

*December 9, 2018
Second Sunday of Advent
Vol. 50, No. 48*



ST. JOHN *The* BAPTIST

• catholic church •



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
Carolyn Dupuy Bookkeeper
Pat Durbin..... Parish Secretary
June Hebert Director of Religious Education
Karen Lemoine Christian Formation
Celeste Veillon Music Director
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 the Parish Office

A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." Lk 3:4

Dear Parishioners,

Our parish participated in the #iGiveCatholic campaign on "Giving Tuesday" and received a total of \$950 from 9 donors. We also received offline donations equaling \$640, plus an additional \$507 in donations from the November 4 concert featuring Celeste Veillon and Elisa Galleano. This gives us a total of \$2,097 to apply toward the purchase of new hymnals for our church. Many thanks to all of our donors for their generous gifts.

The 4th **Annual Nativity Carol**, an evening of Advent and Christmas song, is next Sunday, December 16, at 5:00 p.m. in the church. We receive many compliments 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 make a donation towards our new hymnals or bring a canned good for our food bank. A Christmas Cookie reception will follow in the Parish Activity Center.

The annual appeal for the Retirement Fund for Religious is this weekend, December 8 & 9. The Diocese is once again asking all parishes to dedicate this collection to St. Joseph Abbey and their ongoing efforts to recover after major flooding in March 2016. The Benedictine monks are consecrated religious, so the collection remains close to its intended purpose. Since this is also the weekend for our monthly Building Fund collection, I ask that you place your contributions in envelopes marked "St. Joseph Abbey Flood Relief Fund" and then drop them in the first collection.

As always, I encourage you to go to confession this Advent in preparation for Christmas. Holy Family Church in Port Allen has its penance service this Wednesday, December 12, at 6:30 p.m. We will have our penance service here at **St. John the Baptist** the following week on **Tuesday, December 18, at 6:30 p.m.** Our second graders will celebrate their 1st Reconciliation at this same service, so let us support them by our good example.

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 pm 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 but there is one right next door at St. John the Evangelist in Plaquemine.)

The Gospel for this Second Sunday of Advent reminds us that in the year 28 or 29, God intervened in history by calling St. John the Baptist: "the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert." John was able to hear God's call precisely because he was in the wilderness away from the noise and distractions of his day. We likewise take time during this Advent season to create time and space for quiet reflection so we too might be able to hear God's call to help "prepare the way of the Lord."

In Christ,
Father Matt

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION SESSION FOR ALL SECOND GRADERS

Monday, Dec. 10th or Tuesday, Dec. 11th
At their regularly Scheduled Class times.

STUDENTS IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WILL CHOOSE TO COME ON ONE OF THESE DAYS. FIRST RECONCILIATION RETREAT FOR ALL SECOND GRADERS AND THEIR PARENTS WILL BE ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15TH FROM 9 A.M.—12 P.M. IN THE ACTIVITY CENTER. PLEASE COMPLETE CHAPTERS 5 AND 6 IN THEIR RECONCILIATION BOOKS AND BRING THEM TO THE RETREAT. FIRST RECONCILIATION WILL BE TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18TH AT 6:30 P.M. IN CHURCH ALONG WITH THE PARISH ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE



ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES

Holy Family—Port Allen, LA
Wednesday, December 12—6:30 pm

St. John the Baptist
Brusly, LA
Tuesday, December 18—6:30 pm



~the 4th ANNUAL~
NATIVITY CAROL

~an evening of Advent and Christmas song~
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2018

5:00 pm In Church

*Donations for our New Gather Hymnals and
canned good donations to benefit our Food Pantry
are greatly appreciated!*

*A Christmas Cookie reception will follow in the Activity
Center*



*John Toups & our Environmental
Committee will be decorating the church for
Christmas on Saturday,
December 22nd beginning at 10:00 am.
Your help would be greatly appreciated!*



CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

Thursday, December 20, 2018 (6:00 pm—8:00 pm)

St. John the Baptist Activity Center

West Baton Rouge Parish Senior Spirit, an organization for all 50 and older, is sponsoring a Christmas gathering on December 20th. Senior Spirit will provide the main meat course and beverages, and participants are asked to bring a pot luck dessert or casserole.

A music program will be presented by Daisha Badon, who is a parishioner of St. John the Baptist. Watch our next bulletin for more information, but please mark your calendar for this festive Christmas event! All who are 50 or older are welcome!

