

April 24, 2016
Fifth Sunday of Easter
Vol. 48, No. 17



ST. JOHN *The* BAPTIST

• catholic church •



402 S. KIRKLAND (RIVER ROAD) • P.O. BOX 248 BRUSLY, LA 70719

OFFICE: 225-749-2189 • FAX: 225-749-1921

WEBSITE: sjb-brusly.com

CHRISTIAN FORMATION: 225-749-3387

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil..... 4:30 p.m.
Sunday 7:30, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 8:00 a.m.
Friday 8:00 a.m., with Adoration until 11:30 a.m.
First Saturday of the month only 8:00 a.m.

RECONCILIATION

Saturday..... 3:30–4:15 p.m.
Tuesday thru Friday..... 7:40 a.m. or by appointment

PARISH STAFF

Very Rev. Matthew P. Lorrain Pastor
Sammy Collura Permanent Deacon
Carolyn Dupuy Bookkeeper
Pat Durbin Parish Secretary
June Hebert Director of Religious Education
Karen Lemoine Christian Formation
Celeste Veillon Music Director
Larry Durbin Maintenance Supervisor
Richard Rabalais Maintenance

OFFICE HOURS

Monday–Friday 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Office closed for lunch 12:30–1:30 p.m.

BAPTISM

Celebrated monthly after the 11:00 am Mass. Also celebrated during Mass on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord and Easter Sunday. Parents should call the office to enroll in our baptismal preparation program, preferably early in pregnancy. Parents are encouraged to register in the parish and actively practice their faith.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS

Inquiries – Call the Parish Office

MARRIAGE

Contact the pastor at least 6 months prior to proposed wedding date. Preparation program is required. Couples should be actively practicing their faith.

CARE OF THE SICK

Emergency calls answered immediately, if possible. Communion calls to homebound and hospitals weekly by request. Please notify the office if someone is homebound.

CHRISTIAN BURIAL

Family should contact the pastor to begin funeral arrangements.

PRAYER LINE

Call Judy Thousand, 749-9257 or the Parish office

"I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." - Jn 13:34-35

Dear Parishioners,

A group of pastors and laity from a number of different churches in Iberville and West Baton Rouge Parishes held a gathering earlier this month to see if we could work together to address common issues of concern for our community. I attended the gathering along with several members of our congregation so that Catholics would be represented in what I hope will be a worthwhile effort. The group is tentatively calling itself the "Westside Sponsoring Committee."

There is always a bit of trepidation when joining such an effort because organizations can all too easily become politicized. However I see great value in Protestant and Catholic, black and white, Democrats, Republicans, and Independents all coming together to discuss shared interests. One of the biggest concerns early in our discussions has been the terrible traffic situation on the Westside. Other issues include housing, jobs, and race relations.

These issues are also concerns for the business community and industry, and so I was pleased that representatives from Axiall Corporation and Dow Chemical attended the first general assembly. The majority of attendees were African-American and Protestant, and so it will be very important for whites and Catholics to also participate if we are to build bridges of understanding in our community. I know we will not always agree on every issue or strategy, but I am hopeful that we can at least form relationships that are respectful of one another.

We plan to honor all of our high school seniors at the 11:00 Mass next Sunday, May 1, and then treat them and their parents to a catered lunch in our Parish Activity Center. We are extremely proud of their accomplishment and wish to assure them of our continued prayers as they plan for the next phase of their life's journey. We ask the graduates or one of their parents to please call the parish office (749-2189) if they can attend so that we can prepare the proper amount of food.

We will likewise honor our Blessed Mother with a traditional May crowning ceremony on Sunday, May 8, at the conclusion of the 9:00 Mass. We will walk in

procession to our Lourdes Grotto and then ask one of our second graders to place the crown on Mary. We will then offer prayers and hymns to our Blessed Mother as an expression of our love and devotion. This date was chosen to coincide with Mother's Day since Mary is the Mother of Jesus and the Mother of the Church. In honoring her we honor all of the mothers of our community on this special day.

Our landscaping improvements to the front of church are underway and should be completed soon. The goal was to increase the visibility of our sign by the road, lower the height of the first row of brick planters, and also try a different variety of plantings in the various areas. I hope it complements the beauty of our church.

Our Catholic Daughters are holding their annual Jam-balaya dinner fundraiser this Sunday, April 24, so please support them and their good work by purchasing a dinner or two.

In Christ,
Father Matt



CONGRATULATIONS
2016 Graduates

You've worked hard and we're proud of you for all your accomplishments!

Fr. Matt, staff and parishioners of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church invite you and your family to Mass and a Reception in your honor on

Sunday, May 1st at 11:00 a.m.

We will gather for mass in the church with a reception to follow in the Parish Activity Center.

Please call the parish office with the number of family members attending by

Monday, April 25th to RSVP.



CHILDREN'S CHURCH
We need another Catechist for Children's Church at 11:00 am Sunday Masses.
Please contact Karen Lemoine at 749-3387 if you are willing to help.



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

*"I have risen:
I am with you once more."
(Luke 24:34)*

Our Blessed Lord has indeed risen and awaits our visit in Eucharistic Adoration.

All night Eucharistic Adoration is Friday, May 6th at 8pm thru Saturday, May 7th at 8am.

Sign-up sheets are in the foyer of Church.

