

*December 20, 2015
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Vol. 47, No. 51*



ST. JOHN *The* BAPTIST

• catholic church •



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
Sammy Collura Permanent Deacon
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
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 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

The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." - Lk 2:10-12

Dear Parishioners,

We recently hung an image of Divine Mercy on our confessional in honor of this Jubilee Year of Mercy. In his homily on December 8, the opening of the Jubilee, Pope Francis said, "This Extraordinary Year is itself a year of grace. To pass through the Holy Door means to rediscover the infinite mercy of the Father who welcomes everyone and goes out personally to encounter each of them... We have to put mercy before judgement, and in any event God's judgement will always be in light of his mercy."

Pope Francis was speaking of the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica but he might just as well have been speaking of the door to a confessional through which we pass to encounter God's forgiveness and healing. Quoting St. Augustine, the Pope also said, "How much wrong we do to God and his grace when we speak of sins being punished by his judgement before we speak of their being forgiven by his mercy." I was very pleased by the number of parishioners who sought sacramental forgiveness in preparation for Christmas.

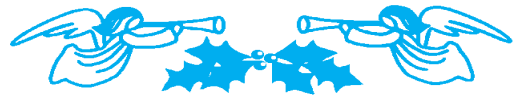
Our schedule of services for Christmas includes two Masses on Christmas Eve and two Masses on Christmas morning. The celebration begins on Christmas Eve with a choir concert at 3:15 p.m. followed by our 4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass. We then have a second Vigil Mass at 6:00 p.m. which includes a dramatization 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 no longer have a midnight Mass, but there is one next door at St. John's in Plaquemine if you feel so inclined.)

New Year's Day is the octave of Christmas, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, and a holy day of obligation. We will have a 4:30 p.m. Vigil Mass on Thursday, December 31, and then a 9:00 a.m. Mass on Friday, January 1, in celebration of the holy day. Our vigil Mass will have to compete with the Orange Bowl which is hosting one of the college football semifinal playoff games, but that's not really a problem. I am praying that L.S.U. can end their season on a high note with a victory over Texas Tech in the Texas Bowl on December 29.

As people of faith, we continue to offer prayers for the 14 people who were killed in the terrorist attack on December 2 in San Bernardino, California, and the 130 people who died in the terrorist attacks in Paris on November 13. We pray for their family members, friends, and coworkers who are struggling to cope in the aftermath of such terrible horror.

It was to a broken world such as this that God chose to send his Son. He did not require the perfect place or time to be born, but instead accepted the poverty of our human condition. He understands our imperfections, fears, and temptations, and is therefore able to lead us to God's light, even in times of darkness. May the Christ child bring his love and peace to our community and to people everywhere this Christmas. Merry Christmas!

In Christ,
Father Matt



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE VIGIL

Thursday, Dec. 24th—4:00 pm & 6:00 pm

CHRISTMAS DAY

Friday, Dec. 25th—8:00 am & 10:00 am

NEW YEARS EVE: *Thursday, Dec. 31—4:30 pm*

NEW YEARS DAY: *Friday, Jan. 1—9:00 am*

DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS

*John Touts and the Environment Committee will be decorating the church for Christmas on **Sunday, December 20th** beginning at **2:00 pm**. **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!!!** Whatever is not completed that day, we will resume decorating at **10:00 am on Monday, December 21st**. Please call the office to sign up to help. John would like to contact you ahead of time to coordinate team leaders.*

CLEANING FOR CHRISTMAS

A group of people will be doing a General Cleaning of the Church for Christmas. All are invited to help. They will do the cleaning on **Tuesday, December 22nd** beginning at **1:30 pm**. We would appreciate any and all help!

Christian Formation Update

NO CHRISTIAN FORMATION CLASSES MONDAY, DECEMBER 21st; TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22nd AND MONDAY, DECEMBER 28th; TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29th DUE TO CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS HOLIDAYS.

THERE WILL BE A SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION SESSION FOR ALL SECOND GRADERS ON MONDAY, JANUARY 4th OR TUESDAY, JANUARY 5th AT THEIR REGULARLY SCHEDULED CLASS TIMES. STUDENTS IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WILL CHOOSE TO COME ON ONE OF THESE DAYS.



BATON ROUGE DIOCESE 2015 –25th & 50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration

Sunday, February 21, 2016 (3:00 pm)
Our Lady of Mercy Church

445 Marquette Ave, Baton Rouge, LA

Bishop Robert W. Muench, Celebrant of the Mass

This celebration is to honor couples on their 25th, 50th and 65th or greater anniversary. The families of the honored couples are also invited to attend the liturgy and the reception following in Our Lady of Mercy Parish Activity Center. Please call SJB Parish Office (749-2189) to register if you and your family plan to attend. Registration Deadline is February 12, 2016.

