



*December 22, 2019
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Volume 51, No. 51*

ST. JOHN *The* BAPTIST

• catholic church •



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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
Donna Badon..... Christian Formation
Carolyn Dupuy Bookkeeper
June Hebert Director of Religious Education
Pedro Hernandez..... Custodian
Layne Mire Parish Secretary
Celeste Veillon Music Director
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 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

Dear Parishioners,

We will be decorating our church for Christmas on Monday, December 23, beginning at 9:00 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.

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 a 4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass, and then a second Vigil Mass at 6:00 p.m. 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 Parish Office will be closed on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, December 24, 25, and 26, for Christmas. I plan to take a few days of vacation after Christmas so we will have Communion Services in place of the weekday Masses on Thursday and Friday of this week, December 26 and 27, 2019.

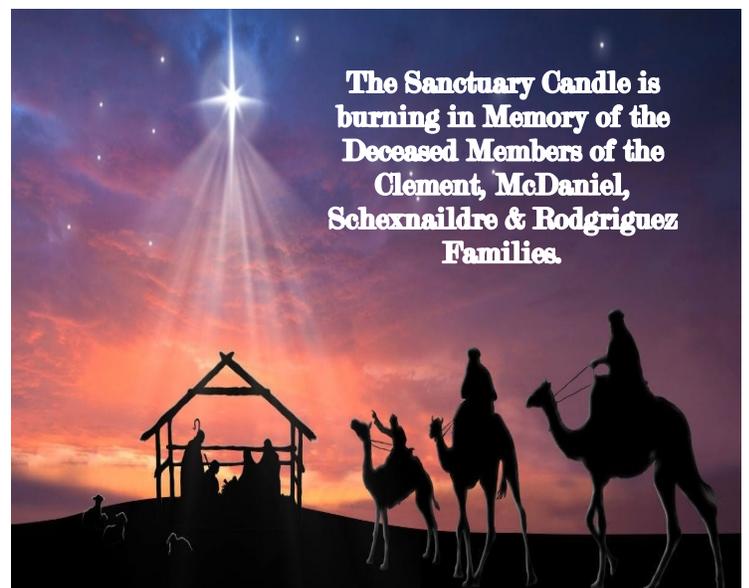
New Year's Day is the octave of Christmas, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, and a holy day of obligation. We will have a 4:30 p.m. Vigil Mass on Tuesday, December 31, and then a 9:00 a.m. Mass on Wednesday, January 1, in celebration of the holy day.

How privileged we are to be people of faith and to see what all of the Old Testament prophets longed to see! The gift of faith is our most precious gift and allows us to live our lives in union with Christ and with the encouragement of his Spirit. Faith takes away some of the loneliness of our human condition and allows us to rejoice in the loving companionship of family and friends. People of faith are able to see signs of God's love and presence at every moment and in every place.

Vatican II's "Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World" includes this beautiful section: "For, by his incarnation, he, the son of God, has in a certain way united himself with each man. He worked with human hands, he thought with a human mind. He acted with a human will, and with a human heart he loved. Born of the Virgin Mary, he has truly been made one of us, like to us in all things except sin." (Gaudium et spes, 22)

At Christmas we celebrate this beautiful manifestation of God's love, his desire to be one with us so we might be one with Him. I pray that God answers all of our Christmas prayers for comfort, joy, and a lasting peace, a peace that this world cannot give. Be safe in your holiday travels and I hope to see all of you at one of our Christmas Masses.

In Christ,
Father Matt





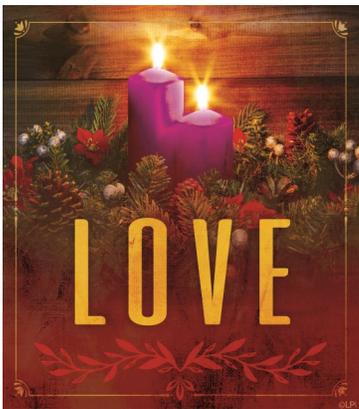
AND THE WINNER IS.....

