

March 2, 2025

*Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
St. John the Baptist Catholic Church*

Volume 57, No. 9



**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](http://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

[ajohn@diobr.org](mailto:ajohn@diobr.org)  
[candicebreaux@hotmail.com](mailto:candicebreaux@hotmail.com)  
[bcain@sjbbrusly.com](mailto:bcain@sjbbrusly.com)  
[cdupont@sjbbrusly.com](mailto:cdupont@sjbbrusly.com)  
[jhebert@sjbbrusly.com](mailto:jhebert@sjbbrusly.com)  
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[lmire@sjbbrusly.com](mailto:lmire@sjbbrusly.com)  
[mdostjohn@gmail.com](mailto:mdostjohn@gmail.com)  
[sthib@bellsouth.net](mailto:sthib@bellsouth.net)

### 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.

## Devotions, *Explained!*

### Fasting

#### Mini Explanation —

Fasting was practiced by righteous men and women of the Old Testament and later by Christ himself. It remains an important part of the Christian devotional life today, being most strongly associated with the penitential season of Lent.

#### Fasting, *Explained*

The practice of fasting predates Christianity. The Old Testament is full of examples of righteous men and women mortifying their flesh for the purpose of making atonement or simply to grow closer to God. Jesus himself fasted for forty days and forty nights in preparation for the beginning of his public ministry, and we see his disciples following his example in the Acts of the Apostles.

Fasting continues to be an important part of Christian devotional life today. Many people feel the practice of fasting enhances their prayer and helps them fulfill St. Paul's advice to "put to death the deeds of the body" (Romans 8:13) to grow in the Spirit. Most Catholics will associate fasting with the liturgical season of Lent, which begins and ends with obligatory fasting for all members of the Latin Catholic Church between ages 18 and 59.

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GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

March 2, 2025

8<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

Luke 6:39-45

One of the things that older pastors and younger priests occasionally quarrel about is the proper balance between work and prayer. I know one pastor who complains that his younger associate ignores the people and the parish because he wants to spend more time in prayer. And the young priest complains that the pastor gives him too much work to do and no time to pray. The Lord's words this Sunday speak into this tension with an image that can help us find a proper balance between life and prayer.

Jesus says, "**For every tree is known by its fruit. For people do not pick figs from thorn bushes, nor do they gather grapes from brambles**" (Luke 6:44). When we are deeply rooted and cultivating our relationship with Jesus, we are going to bear the fruit of that love in our lives. No fruit, no good prayer. How do we know that we are praying well? We are experiencing concrete fruits of love for others in our lives.

Someone who prays well will, sooner or later, burst forth the "figs" and "grapes" of acts of love. But without concrete commitment to deeds of selfless service to others, our prayer time is as useless as thorn bushes and brambles. Let's recommit ourselves to be men and women of prayer *and* service. And hopefully the pastors will help their associates to pray *and* serve fruitfully...with minimal quarreling.

— *Father John Muir*

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## CHRISTIAN FORMATION

The 10th Grade Retreat will begin at 11:00am Mass on Sunday, March 9th, and end at 5:00pm in the Activity Center.

Religion Mass will be at 9:00am on Sunday, March 23rd. Families are encouraged to attend with their children for grades K-8. There will be NO Religion Classes for grades K-8 from March 24th-26th.

5th & 6th Graders will have Confession in the Activity Center on Tuesday, March 25th at 5:15pm.



Our next Baptismal Seminar is at 6:00pm on Wednesday, March 12th in the Church Office. Please call the Church Office to register for the seminar.

**Children's Church**  
9:00am & 11:00am Masses  
March 16  
April 6 & 27



We need Volunteers to lead Children's Church. Opportunities are available during 9am and 11am Masses. Volunteers are scheduled 5 or 6 times a year. Please sign up by calling Jayne Jason at 225-749-3387, or via email: [jjason@sjbbrusly.com](mailto:jjason@sjbbrusly.com)



### Pray for Vocations

Please pray for those who are contemplating the priesthood or a consecrated life. If God is calling you 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](mailto:jjohnson@diobr.org) or visit: [www.diobr.org/vocations](http://www.diobr.org/vocations)

Volunteers are needed at your Church! Please call the Church Office to join one of these important Ministries. We need your help!

Altar Server, Eucharistic Minister, Lector, Usher, Bereavement Committee, Food Pantry, or the Zippers Thrift Shop.

Women's Weekend Retreat, March 21-23, at Our Lady of Hope Catholic Retreat Center in Mississippi  
Forms to register can be found in the back of Church and returned to the Women's Ministry box.  
Please call Anglyn Brown, 225-937-2895, or Danielle Peavy, 225-572-3334, for more information.