Please call Lucy (749-2981) or Babs (749-2518) by Tuesday, December 18th if you will attend.



BALM FOR THE SOUL COOKBOOKS

\$15.00/each—Available at Parish Office

*Call Margaret Canella at 749-2874 or
pick up a copy at the Office.*

GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFTS!

 **BAPTISM**

*Congratulations to Connor Jude Heidbrink, son of
Thomas & Stacey Heidbrink. Connor was baptized
here last weekend.*

WELCOME INTO OUR FAITH COMMUNITY!

STEWARDSHIP OF FINANCES

December 2, 2018

REGULAR:

274 Identified- - - - - \$17,438.50

Loose Collection- - - - - 748.00

TOTAL- - - - - \$18,186.50



A VOCATION VIEW

Are you seeking “knowledge and full insight to help you determine” your vocation in Christ as a priest? If God is calling you, call or email Father Andrew Merrick at 225.336.8778, framerrick@gmail.com, or visit www.diobr.org/vocations.



**BRUSLY LIONS CLUB
ANNUAL SANTA BREAKFAST**

December 15, 2018 (9-11 am)

Brusly Lions Club

202 St. Francis St., Brusly, LA

Adults \$15/Kids \$10 (4 & Under Free)

A DELICIOUS BREAKFAST

WILL BE SERVED!

Visit with Santa, Christmas Sing-Along & Other Games

Limited number of tickets will be sold for this event!

Call Andrea @ 328-4843, Denise @ 937-8082

Or Bonnie @ 313-5505 to reserve your tickets.



*THE SANCTUARY CANDLE IS NOW
BURNING IN MEMORY OF TOM JOFFRION
BY MYRTLE JEAN JOFFRION*

Knights of Columbus

**PRO-LIFE ROSARY IN MEMORY OF THE UNBORN
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15th—4:00 PM IN
CHURCH**

Be sure to buy your 2019 Charity Calendar from any of our K.C. Members (\$20/each). A prize a day is given. You can enter once and be in 365 drawings. Win as often as your name is drawn. All proceeds will go to the K.C.'s and their charities. Only 2,000 will be sold! Get yours now from any K.C Member or call (225) 687-6743 to order.

Readings for the week of December 9, 2018

Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/
Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6
Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [
[Is35:4f]/Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13
[Is 40:10ab]/Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/
Jdt 513:18bcde, 19 [15:9d]/Lk 1:26
- 38 or Lk 1:39-47
Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab
[8]/Mt 11:11-15
Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [Jn 8:12]/
Mt 11:16-19
Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-
19 [4]/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Next Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]/
Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS 2017-2018

John Begue
Bob Bewick
Jamie Bourg
Chris Buckle
Christie Chapman
Jules Lefeaux, Vice-Chairman
Mark Loreno, Chairman
Fr. Matt Lorrain
Mary Claire Meyer, Secretary
Jason Murphey
Joey Normand
Derek Scott
Andrea Smicker



2nd Sunday of Advent

"In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar...and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee...and Lysanias was tetrarch of..." Did you need to pinch yourself awake during the first few lines of this Sunday's Gospel? John the Baptist received quite a prelude today as Luke described the religious and political leadership of the time period. Scripture is divinely inspired, and we believe that everything that made it into the Bible is there for a reason. These lines remind us of an important truth. The Christmas story isn't a fairy tale or nursery rhyme. It's not a parable we say to give meaning to the holiday. At Christmas, God's presence is made tangible in a precise moment in time. The birth of Christ is a historical event. As precursor to Jesus' preaching, the ministry of John the Baptist is also a historical event.

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." John's call to repentance and the forgiveness of sins happened in a particular time and place. But that does not mean it is limited to first century Palestine! God continues to move in our daily lives. What we hear in today's Gospel - and what we anticipate at Christmas - occurs in our daily lives. God works in concrete ways in time and space. He did that 2,000 years ago, and He continues to do so today!

This Sunday, examine your own Christmas preparations. Is there anything you need to repent of before the Christmas season? Are there low points in your life, valleys to "be filled" by the love of God? Are there mountainous obstacles in your spiritual life? How can they be "made low"? Are you making decisions that have moved you away from God? This Advent season is the time for them to "be made straight and made smooth." Prepare the way in your heart for Christ today!