



ST. JOHN *The* BAPTIST

• catholic church •

December 24, 2017
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Vol. 49, No. 58
December 31, 2017
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
Vol. 49, No. 59



402 S. KIRKLAND (RIVER ROAD) • P.O. BOX 248 BRUSLY, LA 70719

OFFICE: 225-749-2189 • FAX: 225-749-1921
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.
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 a.m. or by appointment

PARISH STAFF

Very Rev. Matthew P. Lorrain Pastor
Carolyn Dupuy Bookkeeper
Pat Durbin..... Parish Secretary
June Hebert Director of Religious Education
Karen Lemoine Christian Formation
Celeste Veillon Music Director
Larry Durbin..... Maintenance Supervisor
Wayne Delapasse..... Maintenance
Katie Roettger..... Mothers’s Day Out

OFFICE HOURS

Monday–Friday 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Office closed for lunch 12:30–1:30 p.m.

BAPTISM

Celebrated monthly after the 11:00 am Mass. Also celebrated during Mass on the Feast of the Baptism of the 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.

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

Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father." - Lk 1:30-32

When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him. - Lk 2:39-40

Dear Parishioners,

This is a two-week bulletin due to the holiday schedule so you may wish to hold on to it. We have an abbreviated Mass schedule on this 4th Sunday of Advent due to the addition of two Masses on Sunday evening. Our Masses for the 4th Sunday of Advent are at 7:30 & 10:00 a.m., and our Masses for Christmas Eve are at 4:00 & 6:00 p.m. later that same day. Masses on Christmas Day are at 8:00 & 10:00 a.m. on Monday, December 25.

New Year's Day is the octave of Christmas, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, and normally a holy day of obligation. However, since New Year's Day falls on a Monday this year, the obligation for Catholics to attend Mass is dispensed. Nonetheless, we will still celebrate a Mass in honor of Mary, the Holy Mother of God at 9:00 a.m. on January 1, 2018.

I plan to take a few days of vacation between Christmas and New Year's so we will have Communion Services in place of the 8:00 a.m. Masses on Tuesday – Thursday, December 26-28. We will follow our normal schedule on Friday, December 29, for Mass and Benediction. We will also have a Communion Service on Tuesday, January 2, 2018.

Sign-up sheets are available in the rear of church for anyone wishing to participate in the monthly all-night adoration of the Blessed Sacrament sponsored by our Catholic Daughters. Adoration begins at 8:00 p.m. on the evening of Friday, January 5, and concludes with 8:00 a.m. Mass on Saturday, January 6, 2018. Why not start the new year right by spending an hour of silent prayer with our Savior in the familiar surroundings of our beloved church?

Confirmation candidates are reminded of their final "Day of Reflection" on Sunday, January 14, in preparation for celebrating their Confirmation at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 18. Bishop Robert Muench always enjoys interacting with youth and I know he will make the celebration of the sacrament a memorable experience for our candidates and their families. Since Confirmation completes the sacraments of initiation, our 11th graders will now be qualified to serve as godparents at baptisms and as sponsors at future confirmations.

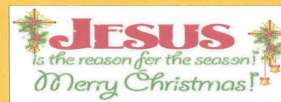
My pilgrimage to the Holy Land earlier this month exceeded all of my expectations. One worries about the makeup of the group you will be traveling with, as well as the possible commercialization of the future holy sites. But none of those prevented us from experiencing the presence of Jesus and

his Blessed Mother in the familiar places of the Gospels.

The Sea of Galilee was both tranquil and beautiful, and we were able to actually experience the lake via a wooden boat. We visited the Mount of the Beatitudes and the Mountain of the Transfiguration; we also pondered the archangel Gabriel's greeting to Mary in Nazareth and visited the site of St. Peter's home in Capernaum.

The little town of Bethlehem is no longer little, and the church built over the place of Jesus' birth is rather messy and noisy. But we were able to descend into the small cave where the Christ child lay and pray that his peace may once again reign in our hearts. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

In Christ,
Father Matt



CHRISTIAN FORMATION F.Y.I.
THERE WILL BE NO
CHRISTIAN FORMATION CLASSES
FOR K—8th GRADE
FROM DECEMBER 25th—JANUARY 16th
DUE TO CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS AND
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HOLIDAY.
CLASSES WILL RESUME ON
MONDAY, JANUARY 22ND AND
TUESDAY, JANUARY 23RD.
10th Grade will resume class on Jan. 9th



CHRISTIAN FORMATION F.Y.I.
THERE WILL BE NO
CHRISTIAN FORMATION CLASSES
FOR K—8th GRADE
FROM DECEMBER 25th—JANUARY 16th
DUE TO CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS AND
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HOLIDAY.
CLASSES WILL RESUME ON
MONDAY, JANUARY 22ND AND
TUESDAY, JANUARY 23RD.
10th Grade will resume class on Jan. 9th

CATECHISTS NEEDED

4th Grade Catechist to complete this school year!
11:00 am Children's church beginning March 2018

CHRISTMAS SEASON MASS SCHEDULE
Sunday, December 24, 4th Sunday of Advent
 7:30 & 10:00 am
Christmas Vigil Masses—4:00 and 6:00 pm
Monday, December 25, Christmas Day 8:00 and 10:00 am

**FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY/
 SOLEMNITY OF THE MOTHER OF GOD**
Sunday, December 31, New Year's Eve
 7:30; 9:00 & 11:00 am
Monday, January 1, 2018 New Year's Day—9:00 am



**SENIOR SPIRIT & ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
 TO HOST A "TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS"
 GATHERING AT SJB ACTIVITY CENTER**

St. John the Baptist and West Baton Rouge Senior Spirit are joining to host an evening of music, refreshments and fellowship on Saturday, January 6, 2018, the vigil of the Feast of the Epiphany. Traditionally, the Feast of the Epiphany, or the Twelfth Day of Christmas, marks the ending of the Christmas liturgical season and, in our local culture, the beginning of Mardi Gras.

Adults 50 and over are invited to attend the celebration. There will be music provided by Celeste Veillon, and light refreshments, including King Cake, will be served. In order to provide enough food, please call or email:

**Babs Babin at 749-2518, bbabin@cox.net or
 Lucy Landry, 749-2981, lucyplandry@bellsouth.net by
 Friday, December 29, 2017 to register.**



**THE SANCTUARY CANDLE
 IS NOW BURNING IN
 MEMORY OF MYRIA ANDRE-MARTIN**

**DATES ARE AVAILABLE FOR
 SCHEDULING THE SANCTUARY
 CANDLE DURING 2018**

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Sunday, January 7, 2018

- ◆ Communion Service for Members and their families will be held at 7:30 am Mass.
- ◆ Coffee & Donuts will be served after 7:30 am Mass.

ALTAR SOCIETY

Thanks to everyone who helped to clean the church during the month of December. Josie Delaune (749-5026) and her group will be cleaning in January. Please give her a call if you want to lend a hand.

BEREAVEMENT COMMITTEE

Thanks to Joel & Janice Hebert for chairing the committee during the month of December. Chairperson for January is Ruth Landry (749-3101). Please give her a call with any concerns.



A VOCATION VIEW

From the angel Gabriel, Mary heard God's plan for her life and she said, "Yes!" and so the Saviour came into the world. Pray to know God's Will for your life so as to help bring Jesus to our world. If you think God is calling you to a Church vocation, call or email Father Andrew Merrick at 225.336.8778, framerrick@gmail.com, or visit, www.diobr.org/vocations.

Thank You

The Food Pantry would like to thank the following organizations for their generous donations this year: Brusly Lions Club, The Catholic Daughters, the Zippers, and Travis & Kendul Michel, along with Pack 39 of the Cub Scouts. Thanks also to all of the individuals who donated to the pantry throughout the year.



Readings for the Week of December 24, 2017

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/ Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38
 Monday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/ Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
 Midnight: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/ Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14
 Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20
 Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
 Tuesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 [6]/Mt 10:17-22
 Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
 Thursday: 1 Jn 1:5--2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18
 Friday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35
 Saturday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40
 Next Sunday: Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3 or Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9, [7a, 8a] or Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 {cf 1}/Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

Readings for the Week of December 31, 2017

Sunday: Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3 or Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9, [7a, 8a] or Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/ Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12 17/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40
 Monday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/ Lk 2:16-21
 Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [3cd]/Jn 1:19-28
 Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:29--3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6 [3cd]/Jn 1:29-34
 Thursday: 1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9 [3cd]/Jn 1:35-42
 Friday: 1 Jn 3:11-21/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5 [2a]/Jn 1:43-51
 Saturday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 [12a]/ Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38
 Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/ Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS 2017-2018

Donna Badon
John Begue
Bob Bewick
Maria Bertrand
Jamie Bourg
Chris Buckle
Jules Lefeaux
Mark Loreno, Vice-Chairman
Fr. Matt Lorrain
Mary Claire Meyer, Secretary
Jason Murphey
Andrea Smicker
Toni Tolar, Chairman



Christmas

Today marks the end of the Advent season and the beginning of the Christmas season. We have lighted four candles these past four weeks and asked God to help us be present to our neighbors and friends. Now in the Christmas season we are called to be Christ in the flesh to our world.

Let us pray...

God, you became human through the obedience
of a simple young woman named Mary.

Mary is our model of faith.

May we be faithful to your word as Mary was.

Give us the courage to face each day
with the yes that Mary gave to you.

We ask this through the incarnate God,
who comes to us again during this Christmas season.

Amen.

Mary, Mother of God

This solemnity is a rather recent addition to the cycle of seasons, Sundays, and feasts in our liturgical year. We have Pope Paul VI to thank for the 1974 enshrining of the devotion to Mary into our calendar on January 1. It is also a day in our calendar as a World Day for Peace.

Let us pray...

God of heaven and earth,
you came to us and took our earthly flesh
through the gift of Mary's yes.

She is our Mother in faith,
as she is your earthly mother.

We are thankful beyond our ability to thank you
for the gift of her Son as our brother and savior.

Through her self-giving,
we have been reconciled to you.

Bless us as we begin this New Year
and endow us with the desire and ability
to create a world of peace.

We ask all this,
through the intercession of Mary to you,
one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen.