



St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

402 S. Kirkland (River Road) • P.O. Box 248
Brusly, LA 70719

Parish Office: (225) 749-2189 • Christian Formation Office: (225) 749-3387
Parish Fax: (225) 749-1921 • Website: sjb-brusly.com

Parish Staff

Rev. Matthew P. Lorrain, *Pastor*
Sammy Collura, *Permanent Deacon*
Julie Ginther Cilano, *Christian Formation*
Carolyn Dupuy, *Bookkeeper*
Pat Durbin, *Parish Secretary*
Karen Lemoine, *Christian Formation*
Larry Durbin, *Maintenance Supervisor*
Richard Rabalais, *Maintenance*
Celeste Veillon, *Music Director*

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 am) or by appointment

Baptism

Celebrated at weekend Masses. Parents should call the office early to enroll in our baptismal preparation program. Parents should be registered and actively practicing the 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.

Office Hours

Monday–Friday 8:30–4:30
Office closed for lunch 12:30–1:30

December 2, 2012



1st Sunday of Advent

Tough economic times weigh on everyone. While some people seem to be able to afford everything, go everywhere, and enjoy what they want, there are so many people that have come to a point in their lives where every penny is pinched and every purchase scrutinized. Data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics shows that consumers are spending less on big-ticket items to afford basics. Households hit by layoffs, the tight job market, and heavy debt burdens are holding back on spending. The savings rate has dropped, indicating that consumers are using up scant resources to stay afloat. Even people who might be able to spend a little more are being cautious, because the economic mood is so gloomy. The words of Jesus in today's Gospel could well characterize the overall global experience, "on earth nations will be in dismay."

It might seem a bit odd that we begin Advent, which is a season of hope, with a rather dismal and disturbing Gospel. The end of time is not something that we usually think about to any great extent. We are often more concerned with the anxieties of daily life, as the Gospel puts it. Those daily worries seem like enough for most of us. We don't need to add the end of the world on top of it.

But for many people today, in this economic environment, daily anxieties can seem like the end of the world. Bills mount up, tensions grow, jobs or homes are lost. We need this season of hope to renew our own longings and expectations. The prophet Isaiah reminds us that God fulfills his promises. God's mercy endures in every generation, including ours. The actions we take to assist others become an expression of God's mercy and a sign of God's renewing hope. In the weeks to come even a small kindness to someone could help to ease anxiety, and help that person believe that redemption is at hand.

"Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand." - Lk 21:27-28

Dear Parishioners,

We finally have all of the numbers tabulated for this year's *Feast on the Levee* and our net income is a little over \$54,000. This amount is about \$16,000 less than last year but I still consider the Feast a great success in terms of the community spirit that I witnessed on the day of the fair. Thanks once again to Scott and Pamela Rhodes and all of you who worked so hard to benefit our Church and community.

The income from the *Feast* has now been deposited into our Building Fund savings account. The previous balance of this account was only about \$950 since all of its monies were used to pay for the renovations to our church. I decided to deposit this year's fair proceeds into this account to help build up our savings for future needs.

The debt on the church renovation now stands at \$1.43 million and we are on pace to pay it off in 12 years. All of your contributions to the monthly building fund collection go directly for this purpose. Some parishioners have suggested that we also apply the entire *Feast* income to the loan. While I would love to pay off the loan early, I believe the "slow and steady" approach is a more prudent way to retire the debt.

This approach allows us the option of addressing smaller projects on our master plan even while we work to retire the debt. Examples are improvements to the parish activity center, parish office building, a new storage building, and additional parking for the church. None of these examples are urgent and we may wish to wait a long time before tackling them but I like having the flexibility to address needs in a timely manner.

I know I have not yet been here long enough for us to build a relationship of trust, but I do assure you that any ideas and plans for capital improvements will be brought before the Parish Pastoral Council and the finance committee for discussion and input. The yet to be formed Cemetery Committee will provide a similar consultative body for matters concerning the cemetery.

Please note that we have a new member on our Parish Pastoral Council, Mrs. Katie Roettger. There was a vacancy on the council for a pastor's appointee and we all felt that a young adult parishioner would provide a valuable and needed perspective. Katie was recently hired as the project coordinator for the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry at the Diocese, the same position previously held by Peggy LeBlanc and Julie Cilano.

The annual appeal for the Retirement Fund for Religious is next weekend, December 8/9. This is our chance to help provide for our consecrated religious who have given so much to the church over the years. Since this is also the weekend for our monthly building fund collection I ask that you place your envelopes for the Religious Retirement in the first collection. Finally, Saturday, December 8, is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and a holy day of obligation. Our Mass for the feast will be at 8:00 a.m. St. John Church in Plaquemine and Holy Family Church in Port Allen will each celebrate a Friday evening vigil Mass if that time is more convenient for you.

