

February 21, 2016
Second Sunday of Lent
Vol. 48, No. 8



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

While he was praying his face changed in appearance and his clothing became dazzling white. And behold, two men were conversing with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his exodus that he was going to accomplish in Jerusalem. - Lk 9:29-31

Dear Parishioners,

Each year church parishes are required to submit a "Spiritual and Pastoral Report" to their diocese showing the number of baptisms, weddings, and other sacramental celebrations; also funerals; and also the size of one's catechetical programs as well as other statistics pertinent to parish life. We recently submitted our report for the previous calendar year and I thought you might be interested in some of the statistics.

In 2015 we baptized 52 infants and 9 older children and adults. 43 second graders celebrated First Eucharist, 41 eleventh graders celebrated Confirmation, and 16 couples celebrated marriage in our church. Those are wonderful numbers for a parish of our size.

There were also 28 funerals in our church during the same time period. The sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick was celebrated twice in church for about 70 people, and numerous other times either at home or in the hospital.

We have approximately 120 children who attend a Catholic School, and 386 children who attend our Parish School of Religion on Monday and Tuesday evenings. Those numbers are also reflective of a vibrant parish community. I know that numbers rarely tell the whole story of community life but it is interesting nonetheless to review the year in numbers.

On another note, a parish mission is a grace-filled time of prayer and encouragement, when we come together at church for further study and reflection on the gift and challenge of faith. There is music to help center our hearts, and then an expanded version of a Sunday homily so that the retreat director is able to illustrate some of the dynamics of living the Gospel according to the insights of our Catholic faith.

With this in mind, I hope you will attend this year's two-night Lenten Mission led by Father Mark Toups. The Mission will be held on Sunday, March 6, and Monday, March 7, beginning at 7:00 p.m. each night. Father Toups is a priest of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux where he serves as chancellor, spiritual director, and the author of "Oremus: A Catholic Guide to Prayer." He previously served as vocation director for

the same time that I served as vocation director for our diocese.

I remind you that I am available for confession on Saturday afternoons and every Wednesday evening from 5:30 – 5:50 p.m. just prior to the 6:00 p.m. Mass, and then for a whole hour from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. (during the Way of the Cross). I imagine that Father Toups will also hear confessions while he is in our parish for the mission.

The K.C.'s have their annual spaghetti dinner fundraiser next Sunday, February 28, and are selling tickets after all of our Masses this weekend. Please give them your support.

In Christ,
Father Matt

Important - Please Note!

PARISH GUIDE BOOK UPDATE

Does our church database have YOUR family membership record correct?

Here is your chance to update YOUR record for our annual Guide Book & Directory (if you haven't already done so).

It is time for us to update our database with any changes, additions, or deletions that may have occurred in YOUR family over the past year.

Have you changed your phone number? Do you want your cell number listed? Have you moved? Are you preparing to move soon? Do you want your record published? If you have not already informed the Office about changes to your record, please let us know now. The Office number is 749-2189.



LENTEN SCHEDULE

Daily Masses: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday & First Saturday of the Month—8:00 am
Wednesdays: Mass—6:00 pm;
Way of the Cross & The Light is On for You—6:30 pm

Please call the Parish Office to schedule the Sanctuary Candle for a loved one. There are many dates still available for 2016

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

"Look Upon Him Whom they have pierced..."

Let your eyes of faith see within the Sacred Host
Our Savior Jesus Christ,
Whose Heart was pierced for love of us!

All night Eucharistic Adoration is Friday, March 4th at 8 pm thru
Saturday, March 5th at 8 am.

Signup sheets are in the foyer of Church.
For more info, contact Julie @ 749-8260 or
Mary @324-5289

Pray for
Vocations  **Is God calling YOU?**

A VOCATION VIEW

Peter, John and James had a mountaintop-experience with Jesus by witnessing His Transfiguration. We too can have a mountaintop-experience when we open our minds and hearts to following God's Will for our life. If you are willing, and think God is calling you, call or email Fr. Matt Dupre at 225.336.8778, mdupre@diobr.org or visit 222.diobr.org/vocations.

PRAYERS & SYMPATHY to...



Billy & Audy Bourgeois & family upon the death of their mother, Angela Bourgeois, to Trey Thibodeaux and L.M. & Janet Gassie upon the death of their wife and daughter, Emiley Thibodeaux, to Joe Mancuso & family upon the death of his brother, Angelo Mancuso and to the family of Audrey Dellucci upon her death. Please keep them in your prayers.

