

Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 25, 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
BATON ROUGE, LA 70802
9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM
225.383.3479 OR 225.343.3709
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REV. UGOCHUKWU HENRY IHUOMA, SSJ.
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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

25 6th Sunday of Easter – End of PSR Classes for 24 – 25

As we come to the end of our PSR Classes for 24-25, we are proud to announce exciting new programs as well as changes to our existing programs.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) will be held on June 23 thru 27, 2025. This year's theme is EGYPT, Joseph's Journey from Prison to Palace. Registration forms are at the entrance of the church or please register online at <https://www.stfrancisxavierbr.org>

Beginning the 25-26 session, one major announcement is the change for Confirmation. The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated for those who are prepared to receive the sacrament in 7th grade. Confirmation next year will be celebrated for those who have completed the 7-11 grade preparation requirements.

Those who are in grade levels 7-11 and for whatever reason have not been attending PSR, must receive special instructions prior to being eligible to receive the Sacrament. Those in 12th grade or entering college will be offered adult classes. These classes are called the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA). These classes will be held outside of regular Sunday PSR Classes.

RCIA, is also for those who, are already Confirmed and would like to know more about their faith, those who are not Catholic and would like to become Catholic, or those who just want to learn more about the Catholic faith.

As always, we are seeking volunteers to assist with PSR Classes, Baptism Preparation Classes, Vacation Bible School, Altar Server Preparation and Proclaiming the Word, and Youth Retreats. If you are interested or just have questions please contact John Young @ stfrancxavierccd@bellsouth.net or sfxpsr@sfxc.brcoxmail.com or Office number 225.383.3479.

Please join the team as we prepare to witness an exciting future in the Lord.

Christ's Peace!

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Why is it still Easter? The lilies have long since faded. The roots of our tradition of fifty days of rejoicing from Easter to Pentecost lie in the seven-day rhythm of the Jewish week, drawn from the six days of creation plus a Sabbath day. A favorite name for the Lord's Day among our ancestors in the faith was "The Eighth Day," meaning that in Christ a breakthrough to a new humanity was achieved. With that inner architecture, it makes sense to see Pentecost as a week of weeks, forty-nine days plus one, again signaling that a new age has begun in Christ and the outpouring of his Spirit. The Jewish appreciation for Pentecost gave rise to the Jubilee year, the fiftieth year, when debts were released and prisoners set free. Today, the character of our Easter Sundays is conveyed by joyful Alleluias and the rite of sprinkling at Mass. Long ago, people expressed this joy by suspending all rules of fasting and by never kneeling at liturgy.

These customs all point to our conviction that time is holy. There is an elegant balance to the Christian year: forty days of Lenten fast and discipline give way to fifty days of unrestrained rejoicing. That's why it is still Easter!

—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.

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.

Moms Who PUSH will be awarding a \$300 scholarship to a St. Francis Xavier 12th grade graduating Senior who will be attending college or a post graduate study program. Student must provide proof of a 3.0 or better GPA. Contact Pam Ross @ 225.324.0228 Or Pat Herbert @ 225.933.3856 for additional information. The deadline to apply is May 28, 2025.



"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



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.
- *Parish Council Meeting, Tuesday, May 27, 6 pm
- *Holy Spirit Novena Begins, Friday, May 30.
- * Second Collection: Catholic Communication Campaign, June 1.
- *Adoration, Praise, and Worship, June 7, 3 pm.

Mass Intentions May 24-27, 2025

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| Saturday | 5pm | Faye Boykin
<i>By: Betty Camble</i>
Richard Camble
<i>By: Betty Camble</i>
Shelvia & Wilson Stewart
<i>By: Betty Camble</i>
Gladys Lee
<i>By: Tammy Lee</i>
Norma Duell
<i>By: Paula Northern & Stephanie Duell</i>
Juanita Culbert
<i>By: Camille Fleet</i>
Lorraine & Jeff Corbin -
Wedding Anniversary
<i>By: Lorraine & Jeff Corbin</i>
The People of the Parish |
| Sunday | 8am | |
| Tuesday | 5pm | Melvin Amar, Sr.
<i>By: The Family</i> |

Stewardship May 18, 2025

Regular Collection:	\$6582.88
Online Support:	\$2278.00
Parish Needs:	\$792.00
School Support:	\$160.00



Thanks for your Generosity!

Today's Readings
Acts 15: 1-2, 22-29, Revelation 21: 10-14, 22-23, John 14: 23-29

A Humble God

The second reading from Revelation gives us a picture of the new Jerusalem as a sign of the power and majesty of God. Gleaming with precious stones, a massive high wall with twelve gates, it is illuminated not by the sun but by the glory of God. Yet the other two readings seem to describe a humble God who wishes “not to place on you any burden beyond . . . necessity” (Acts 15:28), and Jesus in the Gospel tells his disciples that “the holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name . . . will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you” (John 14:26). This gentleness reminds me of an icon by the Russian monk Andrei Rublev that depicts the Trinity as three angels bowing in deference to each other. This humility may be what moved Jesus to say that “the Father is greater than I” (John 14:28). It is certainly a unique way of understanding God.

I used to think of free will as God's way of testing our worthiness for the kingdom of heaven. But it is more likely part of that same humility, God not being forced on us. While we are given ways to know God, especially through the scriptures and the witness of those who went before us in faith, God leaves us free to believe or not, to love God or not. When the Father sent his Son Jesus to show us his love, he sent us a tiny baby, born in a stable, not a mighty warrior leading an army. When Jesus rose from the dead on Easter, he appeared not in triumph to strike down Herod and those who had put him to death, but quietly to a handful of disciples who already believed in him.

So does this mean God leaves us on our own to get through life? No, God gives us the Holy Spirit to teach and remind us of all that Jesus said. That “reminding” is an important way the Spirit helps us today. You may have spent years in religion classes or the RCIA process. When you need an answer to life's questions, the Spirit may remind you of something you heard from a teacher or read in the scriptures. As you pray over that question, the Spirit may help you understand how the scripture applies to you. So the more you read the Bible, the more likely that the Spirit will have something of which to remind you.

Tom Schmidt