



ST. JOHN *The* BAPTIST

• catholic church •

*December 13, 2015
Third Sunday of Advent
Vol. 47, 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

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
Carolyn Dupuy Bookkeeper
Pat Durbin Parish Secretary
June Hebert Director of Religious Education
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 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

John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." - Lk 3:16

Dear Parishioners,

Just as many of us put off Christmas shopping until the last minute so too many of us put off going to confession until the last minute. The time is now upon us if we want to celebrate Christ's birth with clean hearts and consciences. All of our neighboring parishes have celebrated their penance services. We are the last one on the schedule and our parish penance service begins at 7:00 p.m. this Tuesday, December 15. Fathers David Allen, Greg Daigle, and Reuben Dykes are scheduled to assist us so please put aside any worries or excuses and come to confession before Christmas. (Father Joel LaBauve will be in the confessional next Saturday for the truly unreformed procrastinators.)

The annual appeal for the Retirement Fund for Religious is this weekend, December 12 & 13. 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 contributions in envelopes marked "Religious Retirement" and then drop them in the first collection.

Please join us for our *Advent/Christmas Concert* to be held this Thursday, December 17, at 7:00 p.m. in the church. Admission is free but you are invited to bring a canned good for our food bank. This is a small but simple way of observing the "Year of Mercy" by helping to feed the hungry. A Christmas Cookie reception will follow in the Parish Activity Center.

Thursday, December 17, is Pope Francis's birthday, so please say a prayer for the continued health and well-being of our Holy Father. He turns 79 this year and seems to be in very good health despite a very full schedule. Our own Bishop Robert Muench, also has a birthday this month and turns 73 on December 28. We pray that he may continue to shepherd our Diocese with his characteristic devotion and humor.

Our schedule of services for Christmas includes two Masses on Christmas Eve and two Masses on Christmas morning. The celebration begins on Christmas Eve with a choir concert at 3:15 p.m. followed by our 4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass. We then have a second Vigil Mass at 6:00 p.m. which includes a dramatization of the Gospel by some of the children of our parish.

Masses on Christmas Day are at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.. (We do not have a midnight Mass.)

Please say a prayer for two of our priests who lost their mothers recently. Father Jerry Martin, pastor of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Prairieville, buried his mother, Mrs. Josie Martin, last Saturday. Father Eric Gyan, pastor of St. Theresa Parish in Gonzales and former pastor here in Brusly, buried his mother, Mrs. Irene Gyan, last Monday. Mrs. Martin was 89 years old and Mrs. Gyan was 87 years old. I attended both of the funerals along with many of our other priests, and I know there is a special place in heaven for the mother of a priest.

In Christ,
Father Matt



ADVENT/CHRISTMAS CONCERT
Wednesday, December 17th—7:00 pm



JOIN THE ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
YOUTH GROUP FOR
BREAKFAST WITH SANTA
Sunday, Dec. 20th in the Activity Center

Come and enjoy pancakes, sausage and eggs...take a photo with Santa...Enjoy activities for the kids! All proceeds are used to financially support the St. John the Baptist Youth Group delegation to the March for Life in Washington, D.C. on January 18, 2016.

Breakfast will begin after 7:30 am Mass and last until after 11:00 am Mass. Tickets are \$7 each and can be purchased after all Masses this weekend or at the door on the 20th.

We deeply appreciate your support!

DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS

John Touns and the Environment Committee will be decorating the church for Christmas on Sunday, December 20th beginning at 2:00 pm. VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!!! Whatever is not completed that day, we will resume decorating at 10:00 am on Monday, December 21st. Please call the office to sign up to help. John would like to contact you ahead of time to coordinate team leaders.

CLEANING FOR CHRISTMAS

A group of people will be doing a General Cleaning of the Church for Christmas. All are invited to help. They will do the cleaning on Tuesday, December 22nd beginning at 1:30 pm. We would appreciate any and all help!

CHRISTIAN FORMATION
8th GRADE ONLY
SCHEDULE CHANGE FOR
RELIGION CLASS

THE 8th GRADE WILL HAVE CLASS ON TUESDAY, DEC. 15TH AT 7:00 P.M. THEY WILL NOT HAVE CLASS ON MONDAY, DEC. 14TH. THEY WILL ATTEND THE PARISH PENANCE SERVICE SO THEY CAN RECEIVE THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION.



Advent Penance Services



Tues., Dec. 15 (7:00 pm)
 St. John the Baptist, Brusly
Wed., Dec. 16 (6:00 pm)
 St. Ann, Morganza

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS

DECEMBER MEETING TIME CHANGE

Next meeting—Wednesday, December 16th will begin at 5:00 pm. So, put on your Santa hats for a short meeting, the assembly of fruit baskets. Bring your ribbon, bows, tape and a small snack to share and come join the fun!

