



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.

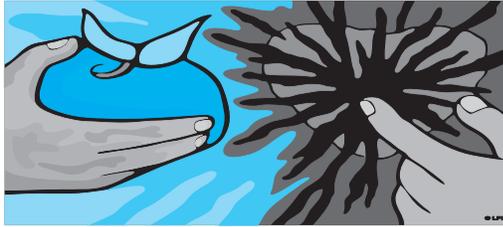
Prayer Line

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

September 2, 2012



22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

There are so many laws today that lawyers specialize in their practice much the same way as doctors do. The major divisions of criminal and civil law have long been established. Within those sections of the legal domain lawyers have delved into specialties, sometimes because of personal interest and other times because they find an area of law that they can develop for the benefit of themselves and others. Elder law, patent law, environmental law, and disability law are all areas of specialization that prove to be worthwhile pursuits for students who are considering what field to enter once they complete a degree.

In the Gospel this weekend Jesus invites a deeper consideration of what the law is. He is not against washing hands before eating, nor is he advising the disciples to let the dishes pile up like the kitchen in a house of college roommates. When the Pharisees point out these violations of lesser laws, Jesus instead brings up the larger laws that are often ignored. Like the parent who ignores certain traffic laws while racing a severely injured child to a doctor, some laws fall to the wayside when there are more important ones to adhere to.

The lawyer and the judge of course will ask who decides which laws to forsake. The racing parents may still get a speeding ticket, because their haste could endanger the lives of others. The law is meant to protect us all. Jesus asks us to look at some of the major aspects of conduct in the Gospel and to consider whether we may have transgressed. These are the things of the heart where the bounds of law may be less clear, but where the will of God is quite plain. We may not find a lawyer who specializes in laws about greed, deceit, arrogance, or envy, but they are things that are weighed in the balance by the just Judge of all.

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"Why do your disciples not follow the tradition of the elders but instead eat a meal with unclean hands?" He responded, "Well did Isaiah prophesy about you hypocrites, as it is written: This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me." - Mk 7:5b-6

Dear Parishioners,

In his apostolic letter announcing the *Year of Faith* which begins this October 11, Pope Benedict XVI wrote: "Ever since the start of my ministry as Successor of Peter, I have spoken of the need to rediscover the journey of faith so as to shed ever clearer light on the joy and renewed enthusiasm of the encounter with Christ." A rediscovery of the joy of one's encounter with Christ is a necessary first step in implementing what the Pope has called *a new evangelization* of the world's historically Christian regions which have experienced a crisis of faith due to secularization.

Catholics have traditionally been a little intimidated by the whole concept of evangelization. While we are thankful for our faith and for God's presence in our lives, we are unsure of how to express that faith and share it with others. No one wants to sound preachy or unprepared to answer an inquirer's questions.

Pope Paul VI suggested this simple approach: "No matter where you may be or where you may be working, make sure the world will be renewed upon contact with you. Make the Lord more present to human beings and the Gospel more known and loved by them." This sounds a little more manageable. Our conversations, activities, and daily interactions should be a source of renewal for those around us and for society in general. Our presence and example should be uplifting to others rather than demoralizing.

An effective evangelist does not necessarily need to be an extrovert or a gifted speaker, but only someone with an awareness of his or her dignity as a child of God. We make the Lord more accessible to others by helping them to recognize the signs of his presence in their lives. We create interest in the Gospel by living out its teachings and by loving those whom God places in our lives. We try to be a blessing to others as a consequence of the love we have received.

One ministry of the church with an obvious connection to evangelization is the R.C.I.A. process designed for those considering membership in the Catholic Church. Starting this week and continuing for the next nine months or so, members of the R.C.I.A. team will gather every Wednesday evening to present various aspects of the Catholic faith to those interested in joining or completing their sacraments of initiation. The sessions will allow time for discussion, reflection and fellowship. In addition to the

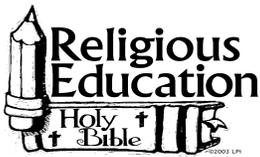
specific team members, the R.C.I.A. process is supported by the witness of our entire parish family. Our prayers, faithfulness to Sunday Mass, and efforts to lead holy lives, all play a role in the process of discernment and faith development. The witness of the inquirers in turn encourages life-long Catholics to remain open to the ongoing process of conversion in our lives. We all have something to offer one another and we all stand in need of the gifts of one another.

The topics of the Wednesday night sessions are chosen to offer a survey of Catholic beliefs while gradually aligning with the themes of the Sunday readings. This allows us to insure that Mass is fully integrated into the process. As the weeks and months go by, some participants may decide to withdraw and remain members of their current faith, while others may feel drawn to continue the process and enter the Catholic Church at Easter. Of course non-Catholics are always welcome to attend Mass with us whether or not they are interested in becoming Catholics themselves.

We are so blessed to be members of the Church founded by Christ. Last Sunday I shared a quote from Carlo Carretto (1910-1988), the Italian religious brother and writer, who offered this honest description of his relationship with the Church.

How much I must criticize you, my church, and yet how much I love you. You have made me suffer and yet I owe more to you than anybody else. You have given me much scandal, and yet you alone have made me understand holiness. Never in this world have I seen anything more compromised, more false, and yet never have I touched anything more pure, more generous, more beautiful. Countless times I have felt like slamming the door of my soul in your face, and yet every night I have prayed that I might die in your sure arms. No, I cannot be free of you for I am one with you. Then too, where else would I go? To build another church? But I could not build one without the same defects because they happen to be mine. It would then be my church, not yours. No, I am old enough to know better.

