



St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

402 S. Kirkland (River Road) • P.O. Box 248
Brusly, LA 70719

Parish Office: (225) 749-2189 • Christian Formation Office: (225) 749-3387
Parish Fax: (225) 749-1921 • Website: sjb-brusly.com

Parish Staff

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*
Larry Durbin, *Maintenance Supervisor*
Richard Rabalais, *Maintenance*
Celeste Veillon, *Music Director*

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 am) or by appointment

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.

Office Hours

Monday–Friday 8:30–4:30
Office closed for lunch 12:30–1:30

February 10, 2013



5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

We're just a few days from the beginning of Lent. Ash Wednesday is this week, and with it we will enter into forty days of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Catholic parishes do all sorts of things to make Lent a special time. There's Bible study, days of reflection, and retreats. There are faith-sharing groups and Stations of the Cross, extra times for prayer and the celebration of the sacrament of penance. During Lent we try to empty ourselves of sin and evil and make room in our hearts so that we can be filled with the love of God and our neighbor.

This Sunday's Gospel is a perfect pre-Lenten text. After all, how many parishes host fish fries or meatless dinners on the Fridays of Lent? All those fish have to come from somewhere! Of course, the great catch of fish in the Gospel is not about our Lenten fasting and abstaining from meat on Friday. Simon and James and John had no idea that there would ever be a season called Lent. They were fishermen going about their daily tasks. As Jesus makes clear, the miracle of the great number of fish is a metaphor about the growth of the community of believers.

That is what Lent is all about too. During Lent we pray strenuously for those who will plunge into the waters of baptism at the Easter Vigil. These men and women are the concrete signs of the growth of our community. But our penitential disciplines of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are not for ourselves alone. Through our actions others should be able to see how much we love God and love our neighbor. In that way, what we do during Lent acts as the net that we cast out into the sea of the world, bringing others closer to Christ because they are caught up in God's love by the example we share. Lent is a time to cast out into the deep.

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Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." When they brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed him. - Lk 5:10-11

Dear Parishioners,

The Parish Finance Committee met recently to review our parish finances for the first six months of the fiscal year which began on July 1, 2012. Our income from Sunday collections, sacramental offerings, religious education fees, and other earnings totaled \$319,952 or \$29,977 more than budgeted. Our building fund collections and donations for the same period totaled an additional \$156,471 which allowed us to contribute \$62,000 more to debt reduction than our scheduled six month payment of \$76,722. (The remaining \$18,000 of building fund income will be transferred soon.) Thank you very much for your generous and sacrificial support of our parish.

Our expenses for the same six month period (once again excluding loan payments) equaled \$284,111 which was \$5,863 less than budgeted. So we are in very good shape as we approach the second half of this current fiscal year. As I mentioned in one of the previous bulletins, the \$55,000 in net income from this year's *Feast on the Levee* was deposited into our Building Fund savings account and is available if and when the need arises.

Since I am still new to the parish and given that things are going so well, I decided not to make a formal Stewardship of Finance appeal this year. Most years it is helpful to recommit ourselves to a threefold stewardship of Prayer, Finance, and Ministry, but there are always exceptions to the practice. Sometimes we need a break from all of the programs so we can just experience the beauty and simplicity of the Sunday Eucharist without any embellishments.

On a personal note, I strive to make my offering to the Church the very first check I write each month. This allows me to be more consistent and intentional with my giving to the Church. Otherwise I might be prone to procrastinate and contribute whatever is left at month's end. By giving to God first I find that I always have enough money to pay bills, make purchases, and enjoy a few recreational activities. Plus I am happier so I would encourage any Catholic to do the same if he or she has not yet adopted a practice of regular and proportionate giving.

Our parish office will be closed on Monday and Tuesday of this week for Mardi Gras, and the morning Mass is also cancelled on Tuesday for the same reason. I have not yet decided what I am doing for the holiday but it will probably involve food, drink, and laughter in the company of good friends.

Ash Wednesday is one of the most important days of the year for Catholics even though it is not a holy day of obligation. God touches our hearts in a special way as we enter into the grace-filled season of Lent, so please try to attend Mass either here or elsewhere. Our Masses on Ash Wednesday are at 8:00 a.m., 12:00 noon, and 6:30 p.m. Also, beginning this Friday and continuing every Friday during Lent, we will offer Adoration beginning at 2:30 p.m., followed by Benediction at 5:40 p.m., Mass at 6:00 p.m., and finally the Stations of the Cross at 6:30 p.m. I hope your schedule will allow you to join us on some or all of the Friday afternoons or evenings of Lent.

In Christ,
Father Matt



The Parish Office will be closed on
Monday & Tuesday
February 11th & 12th
For Mardi Gras Holidays
No Christian Formation on
Monday or Tuesday this week.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, February 13, 2013
Mass with Ashes
8:00 am; 12:00 Noon; 6:30 pm

FRIDAY SERVICES

Adoration—2:30 pm
Benediction—5:40 pm
Mass—6:00 pm
Way of the Cross—6:30 pm



*The Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet
will be recited during Lent every
Thursday immediately following
8:00 am Mass.*

Religious Education

NEEDED:

4th Grade Catechist—Mondays (5:30—6:30 pm)
Please call the office at 749-3387 if you can help!

Adult Confirmation 2013 (over age 18).

To participate please contact the Christian Formation Office before April 16th. Sessions begin in April.

Youth Ministry

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH NIGHT

ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13th

6:30 PM Mass, followed by

Hangout in the Youth Room until 8:30 PM



Time to clean out closets!!!

