



ST. JOHN *The* BAPTIST

• catholic church •

July 24, 2016
Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Vol. 48, No. 30



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

"Suppose one of you has a friend to whom he goes at midnight and says, ' Friend, lend me three loaves of bread,' and he says in reply from within, ' Do not bother me.' I tell you, if he does not get up to give the visitor the loaves because of their friendship, he will get up to give him whatever he needs because of his persistence." - Lk 11:5b, 7a, 8

Dear Parishioners,

Please pray for our 11th Graders who will be on their Confirmation Retreat this Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at Rosaryville Retreat House. I will accompany them on their retreat in order to celebrate the sacraments and support them in their preparation. As you know, a retreat is a special time of communion with God and the deepening of one's faith through the mediation of the retreat director and the positive example of one's peers.

We will celebrate the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick in two weeks on Saturday, August 6, immediately following the 4:30 p.m. Vigil Mass. Any person who is seriously ill because of sickness, old age, or injury may be anointed. The illness may be either physical or mental, and can include addictions. Anointing is also allowed prior to undergoing surgery. Please spread the word to your family and friends who may be in need of the healing graces provided through this special sacrament. And please pray for your fellow parishioners who are hospitalized, homebound, or struggling with cancer or some other serious illness.

We continue to pray for the healing of our country in the aftermath of the tragic shootings in Baton Rouge, St. Paul, and Dallas. The underlying causes of these deadly confrontations are complex and there are no easy and quick solutions to prevent further tragic loss of life. But our faith requires that we at least make a start and work to promote greater understanding and reverence for all people.

Our country is gradually growing in diversity and some of the old racial boundaries have thankfully disappeared, but we must admit that we still have a long way to go. While we may attend school or share a workplace or shop for groceries with people of other races and income levels, our neighborhoods, churches, and communities are still largely segregated. This presents a challenge since racial understanding is best promoted through contact and interaction with those who are different from us.

History has shown that countries and towns whose citizens are segregated into Protestant communities and Catholic communities, or Jewish settlements and

Palestinian settlements, or Muslim ghettos and Christian ghettos, or poor neighborhoods and affluent neighborhoods, are just not able to achieve any great degree of harmony and tolerance for those who are different. Fear and prejudice are fed by ignorance and falsehoods, and we are all susceptible to this spiritual blindness.

As I mentioned in my homily two weeks ago, I have empathy for poor people of any race who struggle to find meaningful work and provide for themselves and their families, even those who struggle with an addiction. I also hear the frustration of African-Americans who are treated with suspicion simply because of the color of their skin. Father Josh Johnson of St. Aloysius Parish tells of being followed around stores by a security guard or a cashier while he is trying to shop. Senator Tim Scott of South Carolina relates how he was stopped by the police simply for driving a nice car. The officer suspected it might be stolen.

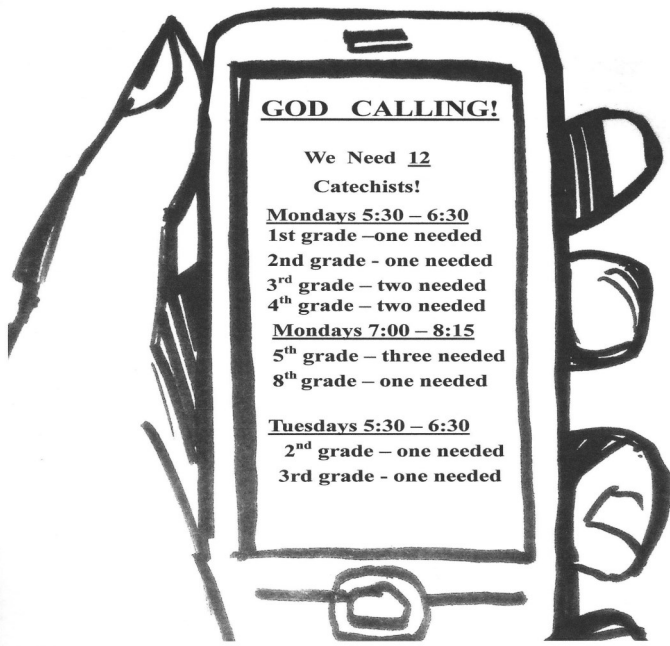
On the other hand, I also have empathy for police officers who have to deal with all manner of complaints and disturbances, often with people who are mentally impaired and mistrusting of their motives, in the daily performance of their duties. People don't have the same respect for authority as once existed in our country, and this makes the work of police officers, teachers, coaches, and counselors all the more difficult.

Catholics could have an important role to play in the building of a better world. Our churches, schools, and charities have long served people of all races, and Catholics have historically been well represented in the law enforcement profession. But first we have to cleanse our minds and hearts of any lingering poison of racial prejudice. May God help us to begin again.

In Christ,
Father Matt



St. John the Baptist Food Pantry wishes to thank all who participated in the Summer Food Drive and all of the Vacation Bible School Students for their donations. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!



GOD CALLING!

