



ST. JOHN *The* BAPTIST
catholic church



402 South Kirkland Drive (River Road) P. O. Box 248, Brusly, Louisiana 70719

PLEASE CONTACT US:

OFFICE: 225-749-2189

OFFICE HOURS: Monday-Thursday 8:30am-1:30pm

WEBSITE: sjb-brusly.com

CHRISTIAN FORMATION: 225-749-3387

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil at 4:30 p.m.

Sunday at 7:30, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Monday, Wednesday & Thursday at 8:00 a.m.

Friday at 8:00 a.m., with Adoration until 11:30 a.m.

First Saturday of the month **only** at 8:00 a.m.

RECONCILIATION

Saturday at 3:30-4:15 p.m.

Monday, Wednesday thru Friday at 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

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BAPTISM

Celebrated monthly after the 11:00am Mass. Parents should call the office to enroll in our baptismal preparation program, preferably early in pregnancy. Parents are encouraged to register in this 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 your 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,

What sort of God do we believe in? Given our own selfish calculations and unforgiving ways, we find it hard to believe in a loving and forgiving God as portrayed by Jesus. Jesus has tried to convince us about His Father's compassion and love. But we still doubt Jesus' description of God as a merciful, loving and forgiving Father. Some of us think God is a stern, angry, and vengeful person. Others think that God is easily hurt or offended, and some think of God as a policeman, or an accountant of our failures.

In the story of the Prodigal Son, we hear that neither the younger son, nor the older son, truly understands their father. They cannot believe that their father could really be so kind, forgiving, and lavish in his love. Do we really believe that our Heaven is that way? The test of our belief is our readiness to forgive, and to show compassion to others who have hurt us. Jesus teaches us that God is a merciful Father, who loves us in our strengths and even in our weaknesses. In our defeat, sorrow, anguish, and disappointments, His love is strong enough to sustain us. The God that we believe in is someone who is constantly and consistently reaching out to His people in their need, brokenness, and sinfulness.

In today's first reading, God is presented to us as someone who freed His people from Egypt. Slavery was the shame to which the Israelites were subjected. God freed them from slavery and brought them to the promised land.

As far as we are concerned, our freedom has been won at a price. In the second reading, St. Paul tells us that our freedom is won by Jesus, but with a price. He has freed us from the slavery of sin by his own death on the cross. St. Paul says that with Jesus we are a new creation, the old creation has gone and now the new one is here. He also says, "All of this is from God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and given us the ministry of reconciliation" (2Cor 5:18). This is what our Lenten observance must teach us. If we have been reconciled to God, we are all invited to be the ambassadors for Christ, bringing to men and women the good news that they are reconciled. In fact, we must be the Good News both by being reconciled to God, and making peace with those who have hurt us, and with those whom we have hurt. The problem with us is our lack of interest in learning how to be reconciled with others. Sadly, in each one of us there is often an inordinate desire to "get even" with those who have hurt us. But then we realize that it doesn't really make things even, but it makes things worse. Sometimes we resort to violence in having taught the other person a good lesson, then we come to the painful realization that the wounds we have inflicted in the process, are not going to be healed any sooner. We should know that the only way to get even is the way of Reconciliation. This we learn from Jesus himself who forgave even those who crucified Him.

The question is, will we ever learn? If we persist in being like the older son in the Gospel story, who is blaming everyone, has an unforgiving attitude, and is incapable of appreciating the way of love and forgiveness, we won't learn. We can only learn by humble acknowledgement of God's mercy and love toward us, and a firm realization that every saint is a sinner. This will help us to be reconciled to God as well as be ambassadors of Reconciliation. This will ultimately take our shame of being slaves to sin away, and bring us into freedom, which is the joy of the Promised Land or the experience of the Kingdom of God. Today's readings are inviting us to be reconciled with God and with one another, and then become ministers of Reconciliation by bringing others into the company of the reconciled.

May God bless you all!

Fr. John

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

7th & 8th Graders will have Confession in the Activity Center on Monday, April 7th at 7:00pm.

Religion Classes for K-8 end on April 16th.

Graduation Mass & Lunch for our high school Seniors will be at 11:00am on Sunday, April 27th.

Marriage Preparation Sponsor Couples

Please consider serving in this Ministry to assist our engaged couples who are preparing for the sacrament of Matrimony. A training course is offered by the Diocese. Please contact Pam LeDoux, 337-513-1334, to be a part of this Ministry.

The Sanctuary Candle burns in memory of the Deceased Members of the Sarradet Family.

Prayers and Sympathy are extended to the families of Lenny Tullier and Donnie Moe Morales upon their deaths.



Pray for Vocations

Please consider a vocation of consecrated life. Please pray for all those who follow Jesus during this Lenten season. If you are being called 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**



Lenten Season

Divine Mercy Novena

The Divine Mercy Novena will follow the 6:00pm Mass every Wednesday through April 23rd. Divine Mercy Sunday is April 27th.

