



402 South Kirkland Drive (River Road)

P. O. Box 248, Brusly, Louisiana 70719

OFFICE: 225-749-2189

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.
Monday, 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.
Monday, Wednesday thru Friday 7:40 a.m. or by appointment

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Arun John, IMS Pastor
Candice Breaux Youth Group Minister
Betty Cain Bookkeeper
Christel Dupont Receptionist
June Hebert Director of Religious Education
Sara Hernandez Janitorial
Jayne Jason Child Protection
Layne Mire Parish Secretary
Lil Stutes Mother’s Day Out
Sharon Thibodeaux Music Leader

OFFICE HOURS

Monday–Thursday 8:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

BAPTISM

Celebrated monthly after the 11:00 am Mass and also celebrated after the 11:00am Mass on the Feast of the Baptism of Our 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.

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS

Inquiries: Please call Carolyn Dupuy, 225-276-6269.

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 as soon as 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.

For Cemetery information, please call Jerry Deshotel 225-281-0333.

PRAYER LINE

Please call Carolyn Dupuy, 225-276-6269.

Dear Parishioners,

Mark Twain used to tell a joke that he put a dog and cat in a cage together as an experiment, to see if they could get along. They did. He then, put in a bird, a pig and goat. They, too, got along fine after a few adjustments. Seeing them getting along fairly well, he put in a Baptist, a Presbyterian, and a Catholic, and all hell broke loose. Mark Twain did not even bother putting together a Christian, a Muslim and a Hindu; that was unthinkable in his day. In today's world, however, it has become obvious that Christians live in the same cage, in the same city, in the same world, with people of other religions. Today, the Feast of the Epiphany reminds us of the Magi who came from faraway lands to worship the baby Jesus. They came as pagans. They worshiped as pagans and they went back home as pagans. They did not convert either to Judaism or to Christianity. Their worship was acceptable to God, and God directed them in their journey home through a dream. This shows that God has a relationship with people of other religions who are neither Jews nor Christians. This is what the Feast of Epiphany tells us, that God reveals himself to everybody, not just to the Jews; we are all chosen people of God, for Jesus came to call each one of us into His Kingdom. We all need to learn to live together in peace and in harmony. For there is only one God, and all who seek Him with a sincere heart are led to Him, though they call Him by different names. One thing the Christians have in common with members of other religions, is that we all worship the same God. We are all children of the same God, of the same Father. This is of course hard for the religious people to accept and appreciate, because all religious people all over the world tend to claim that they have exclusive access to God and the truth.

In the Old Testament, the Jewish people believed that they were the exclusive people of God. They divided the whole world into two, the Jews and the Gentiles. The Jews were the people of God, and the others were not. Some of their own prophets and wise men tried to correct them, and teach them of the universal love of God to all humankind. But, this idea did not sink in until the time of Jesus. As we heard in the second reading, "The Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promises in Christ Jesus through the Gospel." In the second reading, St. Paul describes this truth as a mystery, "The mystery was made known to me by revelation." It is a mystery for two reasons: (a) human reason alone could not arrive at such knowledge without the light of divine revelation; and (b), even after the truth had been revealed it still proves to be a paradox to human reasoning." It's a puzzle to the Christian believers. On the one hand, the Jews are God's chosen people, and on the other hand, God has no favorites, and anybody of any nationality who fears Him, and does what is right, is acceptable to him (Acts 10: 34-35).

In the past, Christians tended to make the same mistake as the Jews of old by claiming that there is no salvation outside the Church. Then Vatican II came along, and corrected that mistake. It opened windows to the Spirit of God, and came to recognize that God's truth is available to people of other religions; though not in the same degree it is available in the Church. The difference between the Christian faith and other faiths, is not that we possess the truth and others do not; but that God has revealed Himself to us in a very unique way, in Christ. Because of this, we can see God's truth more clearly, and experience His love more dearly, and follow God's ways more closely in our daily lives. As we celebrate the Feast of the Magi, let us reflect on this mystery so that we can accept and respect everyone as God's child, regardless of what religion he or she belongs to, or what culture or nation he or she comes from. Let us achieve this goal as a Christian by following Jesus closely.

