



*February 19, 2017
Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
Vol. 49, No. 8*

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
Sammy Collura Permanent Deacon
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
Richard Rabalais Maintenance

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

"You have heard that it was said, You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father." - Mt 5:43-45a

Dear Parishioners,

I will be in New Orleans on Wednesday and Thursday of this week attending Alumni Day at Notre Dame Seminary. I usually try to attend Alumni Day each year to enjoy some priestly fraternity, visit with our seminarians, and support the good work of the seminary. We will have a Communion Service here on Thursday morning in my absence.

Our diocese started the year with 23 seminarians: 12 studying at Notre Dame Seminary and 11 studying at St. Joseph Seminary College. However, due to the ongoing nature of prayer and discernment, 7 of those men have now resigned from seminary studies leaving us with 16 seminarians spread between the two schools.

It is always our hope that between 50 to 60% of those who enter the seminary will eventually be ordained priests. We have two men scheduled for ordination this May – Deacon Pat Broussard and Deacon Ryan Hallford – and one scheduled for ordination next year – Mr. Tim Grimes. Meanwhile two priests have announced their retirement from active ministry this summer so we are barely staying even in terms of numbers.

Priests in our diocese are eligible to retire at the age of 68. Most work past that age and we currently have 8 priests over the age of 68 who are still serving as pastors. (The oldest is Msgr. Robert Berggreen, pastor of St. Mary Church in New Roads, who is 77 years old.) So we need to continue to pray for vocations and at the same time prepare for the inevitable changes to the staffing of our parishes and the times and places in which Sunday Masses are offered. A diocesan team is currently working with Father Chris Decker to devise a more manageable Mass schedule for the three churches serving Grosse Tete, Maringouin, and Livonia.

Lent is just over one week away so please take note of our Mass and confession schedule for Lent. Our Masses on **Ash Wednesday**, March 1, 2017, will be at 8:00 a.m., 12:00 noon, and 6:00 p.m. Daily Mass remains at the normal time of 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, but moves to 6:00 p.m. on the Wednesdays of Lent. Benediction and Adoration remains at 8:30 am on Friday mornings or immediately following the Friday morning Mass.

On the **Wednesdays of Lent**, confessions are at 5:30 p.m., followed by Mass at 6:00 p.m. and then the Way of the Cross at 6:30 p.m. led by Deacon Sammy. I will return to the confessional from 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. each Wednesday as part of the "Light is On for You" program. I encourage everyone to try to attend at least one daily Mass each week as part of your Lenten devotions.

Make sure to mark your calendars for this year's Lenten Mission to be held on four consecutive evenings, March 26 – 29, beginning at 7:00 p.m. each night. Our Mission is being led this year by Father Matthew Bonk, CSsR, who will introduce the Mission by preaching at all of the weekend Masses on the Fourth Sunday of Lent. We look forward to another blessed opportunity to strengthen our faith and deepen our love for God.

In Christ,
Father Matt

*Monday,
February 20th
2017*

**PRESIDENTS
DAY**
CLF



The Parish Office will be closed Monday & Tuesday, February 27 & 28 for the Mardi Gras Holidays

NO MASS OR COMMUNION SERVICE
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH

IMPORTANT! *Please Respond*

GUIDE BOOK & DIRECTORY UPDATE

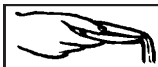
- ⇒ Does our Church database have YOUR family membership record correct?
- ⇒ Here is your chance to update YOUR record for our annual Guide Book & Directory (if you haven't already done so).
- ⇒ It is time for us to update our database with any changes, additions, or deletions that may have occurred in YOUR family over the past year.
- ⇒ Have you changed your phone number? Have you moved? Are you preparing to move soon? Are all of your children still at home and are they all included in your membership record? Do you want your record published?
- ⇒ If you have not already informed the Parish Office about changes to you record, please let us know now so that the information in the Guide Book & Directory is correct.

The Parish Office number is (225) 749-2189.

Thank you for your help!



**THE SANCTUARY CANDLE IS
NOW BURNING IN MEMORY OF
MARSHALL VINCE AND
ELSIE & RAY PARSONS**



BAPTISM

Baptized last weekend were Bristol Elizabeth Riviere, daughter of Joshua & Aimee Riviere and Desirae Isabel Beraud, daughter of Caleb & Margarita Beraud. Congratulations and welcome into our faith community!

GENTLE HANDS MINISTRY RETREAT

Half-day Retreat

Saturday, March 4, 2017 (9:00 am—12:00 pm)

St. Aloysius Catholic Church

Speakers and a light breakfast will be featured.

