



*April 29, 2018  
Fifth Sunday of Easter  
Vol. 50, No. 16*

# 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](http://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  
Carolyn Dupuy ..... Bookkeeper  
Pat Durbin..... Parish Secretary  
June Hebert ..... Director of Religious Education  
Karen Lemoine ..... Christian Formation  
Celeste Veillon ..... Music Director  
Wayne Delapasse..... Maintenance  
Katie Roettger..... Mothers’s Day Out

### 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

*"Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing." - Jn 15:4-5*

Dear Parishioners,

I wish to thank Natalie Palermo for volunteering to chair this year's "Feast on the Levee." Please continue to offer your kind assistance as in years past so that we can enjoy another successful fair. This one-day event strengthens our sense of community and raises funds to maintain our beautiful church and campus.

For the first time in many years, I am happy to report that none of the proceeds from this year's "Feast" will be used for debt reduction. This is because we are now debt free! We are waiting for the Diocese to send official notification that our loan is paid in full so we can schedule a public burning of the note. I intend to continue the monthly Building Fund collection on a purely voluntary basis to help replenish our parish savings.

Each month the Catholic Daughters and Knights of Columbus invite us to join them in prayer and adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. Their monthly 12 hour period of adoration begins at 8:00 p.m. this Friday, May 4, and ends with 8:00 a.m. Mass on Saturday, May 5. All are invited to sign-up for an hour of prayer and adoration during the night or early morning. You are free to sit or kneel in silent prayer, or pray the rosary, or engage in spiritual reading and meditation while in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

We plan to honor all of our high school seniors at the 11:00 Mass next Sunday, May 6, and then treat them and their parents to lunch in our Parish Activity Center. We are extremely proud of their accomplishment and wish to assure them of our continued prayers as they plan for the next phase of their life's journey. We ask the graduates or one of their parents to please call the parish office (749-2189) if they can attend so that we can prepare the proper amount of food.

We will likewise honor our Blessed Mother with a traditional May crowning ceremony on Sunday, May 13, at the conclusion of the 9:00 Mass. We will walk in procession to our Lourdes Grotto and then ask one of our second graders to place the crown on Mary. We will then offer prayers and hymns to our Blessed Mother as an expression of our love and devotion

This date was chosen to coincide with Mother's Day since Mary is the Mother of Jesus and the Mother of the Church. In honoring her we honor all of the mothers of our community on this special day.

Registration forms are available in the back of church for this year's Vacation Bible School. VBS will be held July 9-13 for children in grades K-5. Forms are also available for youth and adult volunteers to help staff VBS. Please call the Christian Formation Office at 749-3387 for more information.

Father David Allen, pastor of Holy Family Parish in Port Allen, was ordained on April 28, 1978 and thus celebrates 40 years of priestly ministry this weekend. I am taking Monday and Tuesday off this week to accompany him on a little mini-vacation in celebration of this milestone. Please offer a prayer for him on his anniversary.

In Christ,  
Father Matt



*You've worked hard and we're proud of you for all your accomplishments!*

*Fr. Matt, staff and parishioners of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church invite you and your family to Mass and a Reception in your honor on*

***Sunday, May 6th at 11:00 a.m.***

*We will gather for mass in the church with a reception to follow in the Parish Activity Center.*

*Please call the parish office with the number of family members attending by*

***Wednesday, May 2nd to RSVP.***





**CONGRATULATIONS TO  
LUKE AARON LEETH &  
MORGAN RACHELLE ALFORD  
WHO WERE MARRIED HERE  
LAST WEEK.**

## Organizations

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

**Sunday, May 6, 2018**

- ⇒ Communion Service for K.C. Members and their families at 7:30 am Mass
- ⇒ Coffee & Donuts will be served in our Activity Center immediately following 7:30 am Mass.

### ALTAR SOCIETY

*Thanks to Karen Cordell & her group for cleaning the church during the month of April. Cleaning for May will be done by Wendy Daniel (687-1653). Please give her a call if you want to help.*

### BEREAVEMENT COMMITTEE

Thanks to Sandra & Gerald Fitzgerald for chairing the committee during the month of April. Beverly & Harold Babin will be the chairpersons in May. Give them a call at 749-2027 with any concerns.



