



402 South Kirkland Drive (River Road) P. O. Box 248, Brusly, Louisiana 70719

**PLEASE CONTACT US:**

**OFFICE:** 225-749-2189

**OFFICE HOURS:** Monday-Thursday 8:30am-1:30pm

**WEBSITE:** [sjb-brusly.com](http://sjb-brusly.com)

**CHRISTIAN FORMATION:** 225-749-3387

**MASS SCHEDULE**

Saturday Vigil at 4:30 p.m.

Sunday at 7:30, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Monday, Wednesday & Thursday at 8:00 a.m.

Friday at 8:00 a.m., with Adoration until 11:30 a.m.

First Saturday of the month **only** at 8:00 a.m.

**RECONCILIATION**

Saturday at 3:30-4:15 p.m.

Monday, Wednesday thru Friday at 7:40 a.m. or by appointment

**PARISH STAFF**

Rev. Arun John, IMS, Pastor  
Candice Breaux, Youth Group Minister  
Betty Cain, Bookkeeper  
Christel Dupont, Receptionist  
June Hebert, Director of Religious Education  
Sara Hernandez, Janitorial  
Jayne Jason, Child Protection  
Layne Mire, Parish Secretary  
Lil Stutes, Mother's Day Out  
Sharon Thibodeaux, Music Leader

[ajohn@diobr.org](mailto:ajohn@diobr.org)  
[candicebreaux@hotmail.com](mailto:candicebreaux@hotmail.com)  
[bcain@sjbbrusly.com](mailto:bcain@sjbbrusly.com)  
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[jhebert@sjbbrusly.com](mailto:jhebert@sjbbrusly.com)  
  
[jjason@sjbbrusly.com](mailto:jjason@sjbbrusly.com)  
[lmire@sjbbrusly.com](mailto:lmire@sjbbrusly.com)  
[mdostjohn@gmail.com](mailto:mdostjohn@gmail.com)  
[sthlib@bellsouth.net](mailto:sthlib@bellsouth.net)

**BAPTISM**

Celebrated monthly after the 11:00am Mass. Parents should call the office to enroll in our baptismal preparation program, preferably early in pregnancy. Parents are encouraged to register in this parish and actively practice their faith.

**ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS**

Inquiries: Please call Carolyn Dupuy, 225-276-6269.

**MARRIAGE**

Contact the Pastor at least 6 months prior to your proposed wedding date. Preparation program is required. Couples should be actively practicing their faith.

**CARE OF THE SICK**

Emergency calls answered as soon as possible. Communion calls to homebound weekly by request. Please notify the office if someone is homebound.

**CHRISTIAN BURIAL**

Family should contact the Pastor to begin funeral arrangements.

For Cemetery information, please call Jerry Deshotel 225-281-0333.

**PRAYER LINE**

Please call Carolyn Dupuy, 225-276-6269.

Dear Parishioners,

A few years back, while preaching on today's Gospel passage, I spoke on doubting Thomas and how his faith was confirmed when Jesus encountered him. After Mass, a young man came and said to me, "Fr. John, this was a beautiful opportunity for you to speak on the topic of confession and forgiveness of sin." I agreed with him and replied, "There are so many topics that we can speak of from today's readings, but I chose to speak on faith. Maybe next time I will choose the topic of confession and forgiveness." Yes, I think it's a wonderful opportunity for me to speak on the topic of reconciliation. On the very night of the resurrection, Jesus appeared to the Apostles and offered them a sign of peace and immediately added, "As the Father has sent me, so I send you. Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." The main objection of people of other faiths regarding confession is that why should we confess to someone else our sins rather than directly to God? We have the answer in today's passage: Jesus giving the power to forgive sins to the Apostles, and the Apostles in turn handing that power over to the priests. We need to understand that God is the one who actually forgives, and the priest is an instrument through whom God passes forgiveness to the people. You might ask why can't God send His forgiveness directly, and why should He choose a priest to pass it on to us?

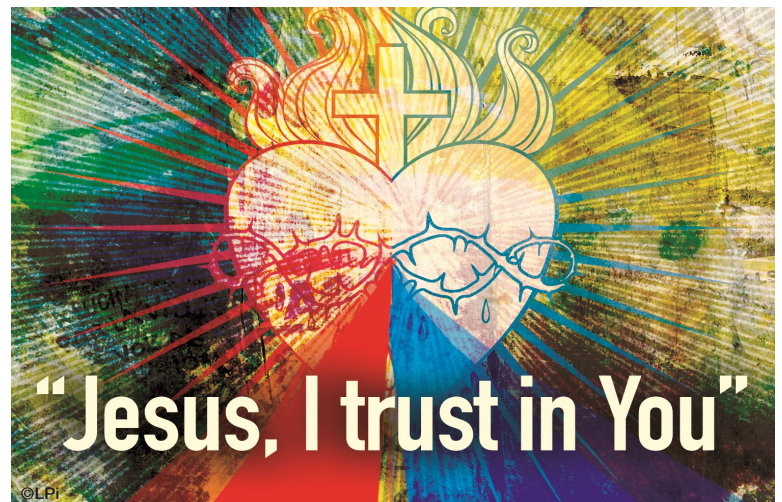
Monsignor Bob Guste in his book, "The Gift of the Church" says that a lady once told me this story about herself: She had stopped going to confession. She used to say to herself, "I don't need to go to confession; I can just tell my sin to God." Then, one day when I was telling my sins to God, she said, "God told me, I want you to go to confession," and God gave me a reason. He said, "I want you to go to confession because I want to put flesh on my forgiveness!" Yes, whatever God does, He wants to make it tangible. How else can He explain His being born in a stable? Growing up in an insignificant village? Walking on the dusty roads of the earth? Having nails driven into his hands and feet and dying on the cross? He wanted His love made visible; take our flesh, meet us on our own level in a visible and tangible way. And once He completed His work on earth, He left us a visible, fleshy Church. In that Church, tangible sacred signs are Sacraments to continue His sanctifying and unifying work among us. One of these signs is the Sacrament of Reconciliation. By confessing our sins to a priest is putting flesh into God's forgiveness.

