



*December 15, 2013
Third Sunday of Advent
Vol. 45, No. 52*

ST. JOHN *The* BAPTIST
catholic church



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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
Sammy Collura Permanent Deacon
Julie Ginther Cilano Christian Formation
Carolyn Dupuy Bookkeeper
Pat Durbin Parish Secretary
Karen Lemoine Christian Formation
Celeste Veillon Music Director
Larry Durbin Maintenance Supervisor
Richard Rabalais Maintenance

OFFICE HOURS

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

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.

Jesus said to them in reply, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them."
- Mt 11:4-5

Dear Parishioners,

We have reached the third week of Advent and things are noticeably busier around the parish. Our Parish Penance Service is this **Tuesday evening, December 17, at 7:00 p.m.**, so please take a moment to examine your heart and join us if it has been a while since your last confession. Fathers David Allen and Greg Daigle will be here to assist us and I may even see if one of the retired priests is available to help. We usually bring some of our junior high classes over as well to take advantage of this special opportunity to celebrate God's forgiveness.

On Thursday night of this week, December 19, we have our Pot Luck Dinner to be followed by an Advent & Christmas Concert. The Pot Luck Dinner begins at the usual time of 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Activity Center. Our adult and angel choirs then invite everyone to join them in church for an evening of Advent and Christmas music beginning at 7:30 p.m. We are encouraged to bring a canned good to the concert to benefit the Food Bank.

Our schedule of services for Christmas includes two Masses on Christmas Eve and two Masses on Christmas morning. The celebration begins on Christmas Eve with a choir concert at 3:15 p.m. followed by our 4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass. We then have a second Vigil Mass at 6:00 p.m. which includes a dramatization of the Gospel by some of the children of our parish. Masses on Christmas Day are at 7:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.. (We will not have a midnight Mass.)

In looking over our Wedding Policy here at St. John the Baptist I noticed that our fees were considerably lower than other Catholic parishes in the area. I checked with four other churches and then decided to adjust our fees to better reflect the costs for rehearsals and weddings. Effective immediately, the fee for weddings at St. John the Baptist is set at \$300.00 for parishioners and \$500.00 for non-parishioners. The fee should be paid at the same time that the church is reserved for the wedding.

Please rest assured that no one will ever be refused an opportunity to marry in our church due to limited finances. Weddings, baptisms, funerals, and other

services are often provided at no cost to those of modest income. But so often families find funds to pay for florists, caterers, photographers, printers, and musicians without giving a second thought to thanking the Church for providing a beautiful and sacred environment for their wedding.

Finally, many thanks to Lance Gauthreaux who recently installed a flood light at the entrance to our cemetery in order to illuminate the crucifixion scene at night. It is a small enhancement which helps to remind us of God's loving presence on our campus even during the night. This is an example of the type of improvement that is made possible by our *Feast on the Levee* income. Be sure to take a look at it the next time you are on campus for an evening meeting or event.

In Christ,
Father Matt

"WHY EUCHARISTIC ADORATION"?

Why should you spend time visiting with Jesus in the Eucharist? Simply because Jesus himself, your best friend invites you. He said it so warmly, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened. Come to me and I will refresh you". Who could refuse such an invitation?

Please consider signing up for an hour of Adoration one time or every month. Sign-up sheets are in the foyer of the Church for Friday, January 3, 8 pm thru Saturday, January 4th, 8 am.

IGNITE YOUNG ADULTS RETREAT

Are you a Confirmed Senior in High School or College Student looking to deepen your Catholic faith? Join us for the Ignite Retreat!

December 20—22, 2013

Rosaryville Spirit Life Center—Ponchatoula,

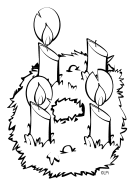
Cost—\$100/Retreatant

Scholarships Available

Contact Julie (225-749-3387)



**DON'T MISS THIS!!
POT LUCK DINNER
CHRISTMAS CONCERT
Thursday, December 19th
6:30 pm
Activity Center**



ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

Tuesday, December 17
7:00 pm
St. John the Baptist—Brusly



CHRISTMAS MASSES

Tuesday, December 24th: 4:00 & 6:00 pm
Wednesday, December 25th: 7:30 & 10:00 am

NEW YEAR'S MASSES

Tuesday, December 31st: 4:30 pm (No am Mass)
Wednesday, January 1st: 9:00 am



**WE WILL BE DECORATING THE
CHURCH ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22nd
BEGINNING AT 1:00 PM.
PLEASE JOIN US!**



