



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 17, 2013



1st Sunday of Lent

In negotiating with Shylock for a loan of three thousand ducats in Shakespeare's play, *The Merchant of Venice*, the merchant Antonio turns to his friend Bassanio and says, "Mark you this, Bassanio, The devil can cite Scripture for his purpose" (Act 1, Scene 3). Antonio's intent is to show that, while Shylock is a smooth talker, his words possess an underlying evil intent. As the play unfolds, this becomes clearer when Shylock demands the penalty for Antonio's default on the debt: a pound of his flesh. We all know the clever manner in which Antonio is freed from the bond of his payment.

The words Shakespeare puts on Antonio's lips owe much to today's Gospel. The first popular English translation of the Bible was published just some sixty years before *The Merchant of Venice* was written, and so a version of the text we hear from Luke this Sunday was still relatively new to people's ears. When Jesus quotes Scripture to the devil in the temptation scene, the devil himself takes up the challenge and quotes it back in a kind of tit for tat. "The devil can cite Scripture for his own purpose."

As we enter into Lent, those words might serve as a reminder to us to be rigorous about the examination we undertake of ourselves during these forty days. If the devil can turn good to his own evil ends, how easy can it be for us to let evil and wickedness creep into our lives? But the goodness of God is stronger than any darkness that may lurk in our hearts. To cast out that darkness, we must bring it into the light and acknowledge that we sin. Whether our sinfulness is grave, or merely miniscule, this Lent is the time for us to turn back to God with all our hearts. We cannot let ourselves be fooled. Goodness alone is what we seek.

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The devil said to him, "All this will be yours, if you worship me." Jesus said to him in reply, "It is written: You shall worship the Lord, your God, and him alone shall you serve." - Lk 4:6a, 7-8

Dear Parishioners,

The season of Lent officially begins on Ash Wednesday but the forty days are usually counted from the First Sunday of Lent to Holy Thursday. So now is the appropriate time to decide on your Lenten prayers and practices if you have not already done so.

Louisiana Catholics love life and it is this very same love of life that leads us to embrace the prayer and self-examination of Lent. Someone not familiar with our Catholic culture might mistakenly see our penances and fasting as a restriction of human freedom, but we more often discover the opposite to be true. It is our unhealthy habits and attitudes which imprison us, not the traditions and disciplines of our faith. The special practices of Lent are intended to increase our self-awareness and help us to develop lifestyles which are more balanced and life-giving. Our goal is to arrive at Easter even better able to enjoy the blessings of friendship and community.

Some years ago I ran across the following small article on fasting in a bulletin insert published by *Our Sunday Visitor*:

"This Lent, examine your patterns of consumption. ■ Fast from fast food—feast on healthful home-cooked meals. ■ Fast from computer & video games—feast on spiritual reading. ■ Fast from consumerism—feast on almsgiving. ■ Fast from criticism—feast on praise. ■ Fast from television—feast on quiet. ■ Fast from gossip—feast on goodwill. ■ Fast from rushing—feast on slowing down. ■ Fast from multitasking—feast on focusing. ■ Fast from cruelty—feast on kindness. ■ Fast from doubt—feast on faith. ■ Fast from cynicism—feast on hope."

This thoughtful meditation reminds us of just how important the season of Lent is for Catholics living in developed nations. The relative wealth and freedom of choices that most American Catholics enjoy can also get in the way of our ability to find true happiness in life. The spiritual joy which comes from volunteering and participating in charitable activities is lost to many Catholics who are caught up in a social cycle of spending and waste. We very much need the discipline of Lent to rediscover our baptismal lives of gratitude and togetherness.

An issue of *Christopher News Notes* gave the example of a recovering alcoholic in San Francisco who sweeps the streets and cleans the grounds of several local schools without being paid. "If I got paid for what I do, it would take the pleasure out of it," he says. "God prepared me to help keep the city clean. I don't work for the city, I work for the people." That could be a motto and spirituality for all Catholics. Our lives should include certain activities that are not done for money, gain, or even obedience to authority. Certain acts of kindness and sacrifice are done strictly out of love for the people entrusted to our care.

Confessions will once again be offered on the Wednesday evenings of Lent at our neighboring churches of St. John in Plaquemine (6:00 – 7:30 p.m.) and Holy Family in Port Allen (6:00 – 7:00 p.m.). I will also hear confessions here on Friday evenings from 5:00 – 5:30 just prior to Benediction at 5:40 p.m., Mass at 6:00 p.m., and the Stations of the Cross at 6:30 p.m.