I believe that the act of going to a priest and confessing our sins makes it more real, more tangible. For example, you have tarnished the name of someone by accusing that person, and the accused person knows about it; or in anger you hit someone, and now you feel guilty and bad about this, and you may tell yourself that I have nothing against that person and then you relate to that person as if nothing had happened. The feeling of guilt is not going to go away, until you meet that person and ask pardon and forgiveness from him/her. Such acts become more real and tangible, and it can make a difference in your life, and in your relationship with that person. You both will begin to understand each other better, and a new friendship can grow from that encounter. This is the same when we confess our sins to a priest and receive absolution. You cannot go and sit before God as you are sitting before a real person, as God is invisible. The priest is the representative of God, and when you make your confession to him, it becomes more real to you. It can make a difference in your life and in your relationship with God. So please make use of this wonderful opportunity that is available in the Church, and experience God's forgiveness in a tangible way.

The second Sunday of Easter is also celebrated as Divine Mercy Sunday. This Feast is a beautiful reminder and invitation to experience the love and mercy of the Lord. God pours His mercy upon us through the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Eucharist. The Image of Divine Mercy also points to these two Sacraments. The priests are reminded on this day of their powerful duty and task towards the celebration of the Holy Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. These are the two powerful channels through which the mercy of the Lord flows, and priests alone are chosen and entrusted to handle these sacraments of grace and mercy. Let us pray that we participate in the Sacrament of the Eucharist and Reconciliation as often as we can, and experience God's mercy in our lives.

God bless you all,

Fr. John



## Christian Formation

**First Eucharist Retreat** for Parent & Child from 9:00am-12:00pm on Saturday, May 3rd in the Activity Center.

**First Eucharist** will be celebrated at 2:00pm on Sunday, May 4th.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School

True North: Trusting Jesus in a wild world  
July 7th-11th, Grades K-5

Registration forms can be found on the Church Website, the Church Office and the Christian Formation Office. The registration deadline is June 19th. For more information, please contact the Christian Formation Office, 225-749-3387.



*The Sanctuary Candle  
burns in memory of  
Hewitt Bouquet.*

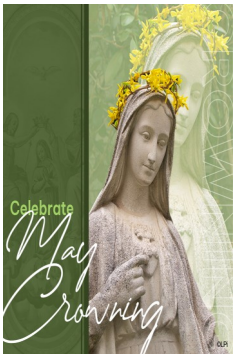
**Prayers and Sympathy are  
extended to the family of  
Lea Newsom  
upon his death.**

Children's Choir Practice has  
been **CANCELLED** for May.  
Please check the bulletin or the  
Church webpage for future  
practice dates and singing  
at Mass.



The May Crowning Ceremony  
will take place at 8:45am at the  
Grotto, before 9:00am Mass on  
Sunday, May 11th.

The Catholic Daughters will  
host a Rosary in honor of Mary  
after 9:00am Mass on Sunday,  
May 11th.



### Marriage Preparation Sponsor Couples

Please consider serving in this Ministry to assist our engaged couples who are preparing for the sacrament of Matrimony. A training course is offered by the Diocese for the Prepare and Enrich Program. Please contact Pam LeDoux, 337-513-1334, to be a part of this Ministry.

# Baptism

Please welcome these children to our faith community who were baptized on April 13th:

Annie Elizabeth Verret  
daughter of Michael & Janae Verret

Grant Levi Gisclair  
son of Lance & Kristen Bello

Father John needs a **volunteer to assist with Baptisms** once a month after 11:00am Mass. Please contact the Church Office to volunteer.

Our next **Baptismal Seminar** is at 6:00pm on Wednesday, May 14th in Christian Formation Room One. Please call the Church Office to register for the seminar.