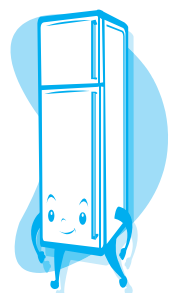
In Christ,
Father Matt



MP3: Music, Prayer Praise, Play

High School Youth Event
December 8, 2012 from 5-10pm
At St. Michael High School
Featuring: Live Music, Inflatables,
Eucharistic Adoration, Pizza, Confession
RSVP by December 5th!

**YOUTH MINISTRY IS STILL
LOOKING FOR A FULL SIZE
REFRIGERATOR FOR THEIR NEW
YOUTH ROOM. PLEASE CALL US
AT 749-3387 IF YOU HAVE ONE
AVAILABLE OR WOULD LIKE TO
DONATE FUNDS TO PURCHASE ONE.**



Youth Ministry



Last week the High School Youth Ministry worked on the new youth room. We have made a lot of great progress on it and it is almost complete. This will be a place for communication, socializing, prayer, and fellowship for our parish's young people. I am very proud of the ownership they have put into making this space a bright and beautiful reflection of the vibrant young community they are building.
-- Julie

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Give to those who have given a lifetime. Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests worked for many years for little, if any, pay. Their sacrifices now leave their religious communities without adequate savings for retirement. Your gift to next week's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious helps to provide prescription medications, nursing care, and more for thousands of elderly religious. Please be generous. Place your special envelope in the regular collection.

STEWARDSHIP OF FINANCES

November 18, 2012

REGULAR:

202 Identified- - - - - \$5,736.00
Loose Collection- - - - - 753.00
 TOTAL- - - - - \$6,489.00

Campaign for Human Development—\$569.00
 Hurricane Sandy—\$2,484.25

November 25, 2012

REGULAR:

188 Identified- - - - - \$5,136.00
Loose Collection- - - - - 560.00
 TOTAL- - - - - \$5,696.00

Thanksgiving Day—\$741.00
 Seminary Appeal—\$4,057.00

A VOCATION VIEW

St. Paul tells us that the love we received from the Lord must increase and be shared with those around us that we need to be holy before God. Are you willing to teach the Gospel to others and to help prepare them for the coming of the Lord? If yes, call or email Fr. Matt Dupre at 225.336.8778, mdupre@diobr.org, or visit www.diobr.org/vocations.

Immaculate Conception

Saturday, December 8, 2012

Holy Day of Obligation

St. John the Baptist, Brusly—Mass: 8:00 am

Vigil Masses on Friday, December 7, 2012

St. John the Evangelist, Plaquemine—6:00 pm

Holy Family, Port Allen—6:00 pm



ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES

Our [Advent Penance Service](#) is scheduled for [Tuesday, December 18 at 7:00 a.m.](#) However, if you cannot make that service, other churches in the area have scheduled their services as follows:

- ⇒ [Our Lady of Prompt Succor](#)—White Castle
Tuesday, December 4 at 7:00 p.m.
- ⇒ [St. Augustine](#)—New Roads
Wednesday, December 5 at 6:00 p.m.
- ⇒ [Immaculate Conception](#)—Lakeland
Thursday, December 6 at 7:00 p.m.
- ⇒ [St. John the Evangelist](#)—Plaquemine
Tuesday, December 11 at 6:30 p.m.
- ⇒ [Immaculate Heart of Mary](#)—Maringouin
Wednesday, December 12 at 6:30 p.m.
- ⇒ [Holy Family](#)—Port Allen
Thursday, December 13 at 6:30 p.m.

Readings for the Week of December 2, 2012

Sunday: Jer 33:14-16/1 Thes 3:12--4:2/
Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

Monday: Is 2:1-5/Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Is 29:17-24/Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/
Lk 1:26-38

Next Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS 2012-2013

Donna Badon
Maria Bertrand
Jamie Chustz, Vice-chairman
Deacon Sammy Collura
David Couvillon
Jerry Deshotel
Stacy Gauthreaux
Fr. Matt Lorrain
Wendy Parrish
Katie Roettger
Toni Tolar
David Toups, Chairman
John Windham, Secretary
Gerard "Jerry" Zimmerman

"Be on guard," Jesus warns in today's Gospel, "lest your spirits become bloated with indulgence." Let us heed His warning and follow the advice of St. Paul, conducting ourselves in a way pleasing to God, overflowing with love for one another.



YEAR OF FAITH 2012
2013

Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church Presents:

EVENINGS OF FAITH

Belief Under Assault: Rescuing Faith & Reason
from Monstrous Mentalities

Presenter: Dr. Chris Baglow

December 20, 2012

6:00-7:30pm, Activity Center

Wine and Cheese Reception

Adults Only

(Babysitting available upon request)

BALM FOR THE SOUL

A new shipment of cookbooks is in for the Christmas holidays. The cookbooks have sold over 1100 copies since October 2011! The sale of these popular books benefits the SJB Bereavement Committee. It includes over 500 unique family favorite recipes. At \$15.00 per copy, they make great gifts! Contact Harold & Beverly Babin at 749-2027 or Margaret Canella at 749-2874 to get your copy.