The longest married couple will be honored at this event.



YOUNG ADULTS: ARE YOU IN TRANSITION?

Did you just move? Or get a new job? Or end a significant relationship?

You're not the only one!

Come to the What Next? Finding Answers with Faith retreat created just for people in their 20's and 30's and explore the transitions that define your past, present and future and how your faith gives you tools to move forward with courage and grace.

WHERE: St. John the Evangelist Church
15208 LA Highway 73, Prairieville, LA

WHEN: Saturday, January 30, 2016

TIME: 9:00 AM—8:00 PM

COST: \$35/person

Register at charis.org—Deadline: January 22, 2016

Contact Sister Ily at 225.757.6095 or

ilyfercsj@gmail.com or Allison Davis at

allisondavis1889@gmail.com

Sponsored by Young Adult Ministry of Baton Rouge Diocese

Pray for Vocations Is God calling YOU?

A VOCATION VIEW

Are you called to follow in the footsteps of Mary as a priest or religious to carry the Good News of God's great Love? If God is calling you, call or email Fr. Matt Dupre' at 225.336.8778, mdupre@diobr.org, or visit, www.diobr.org/vocations.

MORNING OF REFLECTION

The Catholic Daughters of St. Jude invite all women to join them for a Women's Morning of Reflection to be held on Saturday, Jan. 23, 2016 in their parish hall (9150 Highland Road, Baton Rouge, LA). Deacon James Morrissey will be the spiritual facilitator and will lead the group on a journey of "Renewal, Reflection, Relaxing and Retreating". Registration begins at 8:30 am and the program is from 9 am to noon. No fee, however, please RSVP by January 18, 2016 to Maria Carillo (769-5763) or Joyce Eiserloh (448-3299).

FAMILY DAY OF MERCY

Sunday, December 27, 2015

Feast of the Holy Family

As part of the Jubilee of Mercy, we are encouraging you to set aside this day for your family in order to grow closer and engage in activities and discussions that will help you more fully embrace the concept of mercy and find ways to integrate it within your daily family life. Ideas and resources can be found on the Diocesan Office of Marriage & Family Life's website: www.mfldiobr.org.

Readings for the Week of December 20, 2015

Sunday:	Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19/ Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45
Monday:	Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45
Tuesday:	1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-8/Lk 1:46-56
Wednesday:	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5, 8-10, 14/ Lk 1:57-66
Thursday:	Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/ Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29/Lk 1:67-79
Friday:	Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29/ Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
Night:	Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-3, 11-13/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 98:1-6/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
Saturday:	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3-4, 6, 8, 16-17/Mt 10:17-22
Next Sunday:	1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28 or Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/P Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21- 21-24 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/ Lk 2:41-52

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS 2014-2015

Donna Badon
Maria Bertrand
Jamie Bourg
Chris Buckle, Chairman
Deacon Sammy Collura
Stacy Gauthreaux
Jules Lefeaux
Mark Loreno
Fr. Matt Lorrain
Jason Murphey
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Toni Tolar, Vice-Chairman
John Windham



4th Sunday of Advent

"Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste." What was the rush? Why did Mary go so quickly to visit her cousins Elizabeth and Zechariah? It's hard to know exactly what her purpose was, but one thing is clear: Mary and Elizabeth shared a special connection. Perhaps Mary was anxious to be in the company of someone who could understand her unusual situation.

At this point, Mary was newly pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit. The verses preceding today's reading tell us about the appearance of the Angel Gabriel and Mary's willingness to become the mother of the Messiah. Now, this child was already growing within her womb, but the whole thing was an incredible secret. Who would believe her? In whom could Mary confide the unbelievable events that had taken place? We know that at some point later, Joseph had a vision in a dream that allowed him to understand. But before that dream came, he was planning to part ways with Mary. It must have been during that difficult time that Mary went to see Elizabeth. And what joy that upon her arrival, Elizabeth immediately understood. "Blessed is the fruit of your womb," Elizabeth cried out. The same Holy Spirit who conceived Jesus in Mary's womb enlightened Elizabeth at this moment. What a consolation this must have been to Mary.

This story reminds us of the importance of our own fellowship in the faith. Sharing our spiritual journey with other believers who are receptive to the Holy Spirit is meant to be a source of encouragement and strength. We are not supposed to be in this alone. As we worship and celebrate together with our faith community, may we share with each other the real joy of this sacred season.