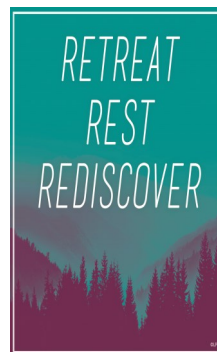
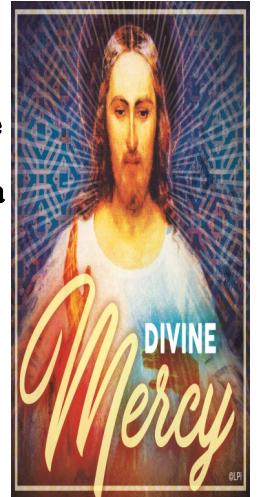
**THANKS** to Karen Cordell and her group for cleaning the Church in April. Please contact Wendy Daniel, 225-687-1653, to help during the month of May.

**THANKS** to Josie Theriot and her team for the Bereavement meals in April. Please contact Janice & Joel Hebert, 225-749-3863, to assist in May.

### Pray for Vocations

Let us affirm Divine Mercy Sunday and help carry out Christ's mission of spreading love and compassion in the world. Maybe the Lord is calling you as a priest, deacon, sister or brother?

If so, please talk to your priest about your interest in this vocation or reach out to Father Josh Johnson at the Vocations Office at 225-336-8778 or email him: [jjohnson@diobr.org](mailto:jjohnson@diobr.org) or visit: [www.diobr.org/vocations](http://www.diobr.org/vocations)



The Women's A.C.T.S. Retreat is scheduled for July 10-13.

Registration will open after all Masses this weekend. Application forms will be available in the back of Church. For more information, please contact Stacy Grimes, 318-359-8090.



## 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER

Jesus said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." - Jn 20:27

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. GLP

### Readings for the week of April 27, 2025

Sunday: Acts 5:12-16/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 (1)/  
Rv 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19/Jn 20:19-31

Monday: Acts 4:23-31/Ps 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9/Jn 3:1-8

Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5/Jn 3:7b-15

Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/  
Jn 3:16-21

Thursday: Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20/  
Jn 3:31-36

Friday: Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Jn 6:1-15

Saturday: 1 Cor 15:1-8/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Jn 14:6-14

Next Sunday: Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41/Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13  
(2a)/Rv 5:11-14/Jn 21:1-19 or 21:1-14

### Organizations

**The Catholic Daughters will have a meeting in the Activity Center at 7:00pm on Thursday, May 15th.**

**They will host a Rosary after 9:00am Mass on the Second Sunday of each Month.**

### Knights of Columbus:

**Meeting at 6:00pm in the Activity Center on Thursday, May 15th**

**Donuts after 7:30am Mass, May 4th, in the Activity Center**

**Pro-Life Rosary at 4:00pm on Saturday, May 17th**



### Children's Church

9:00am & 11:00am Masses

May 4 & 18

June 1 & 15

Please call Jayne, 225-749-3387, if you can volunteer to help with this ministry.

**A Trip to Croatia, Poland & Medjugorje with Father John**

September 22-October 3, 2025

12 day Pilgrimage through

Nativity Pilgrimage: [info@nativitypilgrimage.com](mailto:info@nativitypilgrimage.com)

You can register and obtain more information, by contacting Debbie Dupuy, 225-247-0052.

## (PRACTICING) CATHOLIC – BENEATH THE SURFACE

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

**Mini Reflection:** It does sound unbelievable, the story of the Resurrection. But lots of things are unbelievable. That doesn't mean they're not true. Take Thomas' example: stay close to the people you trust. Be willing to recognize Jesus when he's in front of you.

### Wonder, Don't Wander

My daughter recently asked me if it's okay to "wonder if all the Jesus stuff is true."

I wasn't surprised by her question. I've expected it, in fact. If you're raising a child to be a critical thinker, you don't want them to accept everything you tell them simply because it comes from your lips. I have promised my children that I will always give them the truth about God. But that's all I can do — give it to them. Whether or not they accept it, ultimately, is their own choice.

"I know it's true," she told me. "But sometimes it just all sounds so...unbelievable."

She's not wrong. It *does* sound unbelievable that an all-powerful God could create us for no reason other than sheer love, that He could be generous enough to give us free will to accept that love, that he could be merciful enough not to destroy us when we reject that love, and finally that he could be faithful enough in that love to become flesh and die in order to save us from the consequences of our own poor choices.

But lots of things are unbelievable. That doesn't mean they're not true.

When Jesus says, "Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed," he isn't calling Thomas a fool for questioning something that sounds a little outrageous. He's just highlighting the fact that Thomas is afforded a luxury that none of the Christians born after him, my daughter included, will have: he gets to see proof with his own eyes.

I told my daughter it's fine to wonder — just don't wander. Take Thomas' example. Stay close to the people you trust. Return to the warmth of the upper room. Be willing to recognize Jesus when he's in front of you. Never be afraid to believe.

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**The Women's Ministry will host an 8 week Bible Study, from Tuesday, May 6th through June 24th, from 10:00am-12:00pm in Christian Formation Room 2. Please purchase the book, "Unforgettable Women of the Gospels." To register, please contact Roxanne Loreno, 225-614-5424, or Alena Prejean, 225-235-1709.**