

*December 25, 2016
The Nativity of the Lord
Vol. 48, No. 52*



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

The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." - Lk 2:10-12

Dear Parishioners,

Each Christmas I enjoy reading over the following short meditation by Saint Pio of Pietrelcina, more commonly known as Padre Pio:

"One thing is necessary: to be near Jesus. You know well that at the birth of our Lord the shepherds heard the angelic and divine chants of the heavenly spirits. The Scriptures say so. But they do not say that his Virgin Mother and St. Joseph, who were nearer to the Child, heard the voices of the angels or saw those miracles of splendor. On the contrary, they heard the Child weeping and saw by the light of a poor lantern the eyes of the Divine Child all bathed in tears, in sighs and shivering with cold. Now I ask you: would you not have preferred to have been in the dark stable, filled with the cries of the little Child, rather than have been with the shepherds, besides yourself with joy over those sweet melodies from heaven and the beauties of this wonderful splendor?"

Christmas is the feast where we feel especially close to Jesus regardless of our personal circumstances or the events of the recent past. We are not afraid to approach Jesus who first entered our world as a small defenseless infant. We don't have to search for just the right words to say or the right attitude to adopt, but only to draw near and adore our loving Savior. He speaks to the deepest desires of our hearts, and continues to dwell within us for comfort and guidance. How blessed we are to annually celebrate so great a feast.

Father David Allen and I will take a few days of vacation this week to rest up after a busy Advent and Christmas schedule. Therefore we will have Communion Services in place of our 8:00 a.m. Masses this Tuesday – Friday, December 27-30. With the increased traffic on the Mississippi River Bridge and LA Highway 1, it is impossible to get retired priests to drive over for a weekday Mass. Thankfully, they are still willing to come for Saturday and Sunday Masses when needed.

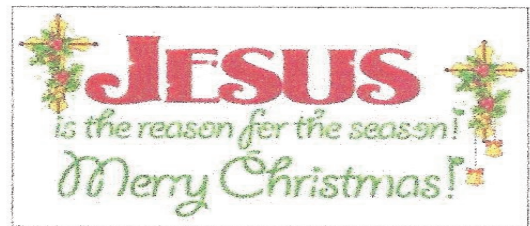
Since New Year's Day falls on a Sunday this year, our Masses next weekend for the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God will follow the regular Saturday and Sunday schedule of 4:30, 7:30, 9:00, and 11:00.

Our 20th ranked LSU Tigers play 13th ranked Louisville in the Citrus Bowl at 10:00 a.m. this Saturday, 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 the Cardinals led by Heisman Trophy winner Lamar Jackson. Geaux Tigers!

Our parish participated in the #GiveCatholic campaign on "Giving Tuesday" and received a total of \$1,340 from 17 donors. Since that was not quite enough to underwrite the purchase of a new funeral chasuble and pall, we subsequently received donations of \$500 from our Bereavement Committee and \$500 from the Zippers. Many thanks to all of these individuals and organizations for their generous gifts.

In Christ,
Father Matt

Christian Formation Update



NO CHRISTIAN FORMATION CLASSES
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 9a.m.—12pm IN THE ACTIVITY CENTER



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

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.



*THE SANCTUARY CANDLE
 IS BURNING IN MEMORY OF
 EMILEY GASSIE THIBODEAUX*

**THE SANCTUARY CANDLE IS AVAILABLE
 PLEASE CALL THE PARISH OFFICE
 TO SCHEDULE**



Men's Retreat

**ROSARYVILLE—PONCHATOULA, LA
 MEN'S EMMAUS RETREAT**

January 27—29, 2017

Open to All Men

**(Sponsored by St. Dominic Catholic Church)
 New Orleans, LA**

Put aside the “hustle and bustle” of daily life and attend the upcoming men’s Emmaus retreat the week-end of January 27—29, 2017. The retreat is held at Rosaryville Spirit Life Center in beautiful, peaceful Ponchatoula, LA and provides a unique experience. Based on the scripture passage “The Road to Emmaus” (Lk 24:13-35), this retreat is an uplifting experience and has a great effect on men’s lives. The retreat begins at 5:00 pm Friday and ends after the 5:30 pm Mass on Sunday. Please don’t ignore this opportunity, but pray on it instead, because something special awaits you at Rosaryville. If you have any questions or concerns, contact Norm Madere at (504) 481-0411, Rick Valadie (504) 267-4944 or David Drude(985) 974-0657.



A VOCATION VIEW

“The Word became flesh and lived among us.” Vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life are living in our midst. If you may be among them, call or email Fr. Andrew Merrick at 225.336.8778, amerrick@diobr.org.

BAPTISM



BAPTISMAL SEMINAR
Wednesday, January 11, 2017
6:00 pm Classroom #5

**This class is mandatory for
 parents wanting to baptize their
 children. Call the Parish Office to
 register.**

Be Merciful

“Have Masses said for the living: friends and family members, even strangers you read/hear about, who are having a hard time.”



**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)**

Readings for the Week of December 25, 2016

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

Monday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31/Mt 10:17-22

Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:5--2:2/Ps 124/Mt 2:13-18

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96/Lk 2:22-35

Friday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/
 Ps 128/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96/Jn 1:1-18

Next Sunday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

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



THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

"She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Today we celebrate that the prophetic dream of St. Joseph was fulfilled! Jesus is born! A Savior has come to deliver us-- Emmanuel, "God is with us." Christmas is a feast of fulfillment, a holiday of deep and enduring happiness not only because God became man and was born of a woman, but because along with his Incarnation, God brought us freedom. Jesus is the long-awaited Messiah who sets us free from the misery of our own sins. This is the ultimate gift of Christmas Day.

We exchange gifts today as a sign of our love for one another to be sure, but also as a concrete, visible way to celebrate the gift that we have first received from God. We are free people! We are not slaves but rather the children of God whose priceless inheritance is to dwell in his kingdom for all eternity. On this most festive day of the year, we are invited to exult in this fact and spare little effort or expense to show our gratitude and joy.

We only must be careful not to reduce our celebrating today to something less glorious, something less meaningful, or less profound. This is no mere secular holiday. This is not just a ritual of family gatherings, elaborate evergreen trees and sumptuous meals. Christmas is a holy day and as Christians it is our day in a most definite and undeniable way. The treats and trimmings are all signs that remind us of what lies ahead for those who accept the real gift of Jesus Christ: an unending banquet of eternal delights and divine gifts that will never fail to satisfy. Yes, Christmas is a little taste of heaven, the perfect gift that lies in wait for those who love the Lord.