Stations of the Cross will follow 12:00pm Mass every Friday during Lent.

Palm Sunday is April 13th and Masses will be the same weekend Mass times.

Holy Week Schedule



Easter Week Schedule

Thursday, April 17th: Holy Thursday Mass at 7:00pm

Friday, April 18th: Good Friday Passion at 12:00pm, followed by the Way of the Cross

Saturday, April 19th: Easter Vigil Mass at 8:00pm

Sunday, April 20th: Easter Masses at 7:30am, 9:00am & 11:00am



All Night Eucharistic Adoration begins at 9:00pm on Friday, April 4th and ends with 8:00am Mass on Saturday, April 5th. Sign up sheets can be found in the back of Church.

Children's Choir Practice
Tuesday, April 1st
5:00pm
Church Choir Loft
Please join in!



Stewardship of Finance

March 16th:

195 Identified Givers:	\$14,668.83
Loose Collection:	+714.00
Total Collection:	\$15,382.83

Church in Central/Eastern Europe:	\$2,318.75
Black Indian Mission:	\$530.00

Thank you for your generosity!

ATTENTION:

We are wrapping up the Walk of Remembrance Brick Paver Program. Payments from several online orders have not been received. These orders will be discarded if payment is NOT received by April 4th.

Thank you for supporting this project!



Readings for the week of March 30, 2025

- Sunday: Jos 5:9a, 10-12/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 (9a)/
2 Cor 5:17-21/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
Scrutiny: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-3a,
3b-4, 5, 6 (1)/Eph 5:8-14/
Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38
- Monday: Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b/
Jn 4:43-54
- Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 5:1-16
- Wednesday: Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18/
Jn 5:17-30
- Thursday: Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23/Jn 5:31-47
- Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23/
Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
- Saturday: Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12/Jn 7:40-53
- Next Sunday: Is 43:16-21/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 (3)/
Phil 3:8-14/Jn 8:1-11 *Scrutiny:* Ez 37:12-14/
Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 (7)/Rom 8:8-11/
Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

**A Trip to Croatia, Poland & Medjugorje
with Father John**

**September 22-October 3, 2025
12 day Pilgrimage through**

**Nativity Pilgrimage: info@nativitypilgrimage.com
You can register and obtain more information, by
contacting Debbie Dupuy, 225-247-0052.**

Fill a Prescription for the Needy
Please help those in need by
taking a prescription bottle from
the back of Church, adding your
donation to it, and returning it to
the canister. This effort is handled
through the Society of
St. Vincent de Paul.
Thanks for supporting this cause!



Brusly Lions Club Card Party
Monday, April 7th, from 10:00am-3:00pm
St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
Activity Center. Lunch will be provided.
To join in the games, please contact
Andrea Normand, 225-328-4843.

Devotions, Explained!
Novena

Mini Explanation

A novena is a nine-day period of prayer focused on a specific topic, saint, or devotion. There are four basic categories of novenas: novenas of preparation, of mourning, of prayer, and of indulgence. This 9-day period of prayer can be traced back to the Acts of the Apostles.

Novena, Explained

The word *novena* comes from the Latin word, *novem*, for nine. A novena is a nine-day period of private or public prayer. There are four basic categories of novenas: novenas of preparation, of mourning, of prayer, and of indulgence.

The nine days of prayer format comes directly from scripture where we read in the book of Acts that it was nine days after the Ascension that the Holy Spirit descended onto the Apostles. During that time, the faithful men and women “devoted themselves to constant prayer,” (Acts 1:12-14) waiting for the Lord.

Today, Catholics can find hundreds of novenas to pray about a plethora of topics. Many Catholics pray novenas in times of need or in devotion to a specific saint. Although a saint’s novena may traditionally begin or end on the saint’s feast day, while others, like the “Novena for Adopted Children” or the “Novena for Vocations,” can be prayed any time of the year, there is flexibility here for those wanting to pray. The faithful may choose to pray a private novena on any topic at any time! Want to pray a novena to St. Francis but it’s not his feast day? Go ahead!



The Catholic Daughters will have their pastalaya dinner fundraiser on Sunday, April 13th, from 11:00am-1:00pm in the Activity Center. Dinners will be available for pick up or drive through.

The Catholic Daughters will have their meeting at 7:00pm on Thursday, April 24th in the Activity Center.

Events happening in our Diocese

April 15: Chism Mass @ 10:30am at St. Joseph’s Cathedral

April 30: Faithful Citizenship Day, 8:45am-3:30pm, St. Joseph Cathedral Parish Hall; to register, email: SWOLF@LACCB.ORG

May 1: The Dignity of the Human Person & the End of Life, from 6:00-8:00pm, Westerfield Conference Center at the Catholic Life Center; to register, email: jlavastida@diobr.org