



# ST. JOHN *The* BAPTIST

• catholic church •

*December 17, 2017*  
*Third Sunday of Advent*  
*Vol. 49, No. 57*



**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  
Larry Durbin..... Maintenance Supervisor  
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

*A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. - Jn 1:6-8*

Dear Parishioners,

Our *Advent/Christmas Concert* is today, Sunday, December 17, at 5:00 p.m. in the church. We receive many complements from visitors on the singing of our choir and this concert gives us a chance to enjoy their beautiful singing outside of Mass. Admission is free but you are invited to bring a canned good for our food bank. A Christmas Cookie reception will follow in the Parish Activity Center.

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 6:30 p.m. this Tuesday, December 19. Fathers David Allen, Greg Daigle, and Ryan Hallford are scheduled to assist us so please put aside any worries or excuses and come to confession before Christmas.

We will be decorating the church for Christmas this Friday, December 22, beginning at 9:30 a.m. We need plenty of volunteers so the work can be completed smartly and efficiently. Service hours are available for students, and volunteers are needed to put the trees in the stands and the garland on the columns. John Toups is once again coordinating our decorations so please call or text him at 405-0826 if you have any questions.

Christmas falls on a Monday this year, and so everyone will need to attend Mass twice over a four day period – once for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent and once for Christmas. We will have an abbreviated Mass schedule next Sunday morning due to the addition of two Masses on Sunday evening. Our Masses for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent are at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 23, and at 7:30 & 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, December 24. Masses for Christmas are at 4:00 & 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 24, and at 8:00 & 10:00 a.m. on Monday, December 25.

I plan to take a few days of vacation between Christmas and New Year's so we will have Communion Services in place of the 8:00 a.m. Masses on Tuesday – Thursday, December 26-28.

Since New Year's Day falls on a Monday this year,

the obligation for Catholics to attend Mass is dispensed. However, we will still celebrate a Mass in honor of Mary, the Holy Mother of God at 9:00 a.m. on January 1, 2018.

Our parish participated in the *#iGiveCatholic* campaign on "Giving Tuesday" and received a total of \$1,750 from 25 donors. Katie Roettger and our Mother's Day Out teachers and parents can now start researching playground equipment for the children. Many thanks to all of our donors for their generous gifts.

#17 LSU plays #14 Notre Dame in the Citrus Bowl at 12:00 noon on New Year's Day. Both teams have identical 9-3 records so it should be a great game and an opportunity for the Tigers to put an exclamation point on their season. I know a lot of Catholics have a strong devotion to Notre Dame but I trust you will pull for the right team in this game.

In Christ,  
Father Matt

**CHRISTIAN FORMATION F.Y.I.**  
**CHRISTIAN FORMATION CLASSES**  
**MONDAY, DECEMBER 18TH AND**  
**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19TH**  
**WILL BE FOR GRADES K—4TH ONLY.**  
**THERE WILL BE NO CHRISTIAN FORMATION**  
**CLASSES FOR GRADES 5TH—10TH GRADES**  
**ON THESE DAYS.**

**THERE WILL BE NO**  
**CHRISTIAN FORMATION CLASSES**  
**FOR K—10TH GRADE**  
**FROM DECEMBER 25TH—JANUARY 16TH**  
**DUE TO CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS AND**  
**MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HOLIDAY.**

**CLASSES WILL RESUME ON**  
**MONDAY, JANUARY 22ND AND**  
**TUESDAY, JANUARY 23RD.**

**CATECHISTS NEEDED**  
**4th Grade Catechist to complete this school year!**  
**11:00 am Children's church beginning March 2018**  
**Call Karen or June at 749-3387.**





**CHRISTMAS DECORATING**  
*John Toups and our Environment Committee will be decorating the church for Christmas on Friday, December 22nd beginning at 9:30 am. Any help would be greatly appreciated!*

**CHRISTMAS SEASON MASS SCHEDULE**  
**Sunday, December 24,** 4th Sunday of Advent  
 7:30 & 10:00 am  
**Christmas Vigil** Masses—4:00 and 6:00 pm  
**Monday, December 25,** Christmas Day 8:00 and 10:00 am

**FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY/  
 SOLEMNITY OF THE MOTHER OF GOD**  
**Sunday, December 31,** New Year's Eve  
 7:30; 9:00 & 11:00 am  
**Monday, January 1, 2018** New Year's Day—9:00 am

**ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES**  
 Tuesday, Dec. 19—6:30 pm  
 St. John the Baptist—Brusly, LA

**Thank You**

*The family of the late Parks Joseph Hannah, Jr. wishes to express our sincerest appreciation for the many acts of kindness shown us during the loss of our loved one. This kindness will never be forgotten. It made an awesome burden easier to bear.*

*Special thanks to Father Matt Lorrain, Father Ryan Hallford, Rosemary Babin, the efficient office staff, the Bereavement Committee, and all other parishioners of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church.*

Eternally Grateful,  
 Virgie B. Hannah, Park's Mother

The Bereavement Committee wishes to thank the Hannah family and friends for their recent donation.

**SPECIAL COLLECTION**  
 The Catholic Life Center Services of the Diocese of Baton Rouge will be taken up on Christmas Day. This collection will be retained in the parish to assist the needy throughout the year. Please place your special envelope in the regular collection.

**STEWARDSHIP OF FINANCES**  
 December 10, 2017  
 REGULAR:  
 182 Identified- - - - - \$6,583.00  
 Loose Collection- - - - - 849.00  
 TOTAL- - - - - \$7,432.00  
 St. Joseph Abbey – \$1,346.00



### **A VOCATION VIEW**

There was a man named John, sent by God, who came as a witness to testify to the Light, so that through this person all people might believe. It is possible God could call your name to witness to the Light of Christ in our day. If you think God is calling you to a Church vocation, call or email Father Andrew Merrick at 225.336.8778, framerrick@gmail.com, or visit [www.diobr.org/vocations](http://www.diobr.org/vocations).



### **SENIOR SPIRIT & ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST TO HOST A "TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS" GATHERING AT SJB ACTIVITY CENTER**

St. John the Baptist and West Baton Rouge Senior Spirit are joining to host an evening of music, refreshments and fellowship on Saturday, January 6, 2018, the vigil of the Feast of the Epiphany. Traditionally, the Feast of the Epiphany, or the Twelfth Day of Christmas, marks the ending of the Christmas liturgical season and, in our local culture, the beginning of Mardi Gras.

Adults 50 and over are invited to attend the celebration. There will be music provided by Celeste Veillon, and light refreshments, including King Cake, will be served. In order to provide enough food, please call or email:

Babs Babin at 749-2518, [bbabin@cox.net](mailto:bbabin@cox.net) or  
 Lucy Landry, 749-2981, [lucyplandry@bellsouth.net](mailto:lucyplandry@bellsouth.net)  
 by Friday, December 29, 2017 to register.

### **Readings for the Week of December 17, 2017**

Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54  
 [Is 61:10b]/1 Thes 5:16-24/  
 Jn 1:6-8, 19-28  
 Monday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/  
 Mt 1:18-25  
 Tuesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17  
 [cf. 8]/Lk 1:5-25  
 Wednesday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c and  
 10b]/Lk 1:26-38  
 Thursday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12,  
 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45  
 Friday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd  
 [cf. 1a]/Lk 1:46-56  
 Saturday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and  
 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66  
 Next Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5,  
 27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

**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



**Third Sunday of Advent**

Gaudete Sunday derives its name from the opening prayer of the Mass for this day, where we pray, "Gaudete in Domino semper" (Rejoice in the Lord always). So in the midst of Advent fasting and devotions, we rejoice because the time we have been preparing for is almost at hand. You may see rose-colored vestments and additions to the church environment due to this special Sunday.

A day like this is always good to remind us not to take ourselves too seriously. The life of a Christian is not always easy, but it is one of joy. If we keep our heads bowed too long, no one will be able to see the smiles on our faces.

The New Evangelization calls us to spread the good news with a joy that can be infectious. I remember being at a Eucharistic Congress one time where there was a booth set up by an order of sisters promoting vocations. I couldn't help but to take notice of how much they laughed and how they smiled. I thought, "Who wouldn't want to see what they are about?" Does our joy in the Lord serve as an invitation for others to seek out Christ?

May the joy of the Lord be yours on this Gaudete Sunday! The Lord is coming, soon and very soon!