



St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

402 S. Kirkland (River Road) • P.O. Box 248
Brusly, LA 70719

Parish Office: (225) 749-2189 • Christian Formation Office: (225) 749-3387
Parish Fax: (225) 749-1921 • Website: sjb-brusly.com

Parish Staff

Rev. Matthew P. Lorrain, *Pastor*
Sammy Collura, *Permanent Deacon*
Julie Ginther Cilano, *Christian Formation*
Carolyn Dupuy, *Bookkeeper*
Pat Durbin, *Parish Secretary*
Karen Lemoine, *Christian Formation*
Larry Durbin, *Maintenance Supervisor*
Richard Rabalais, *Maintenance*
Celeste Veillon, *Music Director*

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 am) or by appointment

Baptism

Celebrated at weekend Masses. Parents should call the office early to enroll in our baptismal preparation program. Parents should be registered and actively practicing the 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.

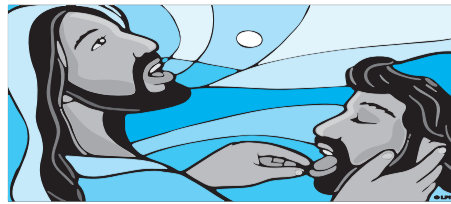
Prayer Line

Call Judy Thousand (749-9257) or the Parish office.

Office Hours

Monday–Friday 8:30–4:30
Office closed for lunch 12:30–1:30

September 9, 2012



23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

At 195 years old, the New York School for the Deaf is the second oldest school for the deaf in the United States. Begun through the efforts of a Baptist pastor, Rev. John Stanford, the school was officially chartered in 1817. As a prominent minister, Stanford served churches in Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey, before coming to New York. An 1835 memoir about his life describes how he devoted considerable time "to promote the comfort and moral improvement of the poor, without regard to denominational distinctions." When Stanford came to New York he preached the Gospel in the Alms House, which is where he first had the idea of developing a place of formal education for the deaf. Stanford recruited others to the cause, and the school in New York was begun.

In the Gospel this weekend, Jesus heals the deaf man who had a speech impediment. Jesus said to the man, "Ephphatha!" which translated means, "Be opened!" And even though Jesus told the crowd that witnessed the event to tell no one, they proclaimed the miracle everywhere. There was no stopping their astonishment.

People were impressed with Stanford's accomplishment in getting a school for the deaf chartered. Other states followed the example, starting their own institutions. What is often forgotten is that Stanford's work was rooted in the Gospel. The same devotion to the word of Christ is seen in the work of people like St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, who began the first Catholic school in the United States, and soon-to-be-saint Marianne Cope, who founded hospitals in New York that she insisted admit everyone regardless of religious belief or color. She went on to work with lepers, assisting St. Damian de Veuster on Molokai. The Gospel can push us to do amazing things. Stanford, Seton, and Cope were all motivated to help others improve their lives because of the Gospel message. It is the same Gospel we hear each Sunday.

Then he looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him, "Ephphatha!"-that is, "Be opened!" And immediately the man's ears were opened, his speech impediment was removed, and he spoke plainly. - Mk 7:34-35

Dear Parishioners,

Christian formation classes for our elementary and junior high school students are set to begin the week of September 17, while classes for our high school students start one week later on Sunday, September 23. Of course religion classes for our Catholic School students began several weeks ago with the start of school. Our goal with Christian Formation is to help our children and teenagers further develop their relationship with Jesus and their identity as Catholics.

In *"The Seeker's Guide to Being Catholic,"* author Mitch Finley writes "Being Catholic is not a part-time hobby and the Catholic Church is not a civic or fraternal organization. Being Catholic is not something you do in your spare time; attending Mass on Sundays is not like going to the meetings of a club. Catholicism is a way of life, and the church is a people, a community you belong to much as one belongs to a family, with all the ups and downs, joys and frustrations of family life. Being Catholic can make you 'crazy' sometimes...More often, if you take the trouble to find out what being Catholic is really all about, being Catholic can make you more sane, and more honest, than you have ever been before. Being Catholic is not something you do, it's something you are."

If Christian Formation classes were only about learning a few theological concepts, then there would be little reason for encouraging parents to enroll their children in our program. However, as Mitch Finley states so well, our Catholic faith is a way of life and yearly faith formation seeks to instill and reinforce a sense of corporate identity along with lessons for living. Just as one goal of education is to teach students how to think, so Christian Formation is meant to teach students both how to think and more importantly how to live. Being Catholic colors our appreciation of the world and reminds us that our dignity comes from who we are and not just from what we do. We are loved by Christ and together we form his body which is the church.

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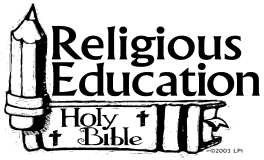
Attending weekly Mass and participating in Christian Formation classes throughout our elementary and secondary school years helps to dispel the notion that faith is only a part-time hobby. The sacraments of initiation highlight particular moments in our life-long journey to God and also help us to be aware of the smaller instances of God's grace which occur on a daily basis. The faith of parents and other adults in the community undergoes additional development through the act of nurturing the faith formation of children and teenagers. So please register your kids for Christian formation if you have not already done so, and take an interest in the family activities which are often included in the lessons.