### Ash Wednesday, March 5th

Mass Schedule is as follows: 8:00am, 12:00pm & 6:00pm  
The Divine Mercy Novena will follow the 6:00pm Mass.

Stations of the Cross begins on Friday, March 7th after Mass at 12:00pm. This will continue on all Fridays during Lent.

Our Lenten Mission is scheduled for March 17th, 18th and 19th. The Divine Mercy Novena will follow on the 19th.

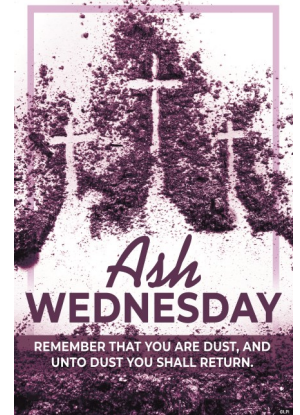
### Stewardship of Finance

February 16th:

192 Identified Givers:	\$12,021.83
Loose Collection:	+898.00
Total Collection:	\$12,919.83

*The Sanctuary Candle  
burns in memory of  
Virgie Curcio.*

Prayers and Sympathy are extended to the families of Mabel Scully Berthelot and Lois Besson Romero upon their deaths.



### Food Pantry Distribution Dates:

March 10th  
April 14th  
May 12th

Distribution takes place at 8:30am from the Activity Center. Please consider a monetary donation or any nonperishable items for our Food Pantry.

Please take a Rice Bowl from the back of Church and return it with your donation to change the lives of those who are in need and hungry. Make this your Lenten Mission.  
You can donate online:  
[crsricebowl.org/donate](http://crsricebowl.org/donate)

MARDI  GRAS



8TH SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME

"A good tree  
does not bear  
rotten fruit."  
- Lk 6:43

**Readings for the week of March 2, 2025**

- Sunday: Sir 27:4-7/Ps 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16 (see 2a)/1 Cor 15:54-58/Lk 6:39-45
- Monday: Sir 17:20-24/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7/  
Mk 10:17-27
- Tuesday: Sir 35:1-12/Ps 50:5-6, 7-8, 14 and 23/  
Mk 10:28-31
- Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17/2 Cor 5:20—6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
- Thursday: Dt 30:15-20/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/  
Lk 9:22-25
- Friday: Is 58:1-9a/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19/  
Mt 9:14-15
- Saturday: Is 58:9b-14/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 5:27-32
- Next Sunday: Dt 26:4-10/Ps 91:1-2, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15  
(see 5b)/Rom 10:8-13/Lk 4:1-13

**Walk of Remembrance Paver Program**

Please support our Brick Paver Project and purchase a brick in honor or memory of someone or something special. Our goal is a minimum of 100 bricks. This Campaign will run through March 16th. The Location of the project can be found on the bulletin board in the back of Church. Forms to purchase bricks are available in the back of Church, in the Church Office, on the Church webpage and online: [donate.brickmarkers.com/sjb](http://donate.brickmarkers.com/sjb)  
For more details, please contact Mark Loreno, 225-614-5540.

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

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

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



**The Divine Mercy  
Novena ends on  
Wednesday, April 23rd.  
Divine Mercy Sunday is  
April 27th.**

**K.C.s Spaghetti Dinner is  
Sunday, March 2nd in the  
Activity Center from 11:00am  
until 1:00pm. You can contact  
any K.C. member to get your  
dinner tickets.**



**You can contact John Gossman,  
225-936-2104, if you wish to contribute to  
the K.C.'s Seminarian Mission Fund to  
help support their Mission Trips. Thank  
you for supporting this worthy cause.**



**The Catholic Daughters will  
host a Rosary on the second  
Sunday of the month after  
9:00am Mass.  
Please join them!**

**Mark Your Calendar!  
Our Feast on the Levee is  
scheduled for Sunday,  
October 19th. Hope to see  
you there!**



**Things happening around our Diocese**

**Go Make Disciples, Diocese of Alexandria: March 7th-9th at the Randolph Riverfront Center in Alexandria, 281-358-9195**

**Men of the Immaculata Men's Conference: March 8th at St. George Catholic Church in Baton Rouge, 225-266-2956**

**Retrouvaille, A lifeline for Married Couples: March 20-23 weekend, Grand Coteau Retreats Enrollment is now open. For information, please call 800-470-2230.**

**Faithful Citizenship Day is scheduled for Wednesday, April 30th from 8:45am-3:30pm at St. Joseph Cathedral Parish Hall in Baton Rouge. The Catholic Bishops will discuss their work on behalf of the Catholic Church with the legislature.**

Flyers for these events can be found on the bulletin board in the back of Church or on the Church website.