

March 6, 2016
Fourth Sunday of Lent
Vol. 48, No. 10



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

"His son said to him, ' Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.' But his father ordered his servants, 'let us celebrate with a feast because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again.'" - Lk 15:21-22a, 23b-24a

Dear Parishioners,

On this Fourth Sunday of Lent, Cycle C, the Gospel reading is the well-known and well-loved *Parable of the Prodigal Son* (Luke 15:11-32). In his Angelus Address for this Fourth Sunday six years ago, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI said, "This passage of St. Luke constitutes one of the peaks of spirituality and literature of all time. Indeed, what would our culture, art, and, more generally, our civilization be without this revelation of a God the Father so full of mercy?...Above all, this gospel text has the power of speaking to us of God, of enabling us to know his face, and better still, his heart."

Pope Benedict continued: "We now know God; he is our Father, who out of love created us to be free and endowed us with a conscience, who suffers when we get lost and rejoices when we return...The two sons represent two immature ways of relating to God: rebellion and childish obedience. Both these forms are surmounted through the experience of mercy. Only by experiencing forgiveness, by recognizing one is loved with a freely given love—a love greater than our wretchedness but also than our merit—do we at last enter into a truly filial and free relationship with God."

St. John Paul II also focused on this parable in his 1980 encyclical "Rich in Mercy." He wrote: "Mercy—as Christ has presented it in the parable of the prodigal son—has the interior form of the love that in the New Testament is called agape. This love is able to reach down to every prodigal son, to every human misery, and above all to every form of moral misery, to sin. When this happens, the person who is the object of mercy does not feel humiliated, but rather found again and 'restored to value.' The father first and foremost expresses to him his joy that he has been 'found again' and that he has 'returned to life.' This joy indicates a good that has remained intact: even if he is a prodigal, a son does not cease to be truly his father's son; it also indicates a good that has been found again, which in the case of the prodigal son was his return to the truth about himself."

Our two-night Lenten Mission led by Father Mark Toups will allow us to experience God's mercy in a special way through the preaching of a gifted retreat director. It begins at 7:00 p.m. this Sunday, March 6, and continues at 7:00 p.m. the following night,

Monday, March 7. 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." We will take up a collection on Monday night, the last night of the mission, to thank Father Toups and support him in his ministry.

We lose an hour of sleep next Saturday night, March 12, as we move our clocks ahead one hour for Daylight Saving Time. Try to go to bed early next Saturday so as to be rested for Sunday Mass. And if you see people leaving church just as you are arriving for Mass, that may be an indication that you forgot to change your clock on Saturday night. It does not happen that often but even the best of us get caught sometimes.

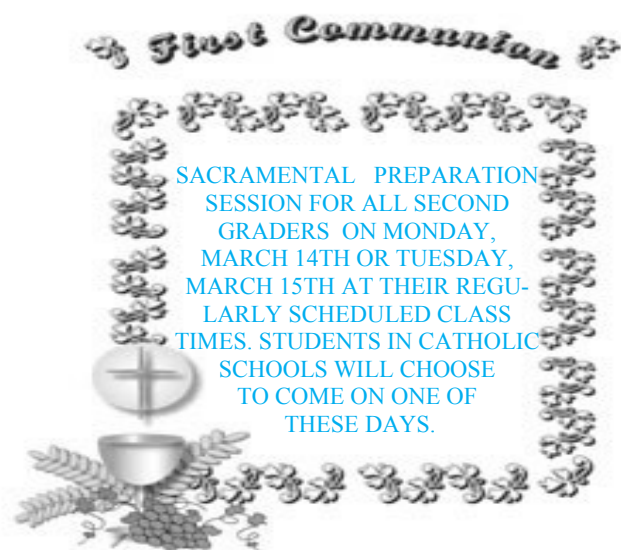
In Christ,
Father Matt

Christian Formation Info

**NO CHRISTIAN FORMATION CLASSES
MONDAY, MARCH 7th OR TUESDAY,
MARCH 8th DUE TO PARISH MISSION.**



10TH GRADE RETREAT
SUNDAY, MARCH 13TH
BEGINS WITH MASS AT 11:00 am



Recall a time when you were not given a benefit of the doubt, and extend one to someone else.

Lenten Mission

WELCOME FATHER MARK TOUPS!

Make plans NOW to attend our Lenten Mission on March 7th & 8th.

Presenter will be Rev. Mark Toups. Ordained in 2001, Fr. Mark Toups is a priest for the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux in south Louisiana. He currently serves the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux as Chancellor, focusing primarily on strategic planning. In addition, Fr. Toups is a faculty member of the institute for Priestly Formation, where he serves as professor of Spiritual Theology, spiritual director, and program coordinator for the Spiritual Exercises, 30-day retreat. He is the author of "Oremus: A Catholic Guide to Prayer"—an 8-week teaching on the basics of prayer and the spiritual life.

He received his Master's of Divinity from Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans. A college graduate of Nichols State University, he is a native of Houma, LA.



THE SANCTUARY CANDLE IS NOW BURINING IN MEMORY OF VIRGIE B. CURCIO

**CRISTO REY
BATON ROUGE FRANCISCAN HIGH SCHOOL
WILL HOST PARENT/STUDENT
OPEN HOUSE**

Cristo Rey Baton Rouge Franciscan High School is a new, private Catholic high school opening in August 2016. This is a unique model combining college-prep education with a corporate work-study program and is part of a larger network of 30 schools through the Cristo Rey Network. Their mission is to serve low-income families of the Baton Rouge area by providing education for those students who may not have that option for high school.

WHAT : Parent/Student Open House

WHEN: Tuesday, March 8, 2016

TIME: 5:30—7:00 p.m.

WHERE: 4000 St. Gerard Avenue Baton Rouge

WHO: 7th & 8th grade students for fall 2016

For more info call 225.615.7479



BAPTISM SEMINAR
Wednesday March 9th—6:00 p.m.
Classroom #5—Christian Formation Building
This seminar is mandatory for parents who plan to baptize their child.

STEWARDSHIP OF FINANCES

February 28, 2016

REGULAR:

203 Identified- - - - - \$6,456.00

Loose Collection- - - - - 615.00

TOTAL- - - - - \$7,071.00

Pray for Vocations



A VOCATION VIEW

Like the father in the Gospel, God welcomes us home in spite of our sinfulness, and calls us to a life of holiness. Where are you at home? Are you being called to a life as an ordained or a consecrated person? If He is challenging you, call or email Fr. Matt Dupre at 225.336.8778, mdupre@diobr.org, or visit, www.diobr.org/vocations.

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.



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS NEXT WEEKEND. SET YOUR CLOCKS FORWARD 1 HR. WHEN RETIRING ON SATURDAY NIGHT.

Congratulations!

NEWLY MARRIED

Blake Joseph Sarradet & Brittany Camille Blanchard

Readings for the Week of March 6, 2016

- Sunday: Jos 5:9a, 10-12/Ps 34:2-7/2 Cor 5:17-21/Lk15:1-3, 11-32
- Monday: Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13/Jn 4:43-54
- Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 5:1-16
- Wednesday: Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13-14, 17-18/Jn 5:17-30
- Thursday: Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-23/Jn 5:31-47
- Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-21, 23/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
- Saturday: Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9-12/Jn 7:40-53
- Next Sunday: Is 43:16-21/Ps 126:1-6/Phil 3:8-14/Jn 8:1-11

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



4th Sunday of Lent

"The Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, 'This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.'" Jesus crossed lines that weren't supposed to be crossed. He talked to women in public, touched the "unclean" to heal them, and chummed it up with tax collectors and sinners. This didn't make sense. It didn't fit into the standard categories. And so the religious leaders began to complain.

In response to this, Jesus told the parable of the prodigal son. Through this story, he illustrated that God loves all of his children even when they have not behaved perfectly. But more than this, the tale also deals with the resentment of the older son--the one who always followed the law. Like the self-righteous Pharisees and scribes, the older brother complained. "All these years I served you," the son said, "and not once did I disobey your orders; yet you never gave me even a young goat to feast on with my friends." But how does the father respond? "My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours." In other words, the older brother had no reason to complain or be angry. He already enjoyed all good gifts. The father simply wanted him to rejoice that his brother had returned home. "He was lost and has been found."

It's important for those of us who attend Mass regularly, participate in the sacraments, and serve in our parishes not to fall into the trap of being like the bitter older brother or the complaining Pharisees. We must welcome everyone in our midst with joy, not resentment or judgment. It can be easy to think that others don't deserve as much as we do, and to forget to be grateful for all that we have. But we are ALL called to "celebrate and rejoice" when the lost return home.