We Need **12**
Catechists!
Mondays 5:30 – 6:30
 1st grade – one needed
 2nd grade – one needed
 3rd grade – two needed
 4th grade – two needed
Mondays 7:00 – 8:15
 5th grade – three needed
 8th grade – one needed
Tuesdays 5:30 – 6:30
 2nd grade – one needed
 3rd grade – one needed



A VOCATION VIEW

“Ask and you shall receive. Seek and you shall find. Knock and it will be opened to you.” Try it! Then listen, look, and enter. Perhaps priesthood or consecrated life awaits you. If God is calling you, call or email Fr. Matt Dupre’ at 225.336.8778, mdupre@diobr.org, or visit www.diobr.org/vocations.



(Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

Have you or someone you know expressed an interest in becoming a Catholic?
 RCIA offers an opportunity to come together in a small group to learn more about the Catholic faith. Weekly sessions focus on the teachings of the church, faith experiences, understanding scripture and preparing you to celebrate the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation at Eastertime.
 Please call the Parish Office at 749-2189 to receive more information on RCIA.

**OPEN HOUSE IS WEDNESDAY,
 AUGUST 24, 2016.**



EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
“Come to Me, all you that labor and are burdened and I will give you rest, says the Lord” (Mt 11:28)

We all get tired. Many of us have situations in our lives that cause us concerns. The One Who consoles and has the answers is waiting for you. Go to Him, listen to Him, trust in Him, trust in Him!
 All night Eucharistic Adoration is Friday, August 5th at 8pm thru Saturday, August 6th at 8am.
 Signup sheets are in the foyer of Church.
 For more info, contact Julie@749-8260 or Mary@324-5289



**W.B.R. SENIOR SPIRIT
 Livingston Parish Day Trip
 Wednesday, August 24, 2016
 9:00 am—5:00 pm**

Touring begins at LIGO Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory) for a morning of space science and exploration. LIGO was in the news recently concerning universal black hole discoveries. A visit to the Hungarian Settlement area near Albany will include meeting two local historians, the Kropogs, who work with the Hungarian Historian Settlement Society. Lunch will be enjoyed at Kevin’s on Lake Maurepas. Cost for the day trip is \$50 and that includes a meal, admission, and motor coach. Please call Carolyn at the Parish Office (749-2189) to register. Registration deadline is Friday, August 12, 2016. We need 25 people to sign up to finalize this trip. Approximately one-half signed up to date.

“Abortion kills twice. It kills the body of the baby and kills the conscience of the mother. Abortion is profoundly anti-women. Three quarters of its victims are women: Half the babies and all the mothers.”
-Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta

PRAYERS & SYMPATHY are extended to Cathy Hebert & family upon the death of her father, Howard Pellerin and to Geri Schneider & family upon the death of her sister, Beulah Simpson. Please keep them in your prayers.



The Sanctuary Candle is now burning in memory of Hazel Roy.

STEWARDSHIP OF FINANCES

July 17, 2016
 220 Identified- - - - - \$10,123.00
 Loose Collection- - - - - 599.00
 TOTAL- - - - - \$10,722.00

BUILDING FUND

June—\$11,157.00
 Loan Balance—\$354,625.09

Readings for the Week of July 24, 2016

Sunday: Gn 18:20-32/Ps 138:1-3, 6-8/Col 2:12-14/
 Lk 11:1-13
 Monday: 2 Cor 4:7-15/Ps 126:1-6/Mt 20:20-28
 Tuesday: Jer 14:17-22/Ps 79:8-11, 13/Mt 13:36-43
 Wednesday: Jer 15:10, 16-21/Ps 59:2-4, 10-11, 17-18/
 Mt 13:44-46
 Thursday: Jer 18:1-6/Ps 146:1-6/Mt 13:47-53
 Friday: Jer 26:1-9/Ps 69:5, 8-10, 14/Jn 11:19-27 or
 Lk 10:38-42
 Saturday: Jer 26:11-16, 24/Ps 69:15-16, 30-31, 33-34/
 Mt 14:1-12
 Next Sunday: Eccl 1:2; 2:21-23/Ps 90:3-6, 12-14, 17/
 Col 3:1-5, 9-11/Lk 12:13-21

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS 2015-2016

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



17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." This is a promise that anyone would love to hear. With these words Jesus comforts and reassures us. He suggests that we will be satisfied and welcomed and fulfilled. His message in today's Gospel assures us that our heavenly Father loves us even more than earthly parents love their children. So we can enjoy the security of knowing that God will take good care of us.

But God's care may not always look exactly the way we expect it to. His care for us is based on knowing what is best for us and what will make us flourish. And, sometimes, what we think we need isn't really best. It's important to keep this context in mind. This prevents us from understanding Jesus' words today in a selfish way. As the end of the passage makes clear, this asking and seeking that Jesus refers to is ultimately fulfilled in the gift of the Holy Spirit. Jesus is promising us that if we ask God for his Spirit, he will certainly give it to us, his children.

For most of us, we actually received this gift at our baptism. But have we taken full advantage of this? Although we may not realize it at first, in receiving the Holy Spirit we actually receive a whole host of gifts. With God's Spirit come the sevenfold gifts of wisdom, understanding, counsel, knowledge, fortitude, piety, and fear of the Lord. And the fruits of the Spirit as St. Paul lists them in Galatians 5 include love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. God knows that all of these gifts and fruits make us very well equipped for life on earth, and for eternal life in heaven! What more do we really need to ask for?