On another note, Father Michael Jung, O.S.B., the Catholic chaplain at the Baton Rouge General Medical Center, recently retired and is being replaced by Father Charles Chukwuani. Father Charles was previously serving at a hospital in the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. and is moving south to accept his new position. He will be living in our rectory temporarily while he searches for a residence more centrally located to the General's two hospitals. Please welcome him when you see him.

I will be out of town from Sunday afternoon through Wednesday afternoon, September 9-12, attending a three night gathering with the members of my priests support group. As of this writing I have not found a priest to say the 8:00 a.m. Mass on Tuesday and Wednesday, September 11 & 12, but I am still looking. Hopefully I will find someone, perhaps Msgr. Gauthreaux or Father Charles, but if not we will have communion services in place of the Masses on those two days.

Our Parish Pastoral Council meets this week on Wednesday evening, September 12, at 7:00 p.m. The following night on Thursday, September 13, there is a planning meeting to see if enough support exists to start a Youth Group in the parish. That meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. in the Activity Center. Please pray for all of the good things happening in our parish.

In Christ,
Father Matt



**WE NEED YOU!
CATECHISTS, AIDES
& HELPERS NEEDED!!!**

Christian Formation Classes begin on September 17th. We wish to thank everyone who volunteered to help in any way. We still need the following help and ask that you consider volunteering for this very important ministry.

CATECHISTS

Mondays: 5:30 -6:30 p.m. (3rd Grade)
Tuesdays: 5:30 -6:30 p.m. (1st, 2nd & 4th Grades)

AIDES

Tuesdays: 7:00 -8:15 p.m. (5th, 7th & 8th Grades)

HELPERS

Sundays: 9:15—10:45 a.m. (All Grades)

CHILDRENS CHURCH

11:00 a.m. Mass—Need Catechist



*Saturday & Sunday
September 15th & 16th*

Please join us in celebrating our Catechists for the upcoming year by attending any of the weekend Masses.

Catechists will receive a special blessing and pin in recognition of their service to the Parish.



**YOUTH MINISTRY
ADULTS: We Want You!**
Any adults interested in discussing the needs of the youth of our parish, please attend an Ice Cream Social on **Thursday, September 13th at 6:30 pm in the Activity Center.**

A VOCATION VIEW

Did not God choose those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the Kingdom? Count your blessings, then come and help others count theirs too, as a priest or religious. If you feel you have such a vocation, call or email Father Matt Dupre' at 225.336.8778, mdupre@diobr.org, or visit, www.diobr.org/vocations.

CARDS, ETC.



Our Annual Card Party Fundraiser will be held on Monday, October 22 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Activity Center. Register to play Bridge, Bouree, Poker, Canasta, Pokeno, Hand & Foot, Sequence or any other board games. Everyone must be registered. Your \$25 donation will include Spaghetti & Meatballs lunch. There will be a Cash Bar for you to enjoy as well as a 50/50 raffle and football boards. All proceeds will go the SJB Catholic Church Building Fund. Contact Gale Thibodeaux, chairperson at 749-3769 or 413-5809 or gale43@cox.net.

Registration Forms are available on one of the shelves in the gathering space of the church or at the Parish Office.



You are invited to participate in Baton Rouge's second 40 Days for Life campaign this fall from **September 26 through November 4**. 40 Days for Life is a worldwide pro-life campaign that consists of prayer and fasting and peaceful vigil for an end to abortion. A peaceful and prayerful vigil will be held outside of Delta abortion facility, located at 756 Colonial Drive in Baton Rouge between 7:00 am and 7:00 pm on each of the 40 days. Last year **eleven unborn babies were saved!** Please make a pilgrimage of prayer to save lives. For more information about how you can participate, visit the website at www.40DaysForLifeBR.com or contact Deacon Mike Chiappetta at (225) 242-0135 or email 40daysfor-lifebr@gmail.com. To see pictures or read stories about last year's campaign, go to 40 Days for Life Baton Rouge on Facebook.

STEWARDSHIP OF FINANCES

September 2, 2012

REGULAR:	
223 Identified-	-----\$12,076.00
Loose Collection-	----- 687.00
TOTAL-	-----\$12,763.00

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS 2012-2013

Donna Badon
Maria Bertrand
Jamie Chustz, Vice-Chairman
Deacon Sammy Collura
David Couvillon
Jerry Deshotel
Stacy Gauthreaux
Fr. Matt Lorrain
Wendy Parrish
Toni Tolar
David Toups, Chairman
John Windham, Secretary
Gerard "Jerry" Zimmerman

WEST BATON ROUGE MUSEUM

*"Two Hundred Years of Steamboats on the Mighty
Mississippi"*

Exhibit from Now thru October 28, 2012

This impressive exhibition features a collection of historical photographs by Henry Norman entitled "Kings of the River: Steamboat Transportation in the American South" from the Tom and Joan Grandy Collection at the Briscoe Center for American History at the University of Texas at Austin. In addition, the museum will commemorate the bicentennial of the steam boat *New Orleans'* journey to Louisiana as featured in a display from the Rivers Institute at Hanover College called "Steamboat a Comin": The Legacy of the *New Orleans.*"

Local Baton Rouge and Port Allen steamboat ferries will be represented as well in the exhibit bringing back memories from many Capitol Area residents. The Museum is located at 845 N. Jefferson Ave. in Port Allen. Call (225) 336-2422 for more information.



*The good steward must not show favoritism.
The rich may have many material gifts to
share, but St. James reminds us in the second
reading that God has chosen the world's poor
to be rich in faith and inheritors of God's
kingdom.*