In Christ,
Father Matt



FRIDAY SERVICES

Adoration—2:30 pm
Confessions—5:00—5:30 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

Youth Ministry Recognition Weekend

Come support our Parish Youth Ministry to High School and Junior High youth! How?

1. Pray for us:

Pray for the continued growth of our Parish Youth Ministry and for closed hearts to be opened

2. Get involved:

Youth Nights, Diocesan events, and so much more!
Parents, we love your presence and support

3. Support our Fundraisers:

T-shirts and Hair-Bands for sale after all masses



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.

**NO HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH NIGHT
Wednesday, February 20th**



High School Youth Lenten Prayer Night:
FRIDAY, Feb 22, 5:00-8:00PM

5:00-5:45 Eucharistic Adoration
6:00PM Mass
6:30PM Stations of the Cross
7:00PM Ice Cream Social in Youth Room

SAINT BERNARD PREPARATORY SCHOOL

This is a co-ed boarding-and-day school for grades 7-12 in Cullman, Alabama. It has been operated since 1891 by the Benedictine monks of St Bernard Abbey, and offers a Catholic college prep education in a beautiful and safe academic environment.

For more information contact:

admissions@stbernardprep.com or call 1-800-722-0999.
Website: stbernardprep.com. Open House: Sunday, March 3, 2013.

A VOCATION VIEW

Jesus was led into the desert for forty days of prayer and fasting by the Holy spirit. Are you open to being led by the Holy Spirit into the life-commitment God has prepared for you? If God is calling you, call or email Fr. Matt Dupre at 225.336.8778, mdupre@diobr.org. or visit www.diobr.org/vocations.



ADD TO PRAYERS LINE
Percy James Landry
A.J. Roppolo

THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU LENTEN PENANCE SERVICES

Penance Services will be held on Wednesdays, February 20 & 27 and March 6, 13 & 20 during Lent at the following churches and times:

- ◆ St. John the Evangelist in Plaquemine (6:00—7:30 pm)
- ◆ St. Mary's in New Roads (6:00—7:30 pm)
- ◆ Holy Family in Port Allen (6:00—7:00 pm)

Everyone is invited. This is a perfect opportunity for reconciliation during the Lenten Season.

Today's first reading describes the offering of first fruits the people of Israel were to present to the Lord in thanksgiving for their deliverance from Egypt and the gift of the promised land. Is my offering at today's Mass an appropriate response to the many blessings the Lord has given me?

**we cannot
let ourselves
be fooled**

Readings for the Week of February 17, 2013

Sunday: Dt 26:4-10/Rom 10:8-13/Lk 4:1-13
Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Mt 25:31-46
Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Lk 11:29-32
Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Mt 7:7-12
Friday: 1 Pt 5:1-4/Mt 16:13-19
Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Mt 5:43-48
Next Sunday: Gn 15:5-12, 17-18/Phil 3:17--4:1 or 3:20--4:1/Lk 9:28b-36

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
PARISH CUNCIL MEMBERS 2012-2013**

Donna Badon
Maria Bertrand
Jamie Chustz, Vice-chairman
Deacon Sammy Collura
David Couvillon
Jerry Deshotel
Stacy Gauthreaux
Fr. Matt Lorrain
Wendy Parrish
Katie Roettger
Toni Tolar
David Toups, Chairman
John Windham, Secretary
Gerard "Jerry" Zimmerman



LUCKY VALENTINE'S DINNER WINNERS

Congratulations to Mary & Troy Benoit; Lisa Ware and John Bres, winners of the Valentine's Dinner drawing. The lucky winners won the meal

which was hosted by Fr. Matt & Parish Council members this weekend.

WEST BATON ROUGE MUSEUM

National History Day Regional Competition

The WBR Museum has been chosen to host the National History Day Regional Competition for a second year in a row. The museum was appointed by the state NHD headquarters at the National World War II Museum to host the competition on March 2, 2013 where middle & high school students from a 12-parish region are invited to participate as individuals or in groups to choose a topic and do research that addresses the theme, "*Turning points in History: People, Ideas, Events.*" Students may present their findings in one of five different types of projects including *exhibit, research paper, performance, documentary, or web site* and those placing in each category will advance to the state competition at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans and potentially on to the national level in Washington, D.C. All interested should visit historyday@nationalww2museum.org or call WBR Museum Education Curator, Jeannie Luckett at 225-336-2422, Ext 14.



YOU'RE INVITED

Catholic Community Radio presents:

Col. Mike Edmonson

Superintendent of LA State Police

Drusilla Place Catering

Monday March 4, 2013 (12:00—1:00 pm)

Cost—\$14.00 per person including tax

Call (225) 448-3754 for reservations.