



*December 16, 2018
Third Sunday of Advent
Vol. 50, No. 49*

ST. JOHN *The* BAPTIST

• catholic church •



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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
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 the Parish Office

John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." - Lk 3:16

Dear Parishioners,

Our Advent/Christmas Concert, is today, Sunday, December 16, at 5:00 p.m. in the church. Admission is free but you are invited to make a donation towards our new hymnals or bring a canned good for our food bank. A Christmas Cookie reception will follow in the Parish Activity Center.

The time is now upon us if we want to celebrate Christ's birth with clean hearts and consciences. All of our neighboring parishes have celebrated their penance services. We are the last one on the schedule and our parish penance service begins at 6:30 p.m. this Tuesday, December 18. Fathers Greg Daigle, Matt Dupré, Jon Koehler, and Amrit Raj are scheduled to assist us so please put aside any worries or excuses and come to confession before Christmas. Our second graders will celebrate their 1st Reconciliation at this same service, so let us support them by our good example.

We will be decorating the church for Christmas next Saturday, December 22, beginning at 10:00 a.m. We need plenty of volunteers so the work can be completed smartly and efficiently. Service hours are available for students, and volunteers are needed to put the trees in the stands and the garland on the columns. John Toups is once again coordinating our decorations so please call or text him at 405-0826 if you have any questions.

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 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.. (We do not have a midnight Mass but there is one right next door at St. John the Evangelist in Plaquemine.)

Mrs. Lorraine Prejean Landry, a licensed marriage and family therapist, will begin offering counseling at our parish in January 2019. Some of her areas of expertise include family, marital, grief, divorce, anger

management, and positive communication. Her fees are very reasonable and we are glad to have this service available locally. For an appointment, please call (225) 771-8034 and leave a message.

Monday, December 17, is Pope Francis's birthday, so please say a prayer for the continued health and well-being of our Holy Father. He turns 82 this year and remains in very good health despite a very full schedule.

As you know, #11 LSU plays #8 UCF in the Fiesta Bowl at 12:00 noon on New Year's Day. It is rated by sports analysts as one of the top three bowl games of the season, and LSU will have to play very well in order to beat this high scoring UCF team. The Central Florida Knights are 13-0 and haven't lost a game in two years. Nevertheless, LSU is favored by 7.5 points.

In Christ,
Father Matt

Christian Formation Info



FIRST RECONCILIATION
WILL BE TUESDAY,
DECEMBER 18th AT 6:30 pm
IN CHURCH ALONG WITH
THE PARISH
ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

CHRISTIAN FORMATION F.Y.I.
THERE WILL BE NO
CHRISTIAN FORMATION CLASSES
FOR K—10TH GRADE
FROM DECEMBER 17TH—JANUARY 9TH
DUE TO CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
CLASSES WILL RESUME ON
MONDAY, JANUARY 14TH,
TUESDAY, JANUARY 15TH AND
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16TH



John Toups & our Environmental Committee will be decorating the church for Christmas on Saturday, December 22nd beginning at 10:00 am. Your help would be greatly appreciated!



CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

Thursday, December 20, 2018 (6:00 pm—8:00 pm)
 St. John the Baptist Activity Center
 West Baton Rouge Parish Senior Spirit, an organization for all 50 and older, is sponsoring a Christmas gathering on December 20th. Senior Spirit will provide the main meat course and beverages, and participants are asked to bring a pot luck dessert or casserole.
 A music program will be presented by Daisha Badon, who is a parishioner of St. John the Baptist. Watch our next bulletin for more information, but please mark your calendar for this festive Christmas event! All who are 50 or older are welcome!
 Please call Lucy (749-2981) or Babs (749-2518) by Tuesday, December 18th if you will attend.



BALM FOR THE SOUL COOKBOOKS
 \$15.00/each—Available at Parish Office
 Call Margaret Canella at 749-2874 or pick up a copy at the Office.
GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFTS!

BAPTISM

Cooper James Johnson, son of James Richard and Chantelle Corrent Johnson was baptized here last weekend. Congratulations to him and his family. WELCOME INTO OUR FAITH COMMUNITY!



PRAYERS & SYMPATHY are extended to the family of Rose Brignac upon her recent death. Please keep them in your prayers.