**BALM FOR THE SOUL COOKBOOKS
GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT—\$15 each
CALL MARGARET CANELLA
at 749-2874 or chicknft@cox.net
Proceeds benefit our Bereavement Committee**

PRAYERS & SYMPATHY are extended to
*Renee Regira upon the death of her brother,
Michael J. Ciaccio. Please keep them in your
prayers.*

Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus Christmas Social will be held on Wednesday, December 18th in the Activity Center beginning at 6:00 pm. Meats will be provided and members are asked to bring a side dish or dessert. RSVP Michael Vince at kofc10744@gmail.com or 620-6263 by December 13.



Lectors

ATTENTION LECTORS!!
Workbooks for 2014 are in
Please pick up your copy in the sacristy.

STEWARDSHIP OF FINANCES

December 8, 2014

REGULAR:

194 Identified- - - - - \$6,743.00
Loose Collection- - - - - 859.00
TOTAL- - - - - \$7,602.00

Retirement for Religious—\$2,196.00

A VOCATION VIEW

As John was called by God to be a messenger of His Son so Jesus still calls men and women today to be the messengers of His Good News. If you think God is calling you to a church vocation, call Fr. Matt Dupre' at 225.336.8778, or email mdupre@diobr.org.



Thanks from the Food Pantry to Brusly Elementary students and Cub Scout Pack 39 for their generous donations. Also, thanks to everyone who donated to the pantry at our Thanksgiving Mass.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

2014—25th & 50th
Sunday February 23, 2014 (3:00 pm)
Our Lady of Mercy Church, Baton Rouge, LA
Bishop Robert W. Muench will celebrate the Mass honoring couples on their 25th, 50th, and 65th or greater anniversary. Families of the honored couples are also invited to attend the liturgy and the reception afterward in the Activity Center. Call the Parish Office (749-2189) if you wish to participate in this celebration. Registration deadline is February 14, 2014.



The Diocesan Respect Life Rally will be held on January 12, 2014, from 2 to 4 pm in the Main auditorium of the Bishop Tracy Center. Come celebrate life with the diocese. Shawn Carney, co-founder of 40 Days for Life and one of the most inspirational pro-life speakers in America today, will be the keynote speaker. A presentation will also be given by Catholic Charities on social justice within the Respect Life movement. Connect with Respect Life leadership who will be present to share information about their ministries and find out how you can get involved! There will be a Living Rosary for Life with a Knights of Columbus Honor Guard. Bible crafts and activities will be available for children 7 years and younger during the keynote speech. Contact Danielle Van Haute at the Marriage and Family Life Office (242-0164) or email her at dvanhaute@diobr.org for more information.

Readings for the Week of December 15, 2013

Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11
Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Mt 1:1-17
Wednesday: Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25
Thursday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25
Friday: Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38
Saturday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Lk 1:39-45
Next Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS 2012-2013

Donna Badon
Maria Bertrand
Chris Buckle
Deacon Sammy Collura
Jerry Deshotel, Chairman
Stacy Gauthreaux
David Landry
Jules Lefeaux
Mark Loreno
Fr. Matt Lorrain
Andrea Smicker
Toni Tolar
David Toups, Vice-Chairman
John Windham, Secretary



3rd Sunday of Advent

"The poor have the good news proclaimed to them." Jesus caps his catalogue of miracles with this unexpected statement. In the same sentence where he reminds his listeners that he has cured the blind, the lame, the deaf, the sick, and even raised the dead, Jesus concludes by mentioning preaching the good news to the poor. How did that make the list of supernatural cures? What's so miraculous about good news?

Well, in this case, the news is that the Messiah has finally come, in the most miraculous of ways, as the incarnate Son of God conceived in the womb of a virgin. This is a message of spiritual healing: he comes to "save his people from their sins" (Mt 1:21).

The poor are not just those in physical poverty, but those whose sins have impoverished their souls. This of course applies to us. The poverty of our own sinfulness-of the alienation we create between ourselves and God-can be overcome by the forgiveness offered to us in Christ. Because of this, we have cause to rejoice!

On this Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday, we are encouraged to rejoice. We pause in this season of anticipation to remember that, in truth, our hopes have already been fulfilled. God has "visited and brought redemption to his people" (Lk 1:68). He is among us, saving us even now! We need not look to the past to witness Christ's astonishing acts. His work in our souls, right here and now, is miracle enough.