The Youth Ministry will now be collecting items for resale at the Spring Garage Sale. To drop off items please contact the Christian Formation Office at 749-3387. Proceeds benefit Youth Ministry and the Parish Building Fund.

The Garage Sale is scheduled for the morning of Saturday, April 13th in the Parish Activity Center.

Prayer, Fasting, Almsgiving

You're invited to participate in CRS Rice Bowl

Our parish will be participating in CRS Rice Bowl, Catholic Relief Services' and Catholic Charities' Lenten program as a way to encounter Jesus through others, especially through the most vulnerable in our world.

Rice Bowls will be sent home soon with Christian Formation students and some will be placed in church. Please be sure to take one home and use the easy and fun resources to deepen your family's Lenten experience. Your prayers, fasting and almsgiving this Lenten season will help CRS and Catholic Charities to provide life-saving assistance here and abroad.

STEWARDSHIP OF FINANCES

February 3, 2013

REGULAR:

288 Identified- - - - - \$12,291.00

Loose Collection- - - - - 818.00

TOTAL- - - - - \$13,109.00

A VOCATION VIEW

"They left everything and followed Jesus." If you are seeking greater simplicity of life and a closer following of the Lord in prayer and action, consider that He may be calling you to the priesthood, or consecrated life, call or email Fr. Matt Dupre' at 225.336.8778 mdupre@diobr.org. or visit www.diobr.org/vocations.



PRAYERS & SYMPATHY are extended to

Rose Jackson & Shirley Jordan upon the death of their sister, Beverly Brown; to Ryan Robicheaux & family upon the death of his wife, Ruby and to the families of Valerie Strauss & Oliver Flynn Nguyen upon their recent deaths. Please keep them in your prayers.

THANK YOU!

The Bereavement Committee wishes to thank the families and friends of Eddie "Buddy" Blanchard, Harold Brou, Alfred Chustz and Ridley Guillot for their recent donations.

CONGRATULATIONS to the following children and their families: Layla Marie Bourgeois, daughter of Cory & Mandie Bourgeois; Solon Paul David, son of Scott & Alicia David; Jacob Ivan Pardo, son of Mayolo Garcia, Jr. & Vanessa Pardo; and Blake William Engemann, son of William & Jacie Engemann. These children were all recently baptized here.



WELCOME INTO OUR FAITH COMMUNITY!



MARRIED HERE THIS PAST WEEK:

Annie Beth Lemoine & Martin P. Haydel, Jr.

Rosalinde Herkes & Richard Lee Saizan

CONGRATULATIONS!

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Sunday, February 24, 2013 at 3:00 pm

Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Baton Rouge

LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER

If you celebrated your 25th, 50th 65th or greater anniversary and wish to attend, please call the parish office.

Deadline to register is Friday, February 15th.

Readings for the Week of February 10, 2013

Sunday: Is 6:1-2a, 3-8/1 Cor 15:1-11 or 15:3-8, 11/Lk 5:1-11

Monday: Gn 1:1-19/Mk 6:53-56

Tuesday: Gn 1:20--2:4a/Mk 7:1-13

Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18/2 Cor 5:20--6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday: Dt 30:15-20/Lk 9:22-25

Friday: Is 58:1-9a/Mt 9:14-15

Saturday: Is 58:9b-14/Lk 5:27-32

Next Sunday: Dt 26:4-10/Rom 10:8-13/Lk 4:1-13

LOUISIANA COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

Statement on Pending Execution

Of Christopher Sepulvado

“The Louisiana conference of Catholic Bishops asks that Gov. Bobby Jindal, along with the LA Parole/Pardon Board, halt the execution of Christopher Sepulvado. To execute a faithful Catholic on Ash Wednesday would be inconsistent with the Lenten call for reconciliation and redemption and an unnecessary tragic irony.” (See entire statement at LCCB@cox.net; www.LACCB.org.)

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND

A PRAYER VIGIL

ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13th

GOVERNOR'S MANSION—5:30 pm

**Sponsored by the Office of Marriage & Family Life
And the Office of Prison Ministry**



Our Lady of Lourdes

On February 11, 1858, a young French girl went with her sisters to collect firewood. While preparing to wade through the water of a small stream, Bernadette Soubirous heard some gusts of wind but noticed that the trees and bushes did not move. She looked up, and in a nearby grotto saw a woman dressed in white with a blue sash around her waist. No one believed her story, and she was punished for telling tales. In subsequent apparitions, the woman revealed herself as "the Immaculate Conception." The Lady told Bernadette to dig in the ground and to drink from the spring that would flow. In the next two years, miracles of healing were reported and an official investigation by the church concluded in 1860 that Mary had appeared to Bernadette. The shrine at Lourdes is one of the most visited by pilgrims seeking healing. Our Lady of Lourdes is honored each year on February 11, which is also designated as the World Day of the Sick.

SEEKERS RETREAT WEEKEND

Charis Retreat Weekend

February 22—23 2013

Friday: 6:30 pm to 10:30 pm

Saturday: 9:30 am to 6:00 pm

St. George Church—Baton Rouge, LA

Too much going on? You're not the only one. In the craziness of life, it doesn't hurt to pause and take a look at the big picture: What's important in my life? Where does God fit in? Find out how other young adults answer these questions and reflect on your own journey. Retreatants are invited to look at their lives to see where God has been, where God is present, and where God is calling them to be. \$50 includes meals & supplies or \$40 when registering with a friend! Financial Assistance is available. Open to all adults ages 18—39. Get details and register online at Charisministries.org or contact Alyse Manning at alyse.manning@gmail.com.