STEWARDSHIP OF FINANCES

December 9, 2018

REGULAR:

179 Identified-	-----	\$ 6,671.00
Loose Collection-	-----	909.00
TOTAL-	-----	\$ 7,580.00

St. Joseph Abbey and Seminary Flood Relief Fund—\$2,140.00



A VOCATION VIEW

Could God be calling you to be a priest or religious to announce the Good News to His People as John the Baptist did? If God is calling you, call or email Father Andrew Merrick at 225.336.8778, framerick@gmail.com, or visit, www.diobr.org/vocations.

Knights of Columbus

Be sure to buy your 2019 Charity Calendar from any of our K.C. Members (\$20/each). A prize a day is given. You can enter once and be in 365 drawings. Win as often as your name is drawn. All proceeds will go to the K.C.'s and their charities. Only 2,000 will be sold! Get yours now from any K.C Member or call (225) 687-6743 to order.

CALENDAR WINNERS—NOVEMBER

- Jessica Lambert, Bryan Guillot, Sr., Sam Triche, Glenda Zeringue, Cayla & Chad Richard, St. John Fathers Club, Willie Landry, Earl Richard, Ed & Anita Comeaux, Haven Sedotal, Ashley Marionneaux Barry Maggio, Bill Simpson, Andrew & Judy Breen, Vicki Mouch, Lynette Tucker, Ernest Sedotal, James G. Vidrine, Gene Bertrand, Ellie Rivet, Barbara Graham, Brett Baker, Reggie Landry, Gaetano Passantino, Frank Brown, Tommy P. Landry, Howard Stelly, Ross & Angelic Hebert, Marsha Medine, Charlotte Marshall

CALENDAR WINNERS—DECEMBER

- Johnny Higdon, Bart Schlatre, Mark Zeringue, Billy Deshotel, Joanie Becnel, Dino Tramonte, Monica & Martin Sevin, Lee Nettles, Johnny Blanchard, Ellie Tramonte, Dianne Orgeron, Laurie Boudreaux, Tonja Douglas, Katie Paine, Ashley Repp, Jessie & Lova Doucet, Claire Callais, Hewitt & Lucille Bouquet, Sonya Pulliam, Celeste Veillon, Shari Landry, Laurence Vincent, Raynel Gascon, Rebecca Cazes, Charles Templet, Sr., L.J. Cavaliere, Leonard Aucoin, Claudia Racca, David A. Pugh, Corrine Reeves, Ronnie Broussard

Readings for the week of December 16, 2018

Sunday:	Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]/Phil 4:4-7/ Lk 3:10-18
Monday:	Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf 7]/Mt 1:1-17
Tuesday:	Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/ Mr 1:18-25
Wednesday:	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]/Lk 1:5-25
Thursday:	Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c and 10b]/Lk 1:26-38
Friday:	Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45
Saturday:	1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf 1a]/Lk 1:46-56
Next Sunday:	Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/ Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS 2017-2018

John Begue
Bob Bewick
Jamie Bourg
Chris Buckle
Christie Chapman
Jules Lefeaux, Vice-Chairman
Mark Loreno, Chairman
Fr. Matt Lorrain
Mary Claire Meyer, Secretary
Jason Murphey
Joey Normand
Derek Scott
Andrea Smicker



3rd Sunday of Advent

In Christianity, we hear often about the "Good News." We might often associate it with Jesus' compassion to the poor, his healings and miracles, and the salvation he won for us. In today's Gospel, we read of John the Baptist. "Exhorting them in many other ways, he preached good news to the people." Yet as we examine the rest of the reading, we see examples of John's preaching. If you have two cloaks, give one away. Don't cheat others out of their money, extort, or lie. And, of course, the warning that the Messiah is on the move and "his winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Merry Christmas?

Not only do John's listeners enjoy his message, but they seem to think he might be the awaited Messiah! To understand today's Gospel, it's important to understand the Jewish people. For most of their history, God's chosen people had been under someone else's heel. They were slaves in Egypt. Their kingdoms were ravaged first by the Assyrians, then the Babylonians. Now they were under the yoke of the Roman Empire. Familiar with being strangers in a strange land, welcoming the stranger, caring for the vulnerable, and enacting justice was incredibly important to them as a people. While John's words may seem odd or strong to our modern ears, this call to justice was welcome, even if it was directed at the hearer.

The truth is, no one is exempt from John's call to repentance. We all have further to go in the Christian life. We can all grow in virtue and love our neighbors more generously. The Church gives us the Advent season to examine our own hearts. Did any of John's warnings resonate with you? That could be a great thing to bring to Jesus this week!