



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.

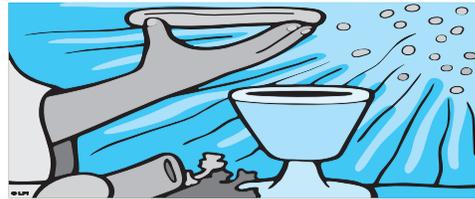
Prayer Line

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

August 26, 2012



21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

The words of the well-known hymn, "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus," are attributed to a man from the Indian state of Assam. He is said to have made this confession of faith when faced with the prospect of martyrdom by the village elders who did not accept his Christianity. After the title line which forms the first verse, the words of the hymn go on to say, "Tho' no one join me, still I will follow" and, "The world behind me, the cross before me, no turning back, no turning back!"

At the moment of the Gospel this weekend, the Twelve may only have the smallest inkling of what it might mean to follow Jesus. When Simon Peter answers for them, "Master, to whom shall we go?" he may not have understood the implications of his commitment. In the end, for the Twelve, following Jesus meant persecution and, with the exception of John, death as a martyr. Judas, the betrayer, gave it all up at the end, but for the others, there was "no turning back, no turning back."

The words of the Christian martyr from Assam have found their way into revivals and church services. But like Simon Peter, the true implications of the commitment may sometimes elude us. Our response to God's invitation to faith is much more than choosing what to have for dinner tonight or what to watch on television. It is a commitment to a way of life that influences the way we act each and every day. We are called to choose life, to choose love, to avoid evil, and to give up our own selfishness and instead embrace selflessness. Like Simon Peter and the rest of the Twelve we may not be exactly sure where the road will lead us. But like them, if we are truly committed to Jesus, there is "no turning back, no turning back!"

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"The words I have spoken to you are Spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe." And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by my Father." As a result of this, many of his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him. - Jn 6:63c-64a, 65-66

Dear Parishioners,

Wednesday, August 29, is one of two days on the calendar of the Catholic Church assigned to honor our patron, St. John the Baptist. The first of the two days is June 24, which ranks as a solemnity and celebrates the *Nativity of Saint John the Baptist*. This Wednesday holds the lesser rank of a memorial and honors the *Passion of Saint John the Baptist*, formerly called the Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist or the Beheading of St. John the Baptist. John was certainly a martyr and the Gospels identify the form of his death as beheading, but the new title *Passion* draws an even closer parallel between John and Jesus.

St. Bede the Venerable († 735) wrote that John was a martyr for Christ and for the truth: "His persecutor had demanded not that he should deny Christ, but only that he should keep silent about the truth. Nevertheless, he died for Christ. Does Christ not say: I am the truth? Therefore, because John shed his blood for the truth, he surely died for Christ." (Homily 23) Truth is a virtue which can so easily be set aside in order to avoid punishment (or to win an election), so it is important that we remember the witness of one who was so faithful to the voice of conscience.

You might already know that Bishop Robert Muench chose the words of St. John the Baptist for his episcopal motto, "Jesus Must Increase," taken from John 3:30. In the second half of that same verse John the Baptist states that he must decrease now that he has fulfilled his role as precursor to Jesus. His passion for the sake of truth became his final witness to the Kingdom of God now inaugurated by Christ.

I also have a personal connection with our patron saint in that my maternal grandfather was named Jean Baptiste. The use of family names or Saint names for children is a way of honoring those who also hold or held that name. It also places the child under the protection of that patron and encourages the child to imitate some of the virtues of his or her patron. I am fortunate to now serve in a parish which honors the memory of my grandfather's patron saint.

Please note a couple of important meetings in our parish this week. On Tuesday and Thursday, August 28 and 30, are scheduled the orientation meetings for the parents of children enrolled in this year's Christian formation classes.
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Parents may choose either of the two nights to attend, but attendance is mandatory in order that we might stress the importance of ongoing formation in our Catholic Faith. The meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. and are held in the Activity Center. Registration for your child or children is available either before or after the meeting each night.

A Baptism Seminar is scheduled on Wednesday night, August 29, at 6:30 p.m. in classroom 5. Please pass the word to any parents seeking to have their child baptized. It might even be easier for parents to attend before their baby is born, so please inform those expecting a child as well.

Last Sunday's blood drive was a great success despite the rainy weather: 54 whole blood units and 4 double red blood units for a total of 62 units! Thank you for your generous gift.

In Christ,
Father Matt

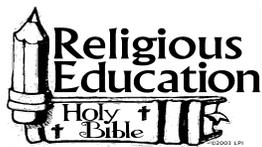


ARE YOU INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH?

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, or RCIA, begins with a series of Inquiry Sessions starting on Wednesday, September 5 at 6:30 p.m. in classroom 5. The RCIA process is for non-Catholics who are interested in learning more about the Catholic faith, and also for Catholics who were baptized but did not complete their other sacraments of initiation. If you or someone you know is interested in learning about the Catholic faith or possibly joining the Church, then please come to the first session on September 5th.



