 17-18, 2025

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|----------|------|---|
| Saturday | 5pm  | The People of the Parish  |
| Sunday   | 8am  | Mrs. Joyce Vaughn<br><i>By: The Family</i><br><b>Louis Jones</b><br><i>By: Wilma Green and Family</i><br><b>Margaret Louis</b><br><i>By: Philip &amp; Connie Louis</i><br><b>Mildred Mitchell</b><br><i>By: Philip &amp; Connie Louis</i> |
|          | 11am | Chavon D. White<br><i>By: Denise Williams</i><br><b>Geraldine Jack</b><br><i>By: Carmalita, Celiaka, Trelyn, Carmise, Freddie, III, &amp; Hayven</i>  |

### Stewardship May 11, 2025

Regular Collection:	\$6905.32
Online Support:	\$1774.00
Parish Needs:	\$55.00
School Support:	\$50.00



Thanks for your Generosity!

**Today's Readings**  
**Acts 14: 21 - 27, Revelation 21: 1-5a, John 13: 31-33a, 34 - 35**

**No Stunt Man for Jesus**

Today's first and second readings seem to contradict each other. In the Acts of the Apostles, Paul and Barnabas remind the other disciples that they would "undergo many hardships to enter the kingdom of God" (Acts 14:22). But in the second reading from Revelation, John says there will be "no more . . . mourning, wailing or pain" (Revelation 21:4). These two sides of the Kingdom show how real our faith is. Life is frequently contradictory. A woman in labor moves from pain to joy in seconds after her child is born. She doesn't forget the pain, but knows it is necessary for the joy of new birth. Only the artist knows how much effort and pain went into the creation of a painting, sculpture, or symphony. Married couples know that their love is measured as much by the sacrifices they make as by the joy they receive.

This also explains how difficult it is for the wealthy to get into the kingdom of God. If everything comes easily to you, if you never have to work for anything, you may not be capable of the sacrifices that true love entails. Some may have had life so easy, they don't know how to make the effort it takes to love God or people. And some who worked hard to acquire wealth don't understand the deeper joy that comes from sharing with others.

That's why Jesus in the Gospel talks of his coming death on the cross as the way that God will glorify him. Even God does not do things the easy way. Jesus didn't send a stunt man to take his place on the cross. The cushy jobs went to the angels who announced the birth of the Savior (Luke 1:26-32), or told the women at the tomb that he was risen (Luke 24:4-7). It was God who was born in poverty, in a time of high infant mortality (even higher when Herod tried to kill the Child). It was God who suffered, from the Agony in the Garden through the Crucifixion.

So when Jesus tells us to love one another as he has loved us, he knows what it cost. And he also knew that his death on the cross would be the beginning of a way of love that will eventually lead to "no more death or mourning, wailing or pain." We're not there yet, but we know we are not alone in our suffering for "God himself will always be with them" (Revelation 21:3).

Tom Schmidt