In Christ,
Father Matt



**WE NEED YOU!
CATECHISTS, AIDES
& HELPERS NEEDED!!!**

Christian Formation Classes begin on September 17th. We wish to thank everyone who volunteered to help in any way. We still need the following help and ask that you consider volunteering for this very important ministry.

CATECHISTS

Mondays: 5:30 -6:30 p.m. (3rd Grade)
Tuesdays: 5:30 -6:30 p.m. (1st, 2nd & 4th Grades)

AIDES

Tuesdays: 7:00 -8:15 p.m. (5th, 7th & 8th Grades)

HELPERS

Sundays: 9:15—10:45 a.m. (All Grades)

CHILDRENS CHURCH

11:00 a.m. Mass—Need Catechist

MANDATORY PARENTS MEETINGS

Due to Hurricane Isaac the Christian Formation Parent Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, August 28 and Thursday, August 30 have been POSTPONED to Tuesday, September 4th and Thursday, September 6th at 6:30 p.m. We hope to see you then! (You are only required to attend one meeting).

CLASS REGISTRATION WILL BE HELD BEFORE & AFTER THE MEETINGS.



**YOUTH MINISTRY
ADULTS: We Want You!**
Any adults interested in discussing the needs of the youth of our parish, please attend an ice cream social on Thursday, September 13th at 6:30 pm in the Activity Center.

**CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY COLLECTION
NEXT WEEKEND.**

Place envelope in regular collection.

STEWARDSHIP OF FINANCES

August 26, 2012

REGULAR:

231 Identified- - - - - \$6,294.00

Loose- - - - - 703.70

TOTAL- - - - - \$6,998.70

A VOCATION VIEW

Our second Scripture reading reminds us that “every worthwhile gift, every genuine benefit, comes from God”, God’s gifts should prompt our responsive gratitude, which should be the basis of our daily lives. If you feel God is offering you the gift of priesthood or religious life, and you wish to respond generously, trusting in God, call or email Father Matt Dupre’ at 225.336.8778, mdupre@diobr.org, or visit www.diobr.org/vocations.



***THE SANCTUARY CANDLE IS NOW
BURNING IN MEMORY OF
NORMA STEIN.***

CARDS, ETC.

Our Annual Card Party Fundraiser will be held on Monday, October 22 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Activity Center. Register to play Bridge, Bouree, Poker, Canasta, Pokeno, Hand & Foot, Sequence or any other board games. Everyone must be registered. Your \$25 donation will include Spaghetti & Meatballs lunch. There will be a Cash Bar for you to enjoy as well as a 50/50 raffle and football boards. All proceeds will go the SJB Catholic Church Building Fund. Contact Gale Thibodeaux, chairperson at 749-3769 or 413-5809 or gale43@cox.net.



Registration Forms are available on one of the shelves in the gathering space of the church.

Thank You

“Thanks to everyone for the cards, food, PRAYERS and good wishes during my recent surgery. My prognosis is GOOD and I am steadily feeling better. Your expressions of concern mean so much to me and my family. THANKS ESPECIALLY TO GOD for prayers answered!”

- -Sandra Fitzgerald

Readings for the Week of September 2, 2012

Sunday: Dt 4:1-2, 6-8/Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27/
Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23
Monday: 1 Cor 2:1-5/Lk 4:16-30
Tuesday: 1 Cor 2:10b-16/Lk 4:31-37
Wednesday: 1 Cor 3:1-9/Lk 4:38-44
Thursday: 1 Cor 3:18-23/Lk 5:1-11
Friday: 1 Cor 4:1-5/Lk 5:33-39
Saturday: Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30/Mt 1:1-16,
18-23 or 1:18-23
Next Sunday: Is 35:4-7a/Jas 2:1-5/Mk 7:31-37

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS 2012-2013

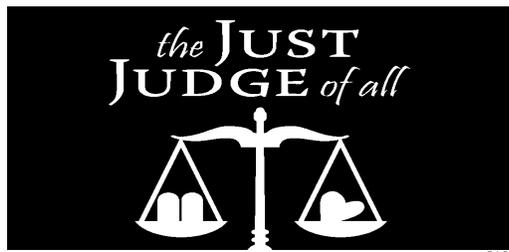
Donna Badon
Maria Bertrand
Jamie Chustz, Vice-Chairman
Deacon Sammy Collura
David Couvillon
Jerry Deshotel
Stacy Gauthreaux
Fr. Matt Lorrain
Wendy Parrish
Toni Tolar
David Toups, Chairman
John Windham, Secretary
Gerard "Jerry" Zimmerman

PLEASE NOTE

- ⇒ **R.C.I.A. begins this Wednesday, September 5 at 6:30 p.m. In Classroom #6 of the Catechetical Building.**
- ⇒ **The Baptismal Seminar that was scheduled for last Wednesday, August 29th has been rescheduled to Tuesday, September 4th at 6:30 pm in Classroom #5 of the Catechetical Building.**



**THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE
CLOSED THIS MONDAY
SEPTEMBER 3rd.
HAVE A SAFE AND
HAPPY LABOR DAY!**



"Every worthwhile gift, every genuine benefit, comes from above," says St. James in the second reading. But, he reminds us, true worship of God involves using those good gifts to benefit the less fortunate. Good stewardship is not optional; it is the hallmark of our faith!