**PLEASE CHECK YOUR CLOSETS
AND ATTICS!! ITEMS ARE
NEEDED FOR OUR GARAGE
SALE TO BE HELD ON
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6th.
CALL JUDY CAZES AT 749-3265
TO DONATE.**



**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)
Tuesdays: 7:00—8:15p.m. (5th Grade)

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

**MANDATORY PARENTS MEETINGS
ARE SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, AUGUST
28 OR THURSDAY, AUGUST 30 at 6:30 PM IN
THE ACTIVITY CENTER.
(You are only required to attend one meeting).
REGISTRATION WILL BE HELD BEFORE &
AFTER THE MEETINGS.**

PRAYERS & SYMPATHY

are extended to Mr. Joseph Morel & family upon the death of his wife, Liz Morel and to Selby Lockhart & family upon the death of his brother, Gordon Lockhart. Please keep them in your prayers.



Congratulations

Jimmy & Dena Gaudet Cassels were married here last week. We send them our best wishes on their new life together!

STEWARDSHIP OF FINANCES

August 19, 2012

REGULAR:

239 Identified- - - - - \$7,655.00

Loose Collection- - - - - 651.00

TOTAL- - - - - \$8,306.00

Feast of the Assumption- - - - - \$1,340.00

A VOCATION VIEW

Jesus teaches us to live optimistically. If it weren't for the peak experiences of love, the small and sometimes big miracles in our lives, we could disappear. Thank God our doubts of faith ultimately strengthen our love. And just as true, our doubts that God could call us to His priesthood or religious life also demand an act of faith. If you feel a call to this, call or email Father Matt Dupre' at 225.336.8778, mdupre@diobr.org, or visit, www.diobr.org/vocations.

LIVE AWARENESS

Thinking about life as a religious; priest, sister or brother, come to Life Awareness, a weekend of discerning about a religious vocation. Open to SINGLE Catholics between the ages of 17 to 40, August 31, - September 2, 2012 at St. Charles Center, Diocese of Lake Charles, 2151 Sam Houston Jones Parkway, Lake Charles, LA. The fee is \$25.00 for the weekend. (Scholarship funds are available.) for more information contact: Fr. Matt Dupre', Vocation Director 225-336-8778 or email, mdupre@diobr.org; or go to www.diolaf.org/lifeawareness to register on-line.

BEREAVEMENT COMMITTEE

Thanks to Bill & Geri Schneider for chairing the committee during the month of August. Chaircouple for September will be Ella Dean & Scrap Thibodeaux. Please call them at 749-5754 with any concerns.

ALTAR SOCIETY

Thanks to Lucille Bouquet and her group for cleaning the church during the month of August. Cleaning for September will be Lisa Beraud (749-3170). Please call her if you can lend a hand.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

- ◇ **Communion Service** for K.C. Members & their families will be held on Sunday, September 2nd at 7:30 am Mass.
- ◇ **Coffee & Donuts** will be served after 7:30 am Mass on Sunday, September 2nd.

Readings for the Week of August 26, 2012

- Sunday: Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b/Eph 5:21-32
or 5:2a, 25-32/Jn 6:60-69
- Monday: 2 Thes 1:1-5, 11-12/Mt 23:13-22
- Tuesday: 2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17/Mt 23:23-26
- Wednesday: 2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18 /Mk 6:17-29
- Thursday: 1 Cor 1:1-9/Mt 24:42-51
- Friday: 1 Cor 1:17-25/Mt 25:1-13
- Saturday: 1 Cor 1:26-31/Mt 25:14-30
- Next Sunday: Dt 4:1-2, 6-8/Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27/
Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

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 Parish
Toni Tolar
David Toups, Chairman
John Windham, Secretary
Gerard "Jerry" Zimmerman



LADIES' SOFTBALL LEAGUE
AGES 18 & UP
Thursday night games at Brusly's
Alexander Park
Games 9/13/12 thru 11/15/12
Register now at DBSuire@gmail.com

CATHOLIC ALUMNI CLUB

Interested in joining an excellent Catholic singles organization? The Catholic Alumni Club International is looking to expand in the Baton Rouge Diocese. They provide a group dedicated to social, cultural, civic and spiritual relationships in a Catholic setting. For more information, please check out the following site or contact Steve at valksr@yahoo.com: www.caci.org.



In today's first reading, Joshua challenges the people to decide whom they will serve. Recalling God's faithfulness to them and to their ancestors, the people declare, "We also will serve the Lord, for He is our God." May we, too, be mindful of God's gifts to us and renew our commitment to serve Him with grateful hearts.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
CARDS, ETC.
MONDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2012