Congratulations!

The following children were baptized here last Sunday. We congratulate them and their families: Jude Anthony Quaregna, son of Jared & Ashley Quaregna and Gage Paul Prejean, son of Jeremy & Ashley Prejean. We welcome them into our faith community!



Rice Bowls have been given out to all Christian Formation students to be used throughout the Lenten Season. They will be taken up anytime—now through Holy Week. Some are also available in the Church.

STEWARDSHIP OF FINANCES

January 31, 2016

190 Identified- - - - - \$6,718.00
Loose Collection- - - - - 649.00
TOTAL- - - - - \$7,367.00

February 7, 2016

329 Identified- - - - - \$17,954.50
Loose Collection- - - - - 1,053.00
TOTAL- - - - - \$19,007.50

February 14, 2016

245 Identified- - - - - \$11,260.33
Loose Collection- - - - - 847.00
TOTAL- - - - - \$12,107.33

Church in Eastern Europe—\$1,940.65
Black & Indian Missions—\$1,217.00

Be Merciful!

TAKE TIME IN PRAYER TO CONTEMPLATE THE GOOD QUALITIES OF SOMEONE WHO IS DIFFICULT FOR YOU. DO THE SAME FOR EACH MEMBER OF YOUR FAMILY!

GENTLE HANDS MINISTRY RETREAT

Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you...Jer 1:5 Save the date for a half-day retreat for those who have experienced a miscarriage, stillbirth, or the loss of a child of any age.

Saturday, March 12, 2016

9:00 am—12:30 pm

St. Aloysius Catholic Church

This retreat is free and open to all denominations and faiths. Couples are encouraged to attend together. For more info or to register email:

4Gentlehands@gmail.com.



VALENTINE'S DRAWING

Winners of the Valentine's Day Drawing sponsored by the Parish Council are:

First Place—Craig Sarradet

Second Place—Debbie Mancuso

Third Place—Irving Coupel

Congratulations & thanks for your support!

Readings for the Week of February 21, 2016

Sunday: Gn 15:5-12, 17-18/Ps 27:1, 7-9, 13-14/
Phil 3:17--4:1 or 3:20--4:1/Lk 9:28b-36
Monday: 1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-6/Mt 16:13-19
Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20/Ps 50:8-9, 16-17, 21, 23/
Mt 23:1-12
Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20/Ps 31:5-6, 14-16/Mt 20:17-28
Thursday: Jer 17:5-10/Ps 1:1-4, 6/Lk 16:19-31
Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/Ps 105:16-21/
Mt 21:33-43, 45-46
Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 103:1-4, 9-12/
Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
Next Sunday: Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15/Ps 103:1-4, 6-8, 11/1
1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12/Lk 13:1-9

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS 2014-2015

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



2nd Sunday of Lent

"Peter and his companions had been overcome by sleep, but becoming fully awake, they saw his glory." Today's Gospel records the event we call the Transfiguration of the Lord. In this miraculous moment, Jesus' divine nature was revealed clearly to Peter, James and John. Often, we think only in terms of what happened to Jesus: "his face changed" and "his clothing became dazzling white" and he began a supernatural conversation with two ancient prophets. But that was only half of the story. The other part is what happened to the men.

They were able to witness this revelation of Jesus only because they were "fully awake." Had they stayed sleeping, they would have missed out. They would not have had this astonishing insight into the glory of their friend and Master. It's an obvious point but one that may need more attention than we'd care to admit. Of course we have to be "awake" in order to absorb the fullness of our faith. If we are not tuned in, not attentive, not exerting any effort, then we are certainly going to miss out. But the fact is that we don't always realize we are falling asleep.

Just as Peter, James, and John were "overcome" with sleep, we too can slip into this state without necessarily realizing it's happening. Spiritually speaking, we can become numb or lazy and slowly fade away from the fervor of authentic faith. This is why the church, in her wisdom, gives us the season of Lent. During these weeks, we strive to purify ourselves by attacking the sins and selfishness that make us spiritual sleepwalkers. This is the time to refocus, to clear away the cobwebs and to become "fully awake." Ultimately, we pray that these efforts will allow us to truly see "his glory" come Eastertide.