

*December 18, 2016
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Vol. 48, No. 51*



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

Behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." - Mt 1:20-21

Dear Parishioners,

There was a nice article in the most recent issue of *The Catholic Commentator* featuring Father Pat Mascarella who is celebrating 50 years of priesthood this month. Father Pat was ordained on December 15, 1966 and briefly served here at St. John the Baptist just prior to Father Howard Hall's arrival in 1983.

Father Pat was one of the chaplains at Christ the King Catholic Student Center during my undergraduate years at LSU. He was always very approachable and was one of the first priests I spoke to when discerning my call to the priesthood. I later completed my deacon internship under his leadership at Immaculate Conception Parish in Denham Springs. May God continue to bless Father Pat and his ministry as a retired priest.

Our Advent Penance service is this Tuesday, December 20, at 6:30 p.m. Please note that we will **not** have confessions next Saturday, December 24, on Christmas Eve, so this might be your best chance to receive the sacramental graces before Christmas if you have not already done so.

We will be decorating the church for Christmas this Thursday, December 22, beginning at 10:00 a.m. We need plenty of volunteers so the work can be completed smartly and efficiently. Service hours are available for students, and volunteers are needed to put the trees in the stands and the garland on the columns. John Toups would also like to remake the bows ahead of time so please call or text him at 405-0826 if you can help with that project.

Our schedule of services for Christmas includes two Masses on Christmas Eve and two Masses on Christmas morning. The celebration begins on Christmas Eve with a choir concert at 3:15 p.m. followed by our 4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass. We then have a second Vigil Mass at 6:00 p.m. which includes a dramatization of the Gospel by some of the children of our parish. Masses on Christmas Day are at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. (We no longer have a midnight Mass but there is one nearby at St. John in Plaquemine.)

I plan to take a few days of vacation between Christmas and New Year's so we will have Communion Services in place of the 8:00 a.m. Masses on Tuesday—Friday, December 27—30.

Since New Year's Day falls on a Sunday this year, our Masses for the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God will follow the regular Saturday and Sunday schedule of 4:30, 7:30, 9:00, and 11:00.

As you know, #20 LSU plays #13 Louisville in the Citrus Bowl at the early start time of 10:00 a.m. on December 31. It is rated by sports analysts as the fifth or sixth best bowl game of the season, and LSU will have to play very well in order to beat a quality opponent led by Heisman Trophy winning quarterback Lamar Jackson.

In Christ,
Father Matt



CHRISTIAN FORMATION UPDATE

NO CHRISTIAN FORMATION CLASSES

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19 AND TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20
MONDAY, DECEMBER 26TH AND TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27TH
MONDAY, JANUARY 2ND AND TUESDAY, JANUARY 3RD

DUE TO CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS HOLIDAYS.

THERE WILL BE A SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION SESSION FOR ALL SECOND GRADERS ON MONDAY, JANUARY 9TH OR TUESDAY, JANUARY 10TH AT THEIR REGULARLY SCHEDULED CLASS TIMES. STUDENTS IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WILL CHOOSE TO COME ON ONE OF THESE DAYS. FIRST RECONCILIATION RETREAT FOR ALL SECOND GRADERS AND THEIR PARENTS WILL BE ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 14TH FROM 9 A.M.—12 P.M. IN THE ACTIVITY CENTER.



CHRISTMAS SEASON MASS SCHEDULE

*Saturday, December 24, Christmas Eve
Vigil Masses at 4:00 and 6:00 p.m.*

*Sunday, December 25, Christmas Day
Masses at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.*

SOLEMNITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY,
MOTHER OF GOD
MASS SCHEDULE

*Saturday, December 31 at 4:30 p.m.
Sunday, January 1 at 7:30, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.*

**The Parish Office will be closed on
Friday, December 23rd, Monday, December 26th and
Monday, January 2nd for the holidays.**



**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE**
Tuesday, December 20, 2016—6:30 pm



EPIPHANY CONCERT
Sunday, January 8, 2017—4:00 pm
St. John the Evangelist

Fr. Greg Daigle will perform his annual Epiphany Concert on Sunday, January 8, 2017 at 4:00 pm at St. John the Evangelist Church in Plaquemine. Songs of the Christmas Season will be featured. Fr. Greg will be accompanied by the Bill Grimes Orchestra.

Tickets are \$25 each and are on sale at St. John Church and St. John School Office or may be purchased at the door. All proceeds will benefit music programs at St. John School.



We will be decorating the church on Thursday, December 22nd beginning at 10:00 am. Please join us if you can help! We'd love to see you there!

