



*January 10, 2016
Baptism of the Lord
Vol. 48, No. 2*

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 am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." - Lk 3:16bc

Dear Parishioners,

The priests of the Baton Rouge Diocese have their annual Spring Formation Days this week, January 11-15, 2016 in Biloxi, Mississippi, so I will be out of the office this whole week. Our presenter this year is Gerard Mannion, professor of Catholic Studies at Georgetown University. Professor Mannion is a native of Ireland, educated at Cambridge and Oxford Universities, and specializes in an area of theology known as ecclesiology, or the study of the Church.

Since the Study Days are mandatory for all priests, we will not be able to have daily Mass this week. We will have Communion Services in place of the Masses on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday this week. Bishop Muench has also published a letter in the *Catholic Commentator* asking that funerals be scheduled after the study days are over if possible, or that one of our deacons celebrate the funeral without a Mass.

Thank you to all of the families who have participated in our *Traveling Chalice* program of family prayer for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated religious life. We have families scheduled through the end of January but need more families to sign up for the rest of the spring. A schedule is located in the back of church if your family would like to participate. You merely select any available week and indicate which Mass you normally attend. I will then invite you forward after communion on that particular Sunday and present you with a box containing a chalice, books on family prayer, and various other resources related to religious vocations. You can then look over the material and select prayers to pray each evening for an increase in vocations.

Friday, January 22, is designated as a "Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children" for all dioceses in the United States. It is the 43rd anniversary of the *Roe vs. Wade* Supreme Court decision which legalized abortion. The national "March for Life" will take place in Washington, DC that same day, and all Catholics are encouraged to spend some time in prayer and fasting for the protection of unborn children. The "Louisiana Life March" will be held on the following day, Saturday, January 23, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at Galvez Plaza behind the Old State Capitol. Participants will march to the state capitol where there will be

speeches and prayers for the sanctity of life. The Program usually ends around 12:00 noon.

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord also serves as the First Sunday in Ordinary Time. Easter is early this year so we will only have about four weeks of Ordinary Time before Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent on February 10. In the meantime we can enjoy the NFL playoffs, the Super Bowl, and perhaps a few Mardi Gras parades. We also have two southern teams playing in the College Football Championship game this Monday. Clemson is the sentimental favorite but I am predicting an Alabama victory. Could L.S.U. compete for the title next year? I like the hiring of Dave Aranda as our new defensive coordinator and we have a very talented class of incoming freshman, but we still need a quarterback. Hopefully God will provide.

In Christ,
Father Matt

NO CHRISTIAN FORMATION CLASSES ON
MONDAY, JANUARY 18th
or TUESDAY, JANUARY 19th DUE TO
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY



CONFIRMATION WILL BE HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20th AT
7:00 P.M.

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW IN THE
ACTIVITY CENTER.

THANKS TO ALL OF THE
PARISHIONERS WHO HAVE BEEN
PRAYING FOR OUR YOUNG
ADULTS ON THIS FAITH JOURNEY.
THANKS TO THE CONFIRMATION
TEAM FOR BEING WITNESSES TO
OUR FAITH AND TO THE
CANDIDATES OPENNESS TO THE
HOLY SPIRIT.

ALL 2ND GRADE YOUTH AND
PARENTS ARE TO
ATTEND THE
RECONCILIATION
RETREAT ON
SATURDAY, JANUARY 23RD
FROM 9-12
IN THE ACTIVITY CENTER.
PLEASE COMPLETE
CHAPTERS 5 AND 6 IN THEIR
RECONCILIATION BOOKS AND
BRING THEM TO THE RETREAT
COMPLETE.

First
Reconciliation

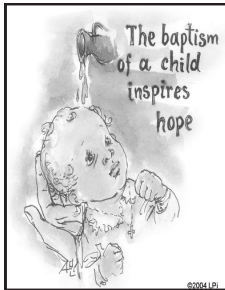
Food Pantry Thank You!

The Food Pantry wants to thank the following for their generous donations during the holidays:

- ⇒ Cub Scout Pack #39
- ⇒ All who donated at the Pot Luck Supper,
- ⇒ The Advent/Christmas Concert,
- ⇒ The Lions Club Christmas Party,
- ⇒ The Zippers,
- ⇒ The Catholic Daughters of America,
- ⇒ And all donations at the Thanksgiving Mass.

We sincerely appreciate all of your contributions.