## THANK YOU!

### A Message from Bev Prejean & Her Family...

*"The family of Rod Prejean would like to thank Fr. Matt, the parish Office Staff, the Bereavement Committee and the parish family of St. John the Baptist for their support throughout Rod's struggle with Alzheimer's disease.*

*The prayers, food, cards, and visits meant so much to us during this sad time of our lives."*



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

### STEWARDSHIP OF FINANCES

April 22, 2018

#### REGULAR:

187 Identified- - - - - \$6,746.00  
Loose Collection- - - - - 1,178.00  
TOTAL- - - - - \$7,924.00



### A VOCATION VIEW

Our second Scripture reading reminds us that we are to love, not in word and speech only, but in truth and action. If you feel God is calling you to His priesthood or religious life, call or email Fr. Andrew Merrick at 225.336.8778, framerrick@gmail.com, or visit, [www.dioabr.org/vocations](http://www.dioabr.org/vocations).

## ✓ Check This Out...

### WOMAN'S NEW LIFE CENTER

"Plates for Life"

**Saturday, May 5, 2018**

**Hilton Baton Rouge Capitol Center**

**6:30—7:30 pm Patron Party**

**7:30—11:00 pm Plates for Life**

**Keynote Speaker: Pam Tebow**

*All proceeds will support Women's New Life Center, providing services to women in unplanned pregnancies.*

### ENTERING CANAAN:

#### Day of Prayer and Healing

**Saturday, May 5, 2018**

Are you, or someone you know, suffering the loss of a child through abortion? An Entering Canaan Day of Prayer & Healing for women and men who have experienced abortion will be held on Saturday, May 5, 2018. Come begin your healing journey and experience God's hope and mercy. You are not alone! There is hope! For more info and confidential registration, please contact Tara at Entering-CanaanBR@yahoo.com. or 256-568-6004. All inquiries are confidential. Sponsored by the Catholic Diocese of Baton Rouge—Office of Marriage & Family Life.

### Readings for the Week of April 29, 2018

Sunday: Acts 9:26-31/Ps 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32 [26a]/1 Jn 3:18-24/Jn 15:1-8  
Monday: Acts 14:5-18/Ps 115:1-2, 3-4, 15-16 [1ab]/Jn 14:21-26  
Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21 [cf. 12]/Jn 14:27-31a  
St. Joseph the Worker: Gn 1:26--2:3 or Col 3:14-15, 17, 23-24/Ps 90:2, 3-4, 12-13, 14 and 16 [cf. 17b]/Mt 13:54-58  
Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5 [cf. 1]/Jn 15:1-8  
Thursday: 1 Cor 15:1-8/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5 [5]/Jn 14:6-14  
Friday: Acts 15:22-31/Ps 57:8-9, 10 and 12 [10a]/Jn 15:12-17  
Saturday: Acts 16:1-10/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5/Jn 15:18-21  
Next Sunday: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4 [cf. 2b]/1 Jn 4:7-10/Jn 15:9-17

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**  
**PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS 2017-2018**

Donna Badon  
John Begue  
Bob Bewick  
Maria Bertrand  
Jamie Bourg  
Chris Buckle  
Jules Lefeaux  
Mark Loreno, Vice-Chairman  
Fr. Matt Lorrain  
Mary Claire Meyer, Secretary  
Jason Murphey  
Andrea Smicker  
Toni Tolar, Chairman



**5th Sunday of Easter**

Are you ready for a trim? In today's Gospel, we hear the familiar teaching of the vine and the branches. Jesus reminds us that if we remain close to him—living in humility, following God's law, loving our neighbor—we will notice a positive change in our life and the lives of those around us. "Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit." The Holy Spirit is life-giving. He is fruitful. The Spirit of God won't refuse grace to a heart that is open.

As we progress through life, learning how to live and love, we grow. Our personalities flower. We discover what it is to be a blessing to others. We also experience lack, loss, and the results of our failures. We know what it is like to "wither" at times, particularly the times when we willingly separate ourselves from Jesus. "Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me." For most of us, this experience of being disconnected and off track generates a desire to return to what is right and good, to return to the vine.

But this Gospel is more than "Are you in or are you out?" Even when we remain in God, when we follow Jesus, we are not exempt from the challenge, the pruning. "Everyone that [bears fruit] he prunes." A prudent trim is necessary in the natural world of trees and vines. Dead wood, broken shoots, and diseased branches need to be cut back in order for the plant to bear fruit. Jesus wants us to be healthy! He says as much himself: "By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples." Take a look at your life today. Where are you bearing fruit? Where do you need to be pruned?