



# ST. JOHN *The* BAPTIST

• catholic church •

**December 1, 2013**  
**First Sunday of Advent**  
**Vol. 45, No. 50**



**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  
Sammy Collura ..... Permanent Deacon  
Julie Ginther Cilano ..... Christian Formation  
Carolyn Dupuy ..... Bookkeeper  
Pat Durbin ..... Parish Secretary  
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 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.

"Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour of night when the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and not let his house be broken into. So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come." - Mt 24:43-44

Dear Parishioners,

We finally have all of the numbers tabulated for this year's *Feast on the Levee* and our net income is \$59,000. That is about \$5,000 more than last year so thank you very much for all that you did to contribute to our success. The *Feast* is a wonderful showcase for our community spirit and *joie de vivre* even as it benefits our parish financially. Thanks once again to Scot and Pamela Rhodes and all of you who worked so hard to benefit our Church and community.

Although I have not decided the exact percentages yet, the *Feast* income will be distributed between several areas of need including our Building Fund Savings, loan repayment, and several small projects to enhance our liturgy and Church.

The annual appeal for the Retirement Fund for Religious is next weekend, December 7 & 8. This is our chance to help provide for our consecrated religious who have given so much to the Church over the years. Since this is also the weekend for our monthly Building Fund collection, I ask that you place your envelopes for the Religious Retirement in the first collection. We also have another Parish Blood Drive scheduled for Sunday, December 8. The Advent season is a nice time to give of ourselves in preparation for receiving God's gifts at Christmas.

I encourage everyone to go to confession before Christmas so that we can celebrate our savior's birth with joyful hearts and minds. Jesus is the Prince of Peace and we need his gift of peace in order to handle the stress of everyday living. St. John Church in Plaquemine has its penance service on Tuesday, December 10; Holy Family Church in Port Allen has its service on Thursday, December 12; and we have our own penance service here at **St. John the Baptist on Tuesday, December 17, at 7:00 p.m.** We also have our regular Saturday afternoon confessions from 3:30 – 4:15 p.m. every Saturday.

Our youth ministry here at St. John the Baptist is sponsoring *Breakfast with Santa Claus* on Sunday, December 15, from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. The cost is \$6.00 per person, and in addition to good food the morning will also include Christmas music and

the opportunity for the kids to take a picture with Santa Claus. So bypass the department store Santa for our own Cajun Santa.

Mark your calendars also for our December Pot Luck Dinner to be followed by an Advent & Christmas Concert. The Pot Luck Dinner begins at the usual time of 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Activity Center. Our adult and angel choirs then invite everyone to join them in church for an evening of Advent and Christmas music beginning at 7:30 p.m. We are encouraged to bring a canned good to the concert to benefit the Food Bank.

In Christ,  
Father Matt

## Attention: Youth

### YOUTH NIGHT

**Wednesday, December 4th**

**"The Pursuit of Happiness"**

- ⇒ 6:00—7:30 pm Junior High
- ⇒ 7:30—8:00 pm Junior High & High School Dinner
- ⇒ 8:00—9:30 pm High School

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church Presents:

## Breakfast with Santa Claus

Sunday, December 15, 2013  
8:30AM-12:30PM  
Cost: \$6

Join us for a  
Holly Jolly Good Time!  
Come eat breakfast,  
enjoy holiday tunes, and  
take your picture with Santa!

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church • 402 South Kirkland Drive • Brusly, LA 70719



### IGNITE YOUNG ADULTS RETREAT

Are you a Confirmed Senior in High School or College Student looking to deepen your Catholic faith?

Join us for the Ignite Retreat!

December 20—22, 2013

Rosaryville Spirit Life Center—Ponchatoula,

Cost—\$100/Retreatant

Scholarships Available—Contact Julie (225-749-3387)

### HELP NEEDED!!

Adult Coordinator for Christmas Gospel Narrative

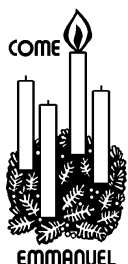
Last year was our first ever Christmas Eve Gospel Narrative at the 6 pm Mass. We will be doing it again, but we need your help. ADULTS! Please contact Julie At (225-749-3387) or [julie@sjbcc.brcoxmail.com](mailto:julie@sjbcc.brcoxmail.com) if you are interested or would like more info.

## Advent Giving Tree



The Giving Tree is in the back of church. Please take only one gift tag per family. Gifts need to be returned by Friday, December 13th. We had a very low turn-out to sign up for Christmas this year so envelopes for donations to the Food Pantry will be added to the tree. Your donation can be placed in the collection baskets.

Thanks to all of you for participating and a special thanks to Rita Ourso for her generous donations throughout the year.



### ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES

- ⇒ St. John the Evangelist—Plaquemine  
Tuesday, Dec. 10—7:00 pm
- ⇒ Holy Family—Port Allen  
Thursday, Dec. 12—6:30 pm
- ⇒ St. John the Baptist—Brusly  
Tuesday, Dec. 17—7:00 pm

**THE MASS INTENTIONS BOOK IS NOW OPEN FOR 2014. YOU CAN COME TO THE OFFICE TO SCHEDULE YOUR INTENTIONS.**

### RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Show your appreciation for the senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who made a positive difference in so many lives. Please give generously to next week's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Place your special envelope in the regular collection.

### STEWARDSHIP OF FINANCES

November 17, 2013

REGULAR:

231 Identified- - - - - \$7,901.33

Loose Collection- - - - - 550.70

TOTAL- - - - - \$8,452.03

### A VOCATION VIEW

St. Paul tells us that the love we received from the Lord must increase and be shared with those around us that we need to be holy before God. Are you willing to teach the gospel to others and to help prepare them for the coming of the Lord? If yes, call or email Fr. Matt Dupre' at 225.336.8778, [mdupre@diobr.org](mailto:mdupre@diobr.org).

## Organizations

### ALTAR SOCIETY

Thanks to Mary Anita Tullier and her group for cleaning the church during the month of November. Cleaning for December will be done by Cindi Breau (749-3842) and her group. Please give her a call to offer your help.

### BEREAVEMENT COMMITTEE

Thanks to Beverly & Harold Babin, chaircouple for the month of November. Chairperson for December is Mary Anita Tullier (749-3459). Please call her with any concerns.

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

#### OCTOBER CALENDAR WINNERS

Lisa Beraud, L.J. Berthelot, Kim Gros, Emily & Kirk Sanchez, Gladys Albarado, Lisa Fenton, Phillis Gaudet, Scott & Heather Martinez, Anne Stewart, Ronell Seneca, Bryce Bourgeois, Gary Stockstill, Wilbert Landry, Sr., Jessica Bourgeois, K.C. Council 5352, David Brown, Shelly Crochet, Katie Paine, Noah Stelly, K.C. Council 5352, Ben Legendre, John Provenza, Clarence & Elsie Falcon, Lou Duhon, Jimmy Rogers, Julianna Distefano, Donna L. Hoover, Catty Hebert, James Frens, Kathy D'Albor, Elbon Vidrine

*The Sanctuary Candle is now burning for a special intention for Gregory Bourgeois.*



PRAYERS & SYMPATHY are extended to Mr. Jim Safford and family upon the death of his wife, Claire. Please keep them in your prayers.

### Readings for the Week of December 1, 2013

Sunday: Is 2:1-5/Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44  
Monday: Is 4:2-6/Mt 8:5-11  
Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Lk 10:21-24  
Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Mt 15:29-37  
Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Mt 7:21, 24-27  
Friday: Is 29:17-24/Mt 9:27-31  
Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Mt 9:35--10:1, 5a, 6-8  
Next Sunday: Is 11:1-10/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12

## NATIVITY CAROL

~an evening of Advent and Christmas song~

December 19, 2013

7:30PM

(following the parish pot-luck dinner)

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH  
BRUSLY, LOUISIANA

~featuring~

The St. John the Baptist Angel Choir and Adult Choir



Canned good donations for the  
Food Bank are welcome!



The Light of  
Christ  
prevents  
spiritual  
slumber



### 1st Sunday of Advent

"Stay awake! Be prepared." The advice is clear enough. And chances are, most of us are inclined to follow this fervent instruction from the Lord. We'd like to be vigilant. We'd like to be ready. When the ultimate Advent comes-when Jesus returns-we don't want to be the one left standing alone in the field. But on its own, the desire to be alert isn't necessarily enough to keep us from drifting off into a spiritual siesta.

Consider the apostles in the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus gave them a similar instruction to the one he gives today: "Keep watch" (Mt 26:38). And what happened? They fell asleep. "The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak" (26:41). How about us? Can we really stay awake? Indeed, the season of Advent presents a challenge: Jesus asks us to be ready to greet him at any hour. Though our spirit may be willing, can our "flesh" pull it off? Especially in this month of holiday hustle and bustle, how can we stay constantly focused on welcoming Christ?

Saint Paul gives us a hint in today's epistle: "Put on the armor of light...Put on the Lord Jesus Christ" (Rom 13:12, 14). Just as light prevents physical sleep, so too the light of Christ prevents spiritual slumber. When we invite Jesus' Spirit into our hearts, it's like keeping a vigil light flickering in the window of our souls. We may go about our business, but that expectant flame never burns out. So when Jesus comes again-even like a thief in the night-he will find us ready and waiting.