Knights of Columbus

November Calendar Winners

Scott Hunt, Barry Maggio, Natalie Kershaw, Mabel Tardiff, Kitty Blanchard, Shelley Landry, John Blackwell, James G. Vidrine, Mary Gaye David, John Little, Duncan Gotfredson, Scott Rills, Eli St. Germain, Mercedes Gaar, Elaine Richard, Marilyn Coupel, Paula Bergeron, Carroll Bourgeois, Mary Mouch, Dora & Albruge Guillot, Kelly Watson, Bob Wilson, Warren Hebert, Gary Haydel, Rhonda & Jesse Hayden, Linda Levert, Joe & Sarah Gibson, Rose Malarcher, Adam Beatty, Stacy Mabile

December Calendar Winners

Mike Cazes, Kevin Hunt, Jarred Berthelot, Beth Toups, Harriette, Ray Blanchard, Craig Aucoin, J.B. & Ann Landry, Willie Williams, Daniel Palmisano, Eddie Boudreaux, Ed Reeves, John Breaux, Tommy Mathews, Cathy Ducote, Charles Felder, Amanda Voorhies, Velma Steward, Jessica Ourso, Brandy Guilotte, Marvin L. Lyons, Barry Riggs, Margaret White, Don & Peggy Guillot, Vicki Mouch, Martha Lemoine, Della Truxillo, Shirley Rivet, Eugene Stevens, Annie LeBlanc, Gerald L. Moore



PRAYERS & SYMPATHY are extended to Ms. Katie Scalise and family upon the death of her sister, Genevieve "Jennie" Valenti. Please keep them in your prayers.

STEWARDSHIP OF FINANCES

December 11, 2016

263 Identified- - - - - \$14,149.50

Loose Collection- - - - - 523.00

TOTAL- - - - - \$14,672.50

Retirement fund for Religious—\$2,710.00

Immaculate Conception—\$1,154.00

A VOCATION VIEW

God sent His Son, Jesus, to teach people of the Father's love and plan for salvation. Jesus continues to send priests, sisters, deacons and brothers to the world to continue His work of salvation. If you think God is calling you to do this, call Fr. Andrew Merrick at 225.336.8778, americk@diobr.org.

THANKS!

"Sincere thanks to all of you for the continued thoughts & prayers for me as I battle Stage 3 breast cancer. My surgery is December 27th followed by six weeks of radiation. May Jesus continue to use our suffering to bring us closer to him!"

—Merlyn Bourgeois



**2017—25th & 50th
WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION**

Sunday, February 12, 2017 at 3:00 pm

Our Lady of Mercy Church

445 Marquette Ave., Baton Rouge, LA

Bishop Robert W. Muench will celebrate a liturgy honoring couples on their 25th, 50th, and 65th or greater wedding anniversary. The families of the honored couples are also invited to attend the liturgy and reception afterward in the Our Lady of Mercy Parish Activity Center.

PLEASE CALL THE PARISH OFFICE TO REGISTER (749-2189)



Diocesan Office of Family Life Presents:

How to Be Married and Stay Engaged

A Marriage Enrichment Seminar will be presented by Dr. James Healy on Saturday, January 14, 2017 from 9 am to Noon at the Catholic Life Center Ballroom. Dr. Healy is a nationally renowned speaker on Marriage. In a down to earth and sometimes humorous way, Dr. Healy will help couples understand the three types of intimacy that are needed for a marriage to thrive. Happily, these types of intimacy are the basis for our Christian marriage vows. The seminar will offer couples of all ages an opportunity to deepen their friendship and commitment and remember God's place in their marriage. You can register online at: www.mfldiobr.org or call (225) 242-0323.

Readings for the Week of December 18, 2016

Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24
Monday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71/Lk 1:5-25
Tuesday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24/Lk 1:26-38
Wednesday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33/
Lk 1:39-45
Thursday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2/Lk 1:46-56
Friday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25/Lk 1:57-66
Saturday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89/
Lk 1:67-79
Next Sunday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/
Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18
or 1:1-5, 9-14

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS 2015-2016

Donna Badon
John Begue
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



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus." Joseph heard these prophetic words in a dream. They were words of anticipation, of what was to come. And in a sense, they ushered in a kind of Advent for Joseph. With this divine message, Joseph began a period of holy waiting. He now knew that the Messiah was going to be coming into his own home, and he had just nine months to prepare! We can only imagine how Joseph might have spent these precious days. Most likely he did more than prepare a physical home for his soon-to-be-born Son; he must have also used these days to prepare his heart, mind, and soul for such a tremendous mission.

Today, we stand in a position not all that different from St. Joseph. We also know that the Messiah will be arriving--not just in remembrance at Christmastime, but in reality at the second coming. But unlike Joseph, we don't have an exact timeframe. We don't know when Jesus will return. We just know that we need to be ready!

During the season of Advent we are challenged to recall this fact and strive to get our hearts in order. The days are short now until Christmas, and for all we know they might be short until Christ's return as well. What remains to be done? Aside from wrapping presents and planning parties, where do we yet need to tidy up our habits to properly celebrate the real meaning of this festive season? How can we make sure that we don't get swept away in the external preparations, forgetting the work that needs to be done in the invisible silence of our souls?

God may not speak to all of us directly in our dreams, but he does speak to us clearly through his word. May we recognize today the mission he has laid before us.