



402 South Kirkland Drive (River Road) P. O. Box 248, Brusly, Louisiana 70719

**OFFICE:** 225-749-2189

**WEBSITE:** [sjb-brusly.com](http://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.  
Monday, 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.  
Monday, Wednesday thru Friday ..... 7:40 a.m. or by appointment

**PARISH STAFF**

Rev. Arun John, IMS ..... Pastor  
Candice Breaux ..... Youth Group Minister  
Betty Cain ..... Bookkeeper  
June Hebert ..... Director of Religious Education  
Jayne Jason ..... Christian Formation  
Layne Mire ..... Parish Secretary  
Lil Stutes ..... Mother’s Day Out  
Celeste Veillon ..... Music Director

**OFFICE HOURS**

Monday–Thursday 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.  
Office closed for lunch 12:00–1:00 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 – Please 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 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 281-0333.

**PRAYER LINE**

Please call the Church Parish Office.



# ADVENT



HOPE. LOVE. JOY. PEACE.

©LPI

Dear Parishioners,

If there is one thing that even the best glue cannot fix, it is a broken promise. A broken promise creates distrust, especially a promise made to a child, which if not fulfilled ruins the confidence forever. God our Father always keeps pledges, and therefore we can always trust in His promises. God made a promise that a virgin shall be with child and bear a son (Is 7:14), who was to be the Savior of the world, and God did keep His Word, by becoming man in the person of Jesus. All the same, His way of becoming man puzzles us. Before Mary and Joseph lived together, she was found to be with child through the power of the Holy Spirit (Mt 1:18), which no one even dreamt of. It was, in fact, a surprise for Mary and Joseph. Joseph could not believe it, he was planning to divorce Mary secretly. We experience God's surprises in our own lives. Some of them are gentle shocks, mild surprises, or big ones. Someone once said, "We ask for health that we might do greater things, but we are given infirmities that we might do better things. We ask for riches that we may be happy, but we are given poverty that we might become wise. We ask for power that we may have the praise of man, but we are given weakness that we may feel the need for God." Therefore, we must never give up on God in times of disappointment, for God has his own surprises.

It seems that our God is a God of troubles. It feels like, when we bring God into our life, troubles begin. One of my friends shared with me about his close friend who was diagnosed with brain cancer a couple of months ago. He says, that this particular friend was away from the Church for over 30 years and living a bad life. Almost six months ago he decided to return to Church and attended Mass regularly, and gave up the undesirable life. He did really well in his relationship with God and began to experience the inner joy. Then he found out he has brain cancer. His question to me was, "Why would such things happen now? Why did it not happen during the time when I was away from the Church and from God?" Although his friend was able to accept his sickness, he was not. Look at the life of the innocent couple, Joseph and Mary. Christ's birth was to bring joy to both, but what an agony of the mind Joseph had to wrestle with when he heard his wife was pregnant, and for which he was not responsible. This is also true in our lives. Our commitment to God, to the Church or to neighbors, brings with it problems and difficulties and even outrageous troubles. If we are poor, we suffer from want of money; and if rich, we suffer from troubles that money can't cure. Many decide to take marriage vows, thinking that it's going to be wonderful, but often they bring sorrow.

I have people coming to tell me, why this or that happens to them in spite of their trying to be good people! What I tell them is, there are no answers to all of the questions. If we had answers to every question, there wouldn't be a need for God. He is the One with the answers that we do not have, that we are looking for. A beautiful example is of Mary. She did not know what was in store for her when she surrendered herself to God's plan. She knew that she was bringing trouble into her marriage by this surrender, yet she did not question it. She put no conditions, nor asked for assurances of protection or safety, but said in similar words, quite honestly, I don't understand what you want, but I am Yours. Because she knew that even if her surrender brings trouble, God would not leave her alone, He would come to her aid, because it's not her plan but what God wanted. And as she believed, God intervened and resolved the crisis. He appeared to the confused and troubled Joseph, "Have no fear about taking Mary as your wife" (Mt 1:20) and gave him the reasons and facts. And we saw how Joseph listened and believed. Similarly, we are not alone in our troubles, problems, or difficulties. The Emmanuel is with us. What we need is like Mary and Joseph, to listen to God and believe. Hence, troubles are not to be gotten rid off, but to be faced and dealt with, not alone, but with God by our side, so we can overcome them. In fact, they are often the tools by which God fashions us for better things, and blessings abide in troubles. So do not worry when you are in trouble, in difficulty, or with problems, but deal with them with Jesus. Let us pray that we all have the same faith and openness to God that Mary and Joseph had.