God Bless You,
Fr. John



CHRISTIAN FORMATION

There will be NO Religion classes for grades K-8 from December 16-January 8 for the Christmas and New Year's holidays. Religion Classes for K-8 resume on January 13th.

Confirmation is scheduled for 7:00pm on Thursday, January 23rd.

ANNIVERSARY MASS

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

The Diocese of Baton Rouge will have the Wedding Anniversary Mass on Sunday, February 9th at 2:00pm at St. Jude the Apostle in Baton Rouge. This Mass will celebrate those anniversaries of 25, 50, and 65 years and over. A reception will follow in their Church Hall. The registration deadline is January 15th and forms can be completed in the Church Office.



The Food Pantry distribution will be held at 8:30am on Monday, January 13th at the Activity Center.

The Sanctuary Candle burns in memory of Louis & Mary Mouch.



Please join the Ladies of our Church to pray the Rosary at 3:30pm every Tuesday at the Grotto in front of Church. All are welcome!

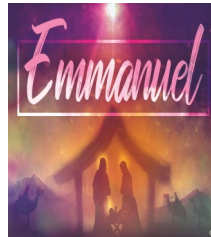
Stewardship of Finance December 22nd:

152 Identified givers:	\$8,169.00
Loose Collection:	+\$722.00
Total Collection:	\$8,891.00

Happy New Year and thank you for your generosity!



Zippers/Rita's Closet Thrift Shop
Their next sale is January 9th at 7:30am. The Zippers are grateful for your donations throughout the year!



Please welcome this child to our faith community who was baptized on December 29th:

Oliver James Poirrier
son of Benjamin & Brittney Poirrier

Our next Baptism Seminar is at 6:00pm on Wednesday, January 8th in Christian Formation Room One. Please call the Church Office to register.



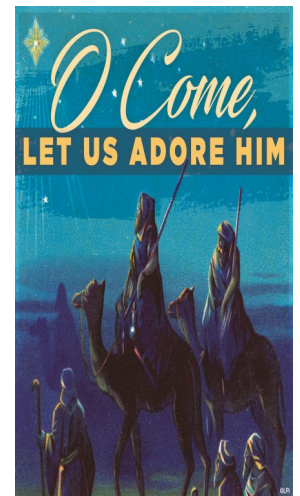
Father John will travel to India from January 24-February 25.

There will be Communion Services on the Wednesdays and Thursdays at 8:00am while he is away.

2024 Tax Contribution Statement

You may request an itemized 2024 Tax Statement of your contributions by emailing Betty Cain: bcain@sjbbrusly.com

Vocations
Is Christ calling you out of your comfort zone to serve Him in a vocation as a priest, deacon, sister or brother? Please talk to your priest about your interest in this vocation or reach out to Father Josh Johnson at the Vocations Office at 225-336-8778 or email him: jjohnson@diobr.org or visit: www.diobr.org/vocations



LITURGICAL MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!

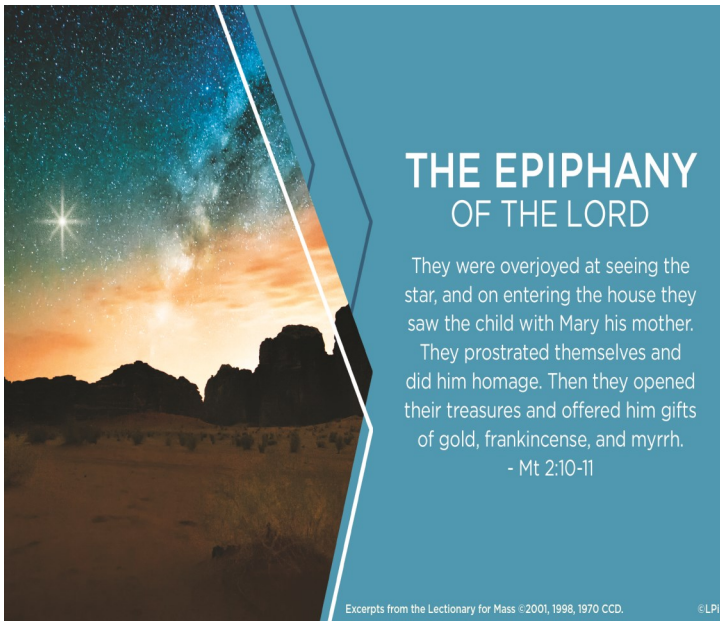
We need more Liturgical Ministers at the following Masses:

Altar Servers are needed at 4:30pm, 9:00am & 11:00am

Eucharistic Ministers are needed at 4:30pm & 9:00am

Ushers are needed at all Masses

Please call the Church Office to sign up. THANKS!



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

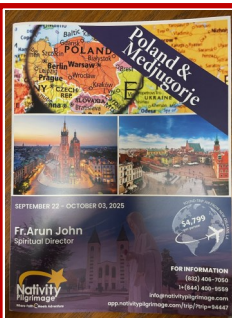
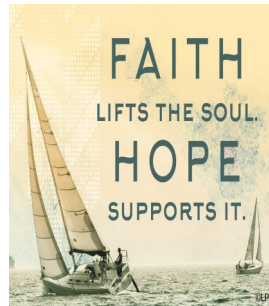
They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
- Mt 2:10-11

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPi

Readings for the week of January 5, 2025

- Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see 11)/ Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12
- Monday: 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
- Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44
- Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/Mk 6:45-52
- Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/ Lk 4:14-22a
- Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/ Lk 5:12-16
- Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b/ Jn 3:22-30
- Next Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 (1)/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

Women's Weekend Retreat, "Bloom where He plants you," is planned for March 21-23, 2025. This opportunity will include spiritual insight, time for reflection, and meeting and visiting with other women of faith.



A Trip to Croatia, Poland & Medjugorje with Father John

September 22-October 3, 2025
12 day Pilgrimage through Nativity Pilgrimage:
info@nativitypilgrimage.com
or by calling, 832-406-7050
Cost for this trip is \$4,799 per

person. Details can be found in the brochures in back of Church. You will need a passport. A deposit of \$300 is required when you register.

It will be a great adventure!

Epiphany Blessing

Mini Explanation

The Epiphany household blessing is an ancient practice in the Church. This tradition is a beautiful way to observe the coming of the magi while invoking God's blessing on your home and all who enter it. All that is needed is chalk and a prayerful heart!

Epiphany Blessing, Explained

The Epiphany household blessing is a centuries-old tradition that invokes God's blessing on all who enter one's home.

All you need for an Epiphany blessing is chalk, which is usually made available by parishes either on the feast of the Epiphany or in the weeks leading up to it. There are a few different formulas for blessings out there, but the essence of the ritual is always the same: a priest or the head of the household calls down God's blessing on the house and everyone who comes into it, and an inscription is made above the door in chalk.

The inscription reads: the first two digits of the year + C + M + B + the last two digits of the year. The initials C, M and B represent the names of the magi — Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar — and also signify the Latin phrase *Christus mansionem benedicat*: "May Christ bless the house."

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Knights of Columbus Catholic Youth Leadership Award Applications are available to local Catholic senior high school students that must be sponsored by a local K.C. member. One boy and one girl will be selected. To apply, go to the K.C. State website: louisianakc.org/for-members/program/CYLA Or use the QR code on the bulletin board found in the back of Church. Applications must be submitted by January 25, 2025.

STAY INFORMED

Please visit the Church website for posts, updates and news: sjb-brusly.com

Please visit the Church facebook page for posts, news, photos and videos:
St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

On Saturday, January 18th, St. Alphonsus will host a conference, "Defenders of the Faith, Strengthening the Soul for the Battle," at their Activity Center from 8:30am-5:45pm. Please register by January 8th: www.alphonsus.org

Men's W.B.R. ACTS Retreat
St. John the Baptist and Holy Family
January 30-February 2

Flyers can be found in the back of Church. You may also use the QR code on the bulletin board.