



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

March 3, 2013



3rd Sunday of Lent

A few years ago a friend of mine was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor. Bill was a good man, very kind and generous with his time and his talents. And although he didn't have a lot of money (he was a teacher by profession) he was always ready to help out in any way that he could. As a middle-aged man, Bill was fairly healthy otherwise, and his diagnosis came as a shock to his family and friends. Most of us were left asking, "Why should such a cruel thing happen to such a kind man?"

This is the very question Jesus confronts in the Gospel this weekend when he deals with tragic events in his time. A tower collapses and eighteen people are killed. Is this punishment because they were the most evil people in Jerusalem? Some Galileans are slaughtered while offering sacrifice. Have they somehow offended God, and so are now being called to account for their wickedness? Jesus says that the evil that befell them makes them no guiltier than anyone else. And, by implication, makes the rest of us no less guilty!

Our sense of justice likes to have the punishment fit the crime. We expect that there will be specific consequences for individual actions, each wrongful act punished on its own merits. But the problem of evil is much greater than personal sinfulness. While we each have responsibility for our individual sins, we also carry the weight of human sinfulness. As Catholics, we call that original sin, but whatever title it is given, it is the recognition that there is at work in the world a greater sin than that which each of us may be personally guilty of. It is the sin of our race. Bill did not get cancer because he was a bad man. But illness, war, hatred, and every other evil are the things from which we seek deliverance. It is good that God is patient with us, like the gardener with the fig tree.

And he told them this parable: "There once was a person who had a fig tree planted in his orchard, and when he came in search of fruit on it but found none, he said to the gardener, 'For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none. So cut it down. Why should it exhaust the soil?'" - Lk 13:6-7

Dear Parishioners,

We are approaching the halfway point of the Lenten season. If we started our 40 day count on the First Sunday of Lent, then Friday, March 8, is the 20th day. Now is a good time to rededicate ourselves to our Lenten practices and give God the time and opportunity needed to bring about positive changes in our lives.

Earlier this Lent at one of our weekday Masses, I mentioned the following strategy or aid for remaining faithful to your Lenten penances. Consider making a contract with yourself that each time you fail in keeping a resolution you place a dollar bill in one of the Operation Rice Bowl containers (which are still available in the back of church). I took that advice and I can attest that the financial incentive does add a nice element of pain and encouragement.

An alternative penalty for failure might be to remove two items of clothing from your closet and donate them to our parish thrift store run by the Zippers. In either case we will be helping our neighbor while also benefiting from our spiritual resolutions. So let's make the next twenty days of Lent especially productive in terms of our spiritual growth.

With that in mind, please try to go to confession sometime during the next three weeks if you have not already done so. It is important that we go before the start of Holy Week since opportunities for the sacrament are quite limited after Palm Sunday. You may wish to make it a family affair and all go the same afternoon or evening. The sacraments are very helpful to our spiritual development so take advantage of this channel of God's grace, especially if it has been a long time since your last confession.

Complacency is a particular enemy of personal and spiritual growth. It is defined as "self-satisfaction accompanied by unawareness of actual dangers or deficiencies." Unawareness is a type of "spiritual blindness" where we convince ourselves that we do not need to go to confession because we are not aware of any serious sins that we have committed. Prayer and examination of conscience help us to recognize the many times when we have failed to love our neighbor

as we should. Our family, friends, and co-workers are all very aware of our deficiencies so why don't we open our eyes and hearts and allow God to help us become better people this Easter.

In addition to the sacraments we are very fortunate to have a two-night Lenten Mission planned for our community beginning at 7:00 p.m. on this Third Sunday of Lent. I thank Father Michael Alello for being with us this weekend to celebrate all of our Masses in preparation for his evening presentations on Sunday and Monday nights. I am celebrating the Masses at his parish of St. Philomena in Labadieville this weekend but I will be back in time to enjoy one of the spaghetti dinners being served by the K.C.'s, and of course attend both nights of the parish mission. We will take a collection on the second night of the mission to help underwrite the cost of the mission and thank Father Alello. Please join us!

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

[Adult Confirmation 2013 \(over age 18\).](#)

[To participate please contact the Christian Formation Office before April 16th. Sessions begin in April.](#)

The Catholicism Project...It's Your Story


Adults, do you want to learn more about your Catholic Faith? Join us for a video series that uses the art, architecture, literature, music and all the treasures of the Catholic tradition to illuminate the timeless teachings of the Church.