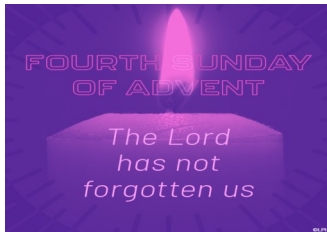
God Bless You,  
Father John



# CHRISTIAN FORMATION

**Religion Class Break:** No Religion Classes for K-8 students from December 19-January 6

**March for Life:** January 16-21, 2023 in Washington, D.C. for young adults



Sympathy and prayers are extended to the family of Barbara Berthelot Simoneaux, upon her death.



## Christmas Mass Schedule

**Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24**  
Vigil Masses at 4:00pm and 6:00pm  
**Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25**  
Masses at 8:00am and 10:00am

**Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, New Year's Eve**  
Saturday, December 31, Mass at 4:30pm  
**New Year's Day, Sunday, January 1, 2023**  
Masses at 7:30am, 9:00am and 11:00am

Can you be a Good Shepherd for the Church? Will you lead as Jesus did?  
Is God calling you to be a priest, deacon, sister or brother?  
If so, please contact  
**Father Josh Johnson,**  
225-336-8778,  
jjohnson@diobr.org  
or visit:  
[www.diobr.org/vocations](http://www.diobr.org/vocations)



*The Sanctuary Candle burns in memory of Inez Walling.*



Please spread joy in our Church community by giving to the special parish collection on December 25th. These monies collected are retained in our Church Parish and aid the needy in our community.

**St. John the Baptist Parish**  
Finance Committee Members  
**Betty Cain**  
**Carolyn Dupuy**  
**Father Arun John**  
**Drew Maciasz**  
**Laurie Moreau**  
**Arron Pierre**  
**David Touns**

**Children's Church**  
9:00am & 11:00am Masses  
January 15  
January 29  
February 5  
February 19  
March 5  
March 19



We are in need of Altar Servers, Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors. If you can serve in any of these ministries, please call the Church Office to sign up. A training will be held at a later date.



**BLOOD DONATION**  
BE A HERO GIVE BLOOD

**THANKS** to all of you who donated **BLOOD** on December 4th. Your donation will save a life!

**WINE: Catholic Women's Conference**  
Anchor of Hope  
Saturday, January 28, 2023  
Begins after 8:00am Mass  
Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church

Join other women from around the Diocese of Baton Rouge for a day of inspiration, faith, fellowship and fun.

To register: [anchorofhope2023.eventbrite.com](http://anchorofhope2023.eventbrite.com)  
or visit: [CatholicVineyard.com](http://CatholicVineyard.com)

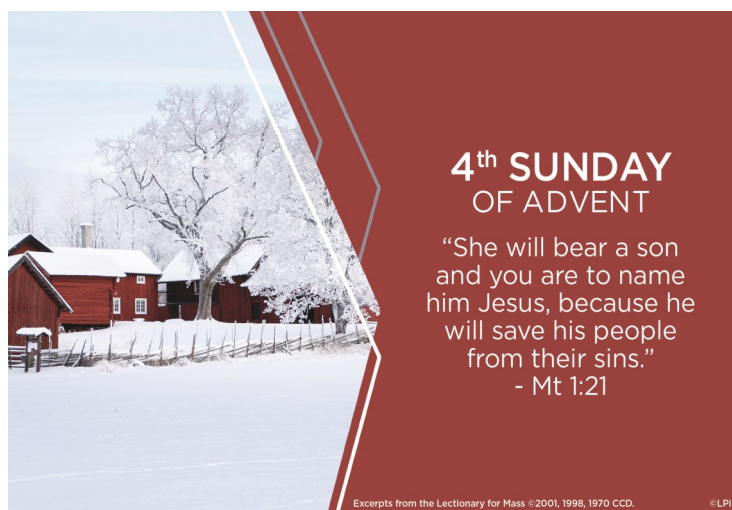
**Rita's Closet/Zipper**  
will be closed from  
**December 17, 2022**  
through **January 2,**  
**2023.**  
**NO DONATIONS** will be  
accepted during  
**this time. Thank you for**  
**your support!**



## St John the Baptist Parish Council Members

**2022-2023**

**Christian Benoit**  
**Bob Bewick, Vice Chairman**  
**Grayson Brewer**  
**Christie Chapman, Secretary**  
**Justin Clouatre**  
**Horace Crochet, Chairman**  
**Paige Fitzgerald**  
**Janice Hebert**  
**Fr. Arun John, IMS**  
**Mary Claire Meyer**  
**Joey Normand**  
**Edana Robnett**  
**Derek Scott**



### Readings for the week of December 18, 2022

- Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [7c, 10b]/  
Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24
- Monday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/  
Lk 1:5-25
- Tuesday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38
- Wednesday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12,  
20-21/Lk 1:39-45
- Thursday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/  
Lk 1:46-56
- Friday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/  
Lk 1:57-66
- Saturday: *Morning:* 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3,  
4-5, 27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79
- Next Sunday: *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  
*Night:* Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13/  
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 [3])/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18  
or 1:1-5, 9-14

Keep “*Christ*” in Christmas!