Remember: If you are a Catholic lady 18 years or older, you are welcome to the meeting to see what we are all about. If you have any questions, please call or text Mary Benoit at 225.324.5289. God Bless and Merry Christmas!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Wednesday, Dec. 16th—Officers' Meeting—6:00 pm

Regular Meeting—7:15 pm

Saturday, Dec. 19th—Pro-Life Rosary 4:00 pm

NOVEMBER CALENDAR WINNERS

Kevin Hebert, V.J. Vicknair, Gary Haydel, Roy T. Mouch, Steve Soniat, Christy Altazan, John C. Petite, Darrell Landry, Josephine Landry, Julia Rambin, Gwen Martinez, Suzan A. Hebert, Noah Stelly, Butch Fuentes, Brian Blanchard, Velma Gaudet, Mike King, Donna Fontenot, Harry Landry, Noel Murano, Carrie McKinney, Heather Guthrie, Jeff Barcelona, Roxanne Dupuy, Mark Shelley, Terry Joseph, Darrel Rivere, Paul M. Levert, Buster Tipton, Carolyn Schlatre.

THANK YOU!

The Bereavement Committee wishes to thank the families of Karl Hebert & Mark Blanchard for their contributions!

STEWARDSHIP OF FINANCES

December 6, 2015

REGULAR:

308 Identified- - - - - \$17,411.00

Loose Collection- - - - - 855.00

TOTAL- - - - - \$18,266.00

Christmas Flowers—\$2,113.00

Consider the possibility of a
religious vocation



A VOCATION VIEW

Could God be calling you to be a priest or religious to announce the Good News to His People as John the Baptist did? If God is calling you, call or email Fr. Matt Dupre' at 225.336.8778, mdupre@diobr.org.



PRAYERS & SYMPATHY are extended to Jana Kershaw & family upon the death of her mother, Evelyn Miller and to Jamie Blanchard & family upon the death of her husband, Mark Blanchard. Please keep them in your prayers.

*THE SANCTUARY CANDLE IS NOW
 BURNING IN MEMORY OF
 WAYNE KNOTTS*



RECENTLY MARRIED

Joseph Michael & Katherine Anne Hoffpauir Rodriguez

BAPTIZED

Briggs Anthony Richard, son of Chad & Cayla Blanchard Richard

FAMILY DAY OF MERCY

Sunday, December 27, 2015

Feast of the Holy Family

As part of the Jubilee of Mercy, we are encouraging you to set aside this day for your family in order to grow closer and engage in activities and discussions that will help you more fully embrace the concept of mercy and find ways to integrate it within your daily family life. Ideas and resources can be found on the Diocesan Office of Marriage & Family Life's website: www.mfldiobr.org.

Readings for the Week of December 13, 2015

Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-6/Phil 4:4-7/
 Lk 3:10-18
 Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-9/
 Mt 21:23-27
 Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7,
 17-19, 23/ Mt 21:28-32
 Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25/Ps 85:9-14/Lk
 7:18b-23
 Thursday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-4, 7-8, 17/
 Mt 1:1-17
 Friday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/
 Mt 1:18-25
 Saturday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-6, 16-17/
 Lk 1:5-25
 Next Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19/
 Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS 2014-2015

Donna Badon
Maria Bertrand
Jamie Bourg
Chris Buckle, Chairman
Deacon Sammy Collura
Stacy Gauthreaux
Jules Lefeaux
Mark Loreno
Fr. Matt Lorrain
Jason Murphey
Andrea Smicker
Toni Tolar, Vice-Chairman
John Windham



3rd Sunday of Advent

"I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals." So said John the Baptist in reference to Jesus. Tax collectors, soldiers, and countless other people gathered to hear John preach. There was an excitement in the air as they were all "filled with expectation." For generations upon generations they had been waiting for the coming of the promised Messiah--the Christ. And now, John the Baptist had appeared with such a striking message and such a powerful presence that "all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ."

But he wasn't. John's mission was to prepare the way for Jesus Christ. In the process, however, people began to think that John was the main attraction. He set the record straight though, when he emphasized that "one mightier than I is coming." And then he made the remark about not being worthy to do even the most humble act of service--loosening sandal straps--for the Lord.

Imagine what the people must have been thinking. They all found John to be such a remarkable man, and yet he declared that he wasn't worthy? If this great prophet was so humble, how much more should they humble themselves in preparation for the coming of the Messiah? And shouldn't we do the same?

As we meditate upon the coming of Christ this Advent season, we would do well to make our approach towards Christmas with humble hearts. What have we done to deserve this incredible gift of a Savior? Are we worthy of his incarnation and his saving death? The fact is that nothing we could ever do would possibly earn our redemption. May we be humble enough to acknowledge that our salvation is the greatest gift we could ever receive.