For more info, contact Julie @ 749-8260 or Mary @ 324-5289



Pray for Vocations

A VOCATION VIEW

The new commandment of love is required of everyone who follows the risen Lord. How do you fulfill the command? If God is calling you, call or email Fr. Matt Dupre' at 225.336.8778, mdupre@diobr.org, or visit, www.diobr.org/vocations.

MANRESA RETREAT

Each year a group of men from our parish attend a weekend retreat at Manresa in Convent, LA. It is a time that we leave all our baggage at home and enjoy a relaxed weekend with other men from all over and more so, a weekend with our Lord. When was the last time that you spent any considerable amount of time alone with the Lord? Why not treat yourself to a weekend of prayer, relaxation, and time alone with God? This year our retreat is June 30—July 3, 2016. Please consider joining us for this experience that you will truly enjoy. For more information or to register for the retreat, please contact Grayson Brewer (225-975-3603 or Deacon Sammy Collura (225-603-9635). We would love to have you with us!



YOU'RE INVITED!

SENIOR SPIRIT OFFERS ANOTHER LOUISIANA ADVENTURE:

Exploring Jeff Davis Parish

Wednesday, May 18, 2016, 8:00 a.m.—8:00 p.m.

The day trip includes **Tietje Crawfish Farms and Processing Plant in Roanoke; W.H. Tupper Museum in Jennings; Welsh Museum in Welsh; Bayou Rum Distillery in Lacassine—tour and tasting; and if time permits, a side trip to Lorraine Bridge and Park in Bell City.**

The day will begin with a stop at the **Jeff Davis Parish Tourism "Gator Chateau"** where we can pet baby alligators, have coffee and donuts, and a rest stop. We will enjoy a picnic lunch and later in the evening, a hot meal at **Mike's Seafood and Steak House in Jennings**. Cost is \$75 per person, and includes two meals, transportation and all admissions.

To register, please call Carolyn Dupuy at 749-2189. Checks should be made out to St. John the Baptist Catholic Church and either brought to the Church Office, 504 Kirkland Drive or mailed to P.O. Box 248, Brusly, LA 70719.



ARCHDIOCESE OF
NEW ORLEANS

Retreat Center

Upcoming Retreats – May 2016

May 12 – Day of Prayer

Thomas Merton:
Discovering God Within
Rev. Msgr. Doug Doussan

May 17 – Day of Prayer

Ladder of Perfection:
The Beatitudes in Matthew
Rev. Msgr William Bilinsky

May 13-14

Mother/Daughter Retreat
Once Upon a Time
Sr. Judith Gomila

May 27-29

God's Love for . . . ?
Rev. Paul Hart

5500 St. Mary Street, Metairie, LA 70006
(504) 267-9604 * retreats.arch-no.org

CONGRATULATIONS!

Easton Joseph Hebert, son of Drew Michael & Janene Ducote Hebert was baptized here last weekend.

Congratulations to him & his family!

STEWARDSHIP OF FINANCES

April 17, 2016

REGULAR:

208 Identified- - - - - \$7,334.00

Loose Collection- - - - - 759.00

TOTAL- - - - - \$8,093.00

Readings for the Week of April 24, 2016

Sunday: Acts 14:21-27/Ps 145:8-13/Rv 21:1-5a/
Jn13:31-33a, 34-35

Monday: 1 Pt 5:5b-14/Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17/
Mk 16:15a-20

Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28/Ps 145:10-13, 21/
Jn 14:27-31a

Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6/Ps 122:1-5/Jn 15:1-8

Thursday: Acts 15:7-21/Ps 96:1-3, 10/Jn 15:9-11

Friday: Acts 15:22-31/Ps 57:8-10, 12/Jn 15:12-17

Saturday: Acts 16:1-10/Ps 100:1-3, 5/Jn 15:18-21

Next Sunday: Acts 15:1-2, 22-29/Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8/
Rv 21:10-14, 22-23/Jn 14:23-29

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS 2015-2016

Donna Badon
Maria Bertrand
Jamie Bourg
Chris Buckle, Chairman
Deacon Sammy Collura
Stacy Gauthreaux
Jules Lefeaux
Mark Loreno
Fr. Matt Lorrain
Jason Murphey
Andrea Smicker
Toni Tolar, Vice-Chairman
John Windham



5th Sunday of Easter

"This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." When people watch us, do they know that we are the disciples of Jesus?

As Christians, we are called to do more than love the Lord. We are called to be his witnesses in the world by loving others as well. In today's Gospel reading, he gave us a new commandment, "As I have loved you, so you also should love one another." Anyone, everyone, should be able to look at us and see this love in action. If we are not witnesses to this love, then we are falling short of our mission.

So, how did Jesus love us? Selflessly. His love was never motivated by personal gain. On the contrary, he often suffered for us, and not just on the cross. He faced rejection and animosity for loving those who were considered "unlovable" in his culture. He lived a life of poverty and simplicity, never focused on amassing things for himself, but always willing to give of himself. This is the love we are called to imitate.

The task can feel daunting. We are not perfect people, and being witnesses to Christ-like love can strike us as a lofty challenge. Of course, it's easier to be selfless and generous with people who love us in return, or with those who stir our compassion. But to be consistent witnesses to loving one another in all circumstances--like Jesus does for us--that takes it to another level. Thankfully, however, Jesus doesn't expect us to do this on our own. He promises us his Spirit to live in us and love through us. Through our baptism, we have his Spirit dwelling in our hearts, along with the supernatural gifts of faith, hope, and love. May we make these gifts flourish.