Gentle Hands is a ministry of St. Aloysius Parish that supports those who have suffered miscarriage, stillbirth, or the loss of a child.

Email: 4Gentlehands@gmail.com to register.

STEWARDSHIP OF FINANCES

February 12, 2017

REGULAR:

202 Identified- - - - - \$7,378.00

Loose Collection- - - - - 1,062.00

TOTAL- - - - - \$8,440.00



A VOCATION VIEW

If you feel you are being called to the priesthood or religious life, take courage, the Lord is with you! Call Father Andrew Merrick at 225.336.8778, or email amerrick@diobr.org.

ROSARYVILLE

Ponchatoula, LA

All Denominational Women's Retreat

March 10—12, 2017

This event is open to women of all denominations and is focused on strengthening your relationship with Jesus. The cost is \$150 for commuter, double-shared room \$250, or single private room \$300.

Dr. Forbes, a dynamic worship leader and Bible teacher who shares her faith with women across the US in conferences and retreats will be featured. She and her husband, Rick live in Hessmer, LA.

Contact Rosaryville at 225-294-5039 or

sdavis@oppeace.org.

Knights of Columbus

JANUARY CALENDAR WINNERS

Harry Reed, John P. Landry, Suzi Simpson, Erik Vaughn, Dustin Guillot, Cliff Crochet, Paula Bourgeois, Gary Tullier, Hadley Lemoine, Sherry Ackman, Shannon Hymel, J.D. LeJeune, Tameishea Bynum, Gary Vidrine, Kirk Dupuy, Beulah Ferachi, Cayla & Chad Richard, Gianna Cordell, Darrel Boudreaux, Ralph Comeaux, Elaine Richard, Oneal Millien, Joseph Hebert, Frannie Mabile, Susan Denova, Josephine Nicholson, Tyler Thibodeaux, Dianne Orgeron, Annette & Steve Patrick, Tammy Ainsworth, St. John Father's Club



Rest in Peace

PRAYERS & SYMPATHY are extended to Tricia Alleyne & her family upon the death of her father, Neal Fitzwilliams. Please keep them in your prayers.

Readings for the Week of February 19, 2017

Sunday: Lv 19:1-2, 17-18/Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13/ 1 Cor 3:16-23/Mt 5:38-48
Monday: Sir 1:1-10/Ps 93:1-2, 5/Mk 9:14-29
Tuesday: Sir 2:1-11/Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40/ Mk 9:30-37
Wednesday: 1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4-6/Mt 16:13-19
Thursday: Sir 5:1-8/Ps 1:1-4, 6/Mk 9:41-50
Friday: Sir 6:5-17/Ps 119:12, 16, 18, 27, 34-35/ Mk 10:1-12
Saturday: Sir 17:1-15/Ps 103:13-18/Mk 10:13-16
Next Sunday: Is 49:14-15/Ps 62:2-3, 6-9/1 Cor 4:1-5/ Mt 6:24-34

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS 2016-2017

Donna Badon
John Begue
Maria Bertrand
Jamie Bourg, Secretary
Chris Buckle, Chairman
Deacon Sammy Collura
Stacy Gauthreaux
Jules Lefaux
Mark Loreno
Fr. Matt Lorrain
Jason Murphey
Andrea Smicker
Toni Tolar, Vice-Chairman
John Windham



SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Give to the one who asks of you, and do not turn your back on one who wants to borrow." Today Jesus continues the powerful teaching of his Sermon on the Mount. Typical of this famous sermon, here he urges us to see things in a new way, specifically regarding situations and people who bother us. First, he tells us not to seek revenge. Instead, we are to demonstrate incredible generosity. Then, he instructs us to "love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

These instructions don't come naturally to most of us. We are much more inclined to want to get even with those who cause us to suffer, and to wish ill for those who have hurt us. But Jesus proposes another way.

In truth, what good does it do to seek revenge or foster hate? It only continues the cycle of evil. Jesus encourages behavior that will stop the cycle short. He gives us a model that--although it may not change the heart of our "enemies"--will nonetheless change OUR hearts for the better. When pressed into service for one mile, if we voluntarily go two, then WE are the ones whose attitude and experience is certain to change. Instead of spending the length of that one mile cursing and complaining, we spend the length of two enjoying a surprising kind of freedom: "I chose to do this," instead of "I am being forced to do this."

When we practice the generosity of giving more than we are asked, and the charity of praying for those who persecute us, we will find ourselves in a position to transcend the trouble. It sets us free to not be mastered by the evil around us. Thus, we are able to help end the cycle of evil and begin a new cycle of love and peace.