Sue Richard, Martin Miranda, David Pugh, Randolph Willis, Brenda Fremin, Vicky Landry, Don Breaux, Bryce Kinler, Rose Mays, Laurie Ourso, Lillian Lamothe, Anna Mabile, Myrna Chaisson, Angelle Soniat, Glenn Robert, Sylvia Smith, Reid Mendoza, Kallie Somme, Gary Hebert, Jr., Matthew Marionneaux, Kennedy Landry, Kayla & Dylan Tempanaro, Michael Vince, Dale Carline, Logan Navarre, Wallace Thibodeaux, Gerald Millard, Aime & Heath Holloway, Stacy Lehmann, Andrew Palermo, Jai Daigle



CHRISTIAN FORMATION NEWS
NO CLASSES FOR K-10TH GRADE FROM
DECEMBER 16TH-JANUARY 6TH

CLASSES RESUME AS FOLLOWS:
10TH GRADE- TUESDAY, JANUARY 7TH
K-8TH GRADES- MONDAY, JANUARY 13TH
K-4TH GRADES- TUESDAY, JANUARY 14TH
5TH & 6TH GRADES- WED., JANUARY 15TH



CAN YOU SHARE THE FATHER'S LOVE?

Will you continue the work of Jesus? If you think God is calling you to continue His work of Salvation, please call Father Andrew Merrick (225) 336-8778 or email him: amerrick@diobr.org



Behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." - Mt 1:20-21

Readings for the week of December 22, 2019

- Sunday: Is 7:10-14/ Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [7c, 10b]/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24
- Monday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/ Lk 1:57-66
- Tuesday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79
- Wednesday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/ Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
- Midnight: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14
- Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20
- Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14
- Thursday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 [6]/Mt 10:17-22
- Friday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
- Saturday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18
- Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/ Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

SPECIAL COLLECTION
Catholic Life Center Services
December 25
These donations will be kept in our Church Parish.
Please help the needy and poor of our area. Thanks for your generosity!



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS 2019-2020

John Begue, Chairman
Bob Bewick
Audy Bourgeois
Christie Chapman, Vice-Chairman
Wayne Delapasse
Janice Hebert
Fr. Matt Lorrain
Mary Claire Meyer, Secretary
Jason Murphey
Joey Normand
Edana Robnett
Derek Scott
Jewel Woods



Ornaments

Each Christmas our Sanctuary is filled with imagery of the season. We try to celebrate the past, while focusing on bringing the current season to life. The crèche depicting the Nativity is nestled in a natural setting, with swells of vivid red poinsettias, local moss, sprigs of greenery with evergreen swags and bows atop the columns and evergreen trees illuminated with white lights.

While snow in south Louisiana is a rarity, St. John the Baptist can be guaranteed to have snowflakes. Thanks to the talents of Ms. Ethel Mouch the parish has a collection of hand crocheted white lace snowflakes, which were lovingly made in the 1980's. The delicate and intricate designs, just like their real counterparts, are each unique. The ornaments were hand glittered to glint when caught in the light. John Toups, the parish's Arts and Environment Chair, has not only used them to great effect in the Sanctuary trees, but also in wreaths, garlands and on banners.

Prior to the church renovation, work days were scheduled to clear and pack the sacristies. In the process the nearly antique Kodak photo box in which the ornaments were kept was donated to the Zippers. Being a sentimental part of his repertoire, John mentioned them every year as he decorated for Christmas. One year, a volunteer who also worked with the Zippers, heard the story and slipped away for a minute. She returned minutes later with the lost snowflakes, which had been protected by Ms. Rita Babin. Providentially, Ms. Rita and the Zippers had resolved to save rather than sell them, as she recognized their history and importance. She was just waiting for them to be requested. She was proud to have rescued them for the church to use during the Christmas season.

The snowflakes have continued to be featured since their return. And each year, we thank God for all the uniquely talented parishioners through the years who have contributed to make this such a wonderful community and place of worship.

Submitted by Brian Falcon