"Amazed and Afraid: The Revelation of God Become Man"


Thursday, March 7th, 7:00PM

Activity Center

Youth Ministry



Abbey Youth Festival: Sign up now!
 A one-day festival that includes music, great speakers, fun games, and incredible prayer experiences!
 Open to High School Youth
 Saturday, March 9th
 Cost \$35
 St. Joseph Seminary College, Covington, LA
 Contact Julie to attend! 225-749-3387



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.

A VOCATION VIEW
 When called by the Lord, Moses' immediate response was "Here I am." If you feel that God is calling you to the priesthood or to religious life, call or email Fr. Matt Dupre' at 225.336.8778, mdupre@diobr.org, or visit, www.diobr.org/vocations.


**THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU
 LENTEN PENANCE SERVICES**
 Penance Services will be held on Wednesdays, 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.



CONGRATULATIONS to Jace James Jester who was baptized here last week. His parents are Jamie & Ashley Jester. Welcome into our faith community Jace!



PRAYERS & SYMPATHY are extended to Mrs. Mitzi Roppolo upon the death of her husband, A.J. Roppolo and to the family of Ms. Carol Kelly upon her recent death. Please keep them in your prayers.

THANK YOU!
 The Bereavement Committee wishes to thank the families of Carol Kelly & Ruby Robicheaux for their recent donations.



RELAY FOR LIFE CANCER SURVIVOR PRAYER BREAKFAST
 Saturday, March 16—8:30 AM
 St. John the Baptist Activity Center
 Sponsored by St. John the Baptist Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus
 For reservations for you and your spouse or caregiver, call the Church Office (749-2189) or Elaine Pearce (413-7102) or email deauxlady1947@yahoo.com.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS MATERIALS DAY
 Saturday, March 9, 2013 from 8:00 am—12:00 Noon at the Louis A. Mouch, Jr. Multi-Purpose Arena, 152 Turner Road, Port Allen behind the Council on Aging Building. Among the items collected will be paint, computers, TVs and tires with rims. For a complete list go to wbrCouncil.org. Sponsored by Keep WBR Beautiful and Dow Chemical.

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES COLLECTION
 Catholic Relief Services will be collected next week. These funds help provide food to the hungry, welcome and support to displaced refugees and advocacy to the voiceless. A special envelope is in this month's packet.

STEWARDSHIP OF FINANCES
 February 24, 2013

REGULAR:	
234 Identified-	-----\$7,093.00
Loose-	----- 611.00
TOTAL-	-----\$ 7,70400

Readings for the Week of March 3, 2013

Sunday:	Ex 17:3-7/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42
Monday:	2 Kgs 5:1-15b/Lk 4:24-30
Tuesday:	Dn 3:25, 34-43/Mt 18:21-35
Wednesday:	Dt 4:1, 5-9/Mt 5:17-19
Thursday:	Jer 7:23-28/Lk 11:14-23
Friday:	Hos 14:2-10/Mk 12:28-34
Saturday:	Hos 6:1-6/Lk 18:9-14
Next Sunday:	1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Eph 5:8-14/ Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

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

ST. JOSEPH'S ALTAR

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH -ZACHARY

The Eighth Annual St. Joseph's Altar at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Zachary will be displayed on Saturday, March 16 and Sunday, March 17 in their Parish Activity Center. Pastor, Fr. Jeffery Bayhi will bless the altar on Saturday, March 16th at 6:00 pm and again on Sunday, March 17th at noon.

There will be a Lenten Meal after the Sunday blessing. Everyone is welcome to view and to attend the Sunday blessing and meal. There is no charge. Please call their Parish Office at (225) 654-5778 or access the Parish website at www.sjb-ola.org for more information.



PARENTING TEENS

"Building Strong Futures"

The Office of Marriage and Family Life is sponsoring a training workshop for parents entitled Parenting Teens: Building Strong Futures on Saturday, April 27, 2013 from 9:00 am—5:00 pm at the Bishop Tracy Center (1800 S. Acadian Thruway). The workshop will offer parents encouragement, support and practical advice on raising teens to be "in the world, but not of the world". Some topics covered will be opening the dialogue, personality types, struggles for teens in today's culture, authentic love and moral decision making. Workshop cost is \$15 per parent/couple and includes lunch. Recommended materials (optional) are \$65. Register online at: www.FortifyingFamiliesOfFaith.com/events.html. For questions please call the Office of Marriage & Family Life at (225) 242-0164.