-SJB Food Pantry



BAPTISMAL SEMINAR
 Wednesday, January 13 (6:00 pm)
 Room#5 Catechetical Building
 This Class is mandatory for baptism of your child. Please call the Parish Office to register.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

This Month's Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 27 due to Confirmation being celebrated on Wednesday, January 20th.

PLEASE MAKE NOTE OF THIS CHANGE!



**THE SANCTUARY CANDLE
 IS NOW BURNING IN MEMORY
 OF GES LEBLANC**

STEWARDSHIP OF FINANCES

December 25—Christmas Masses

228 Identified- ----- \$7,454.00
 Loose collection- ----- 2,257.00
 TOTAL- ----- \$9,711.00

December 27—Weekend Masses

197 Identified- ----- \$6,426.00
 Loose Collection- ----- 901.00
 TOTAL- ----- \$7,327.00

Diocesan Services—Retained in Parish—\$1,088.00

January 3, 2016

301 Identified- ----- \$17,469.00
 Loose Collection- ----- 783.00
 TOTAL- ----- \$18,252.00

Mary, Mother of God—January 1, 2016

108 Identified- ----- \$ 2,566.00
 Loose Collection- ----- 327.25
 TOTAL- ----- \$2,893.25

Pray for Vocations



A VOCATION VIEW

Jesus' identity is revealed as "The Son of God" through His baptism in the Jordan. Our identity as "children of God" is revealed through our baptism. Our lives, then, must constantly witness Jesus as Lord. If you think God is calling you to a Church vocation, call or email Father Matt Dupre' at 225.336.8778, mdupre@diobr.org, or visit, www.diobr.org/vocations.

Sunday, February 21, 2016 (3:00 pm)

Our Lady of Mercy Church

445 Marquette Ave, Baton Rouge, LA

Bishop Robert W. Muench, Celebrant of the Mass

This celebration is to honor couples on their 25th, 50th and 65th or greater anniversary during the year 2015. The families of the honored couples are also invited to attend the liturgy and the reception following in Our Lady of Mercy Parish Activity Center.

Please call SJB Parish Office (749-2189) to register if you and your family plan to attend. Registration Deadline is February 12, 2016.

The longest married couple will be honored at this event.

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

During this Jubilee Year of Mercy we will be publishing different ways for us to show and keep mercy in our lives, beginning with the following:

- ◆ Call someone who is lonely, even if you understand why they're lonely. Especially if you do.
- ◆ Do something kind and helpful for someone who you don't get along with, or who has wronged you.

Readings for the Week of January 10, 2016

Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11 or Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps

Ps104:1b-4, 24-25, 27-30/Ti 2:11-14;
 3:4-7 or Acts 10:34-38/

Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

Monday: 1 Sm 1:1-8/Ps 116:12-19/Mk 1:14-20

Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1, 4-8/Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2, 5, 7-10/
 Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/
 Mk 1:40-45

Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-19/Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-7/
 Mk 2:13-17

Next Sunday: Is 62:1-5/Ps 96:1-3, 7-10/1 Cor 12:4-11/
 Jn 2:1-11

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



Baptism of the Lord

"After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened." What a treat to be in that crowd! Just imagine the experience of witnessing this manifestation of divinity! To SEE the Holy Spirit "in bodily form like a dove" and to hear the voice that "came from heaven" announcing Jesus' true identity. Don't we all long for this kind of miraculous clarity? Wouldn't it do wonders for our faith if we had such unmistakable certainty about who Jesus really is?

It's easy to imagine that the first Christians had it easier than we do. They got to be with Jesus in person, and to witness the miracles that went along with his years on earth. Because of this, we can quickly forget the benefits we enjoy that they did not. We live on the other side of the Resurrection, for example. The first followers of Christ believed in him BEFORE he rose from the dead. We, on the other hand, have the confidence of knowing that this man literally conquered death. We also have two millennia of Christian witness through the saints to pull upon. The first Christians had no idea what this new religion would produce, how many people would embrace it, or how it would change the world for the better. We know that Christianity has been fruitful beyond measure.

Today's Gospel informs us that it was only after they were baptized that the people witnessed the opening of heaven. Even Jesus himself was baptized before he heard this earthly confirmation of his heavenly origin. We who have been baptized, following the example of Christ, also have "access" to the voice of God. In the silence of our hearts, and through God's word in the Bible (another advantage we enjoy), heaven is "opened" for us as well.