



ST. JOHN *The* BAPTIST

• catholic church •

*December 27, 2015
Feast of the Holy Family
Vol. 47, No. 52
January 3, 2016
The Epiphany of the Lord
Vol. 48, No. 1*



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

Not finding [Jesus], they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. - Lk 2:45-47

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. - Mt 2:10-11

Dear Parishioners,

This is a two-week bulletin due to the holiday schedule so you may wish to hold on to it. 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. We will not have our regular Benediction or Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Friday morning, January 1.

I plan to take a few days of vacation this week from December 28 – 30, so we will have Communion Services in place of the weekday Masses on Tuesday and Wednesday. In addition, we will not have an 8:00 a.m. Mass on Thursday, December 31, since we are celebrating the 4:30 p.m. Vigil Mass for *Mary, Mother of God* later that day. Although I am not attending the Texas Bowl in person on December 29, I will be praying for our L.S.U. Tigers to defeat Texas Tech.

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 and K.C.'s. Adoration begins at 8:00 p.m. on the evening of Friday, January 1, and concludes with 8:00 a.m. Mass on Saturday, January 2, 2016. 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 10, in preparation for celebrating their Confirmation at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 20. 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.

The priests of the Baton Rouge Diocese have their annual Spring Formation Days January 11-15, 2016, so I

will be away from the parish that whole week. Our presenter this year is Gerard Mannion, professor of Catholic Studies at Georgetown University. Professor Mannion is a native of Ireland, educated at Cambridge and Oxford Universities, and specializes in an area of theology known as ecclesiology, or the study of the Church.

Since the Study Days are mandatory for all priests, we will not be able to have daily Mass on Tuesday – Friday of that week. The priests who I sometimes call to celebrate Mass in my absence will also be attending the study days, so we will have Communion Services in place of the Masses on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of that week. Bishop Muench has also published a letter in the *Catholic Commentator* asking that funerals be scheduled after the study days are over if possible, or that one of our deacons celebrate the funeral without a Mass.

Have a blessed and happy New Year!

In Christ,
Father Matt

Christian Formation Update

No Christian Formation Classes Monday, Dec. 21st;
Tuesday, Dec. 22nd and Monday, Dec. 28th;
Tuesday, Dec. 29th due to Christmas &
New Years Holidays.

There will be a Sacramental Preparation Session
for all second graders on Monday, Jan. 4th or
Tuesday, Jan. 5th at their regularly scheduled
class times.

Students in Catholic Schools will choose to come
on one of these days.



MASS SCHEDULE

Vigil—Thursday, Dec. 31 (4:30 pm)
New Years Day—Friday, Jan. 1 (9:00 am)

THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE
CLOSED ON THURSDAY, DEC. 31st
and FRIDAY, JAN. 1st



**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.

ALTAR SOCIETY

Thanks to Carolyn Bourgeois for organizing the schedule for the month of December and getting people together to do a general cleaning before Christmas. WE STILL NEED A VOLUNTEER FOR THAT MONTH!

Cleaning for January will be done by Josie Delaune (543-5907) and her group. Give her a call if you want to help.

BEREAVEMENT COMMITTEE

Thanks to Janice & Joel Hebert for chairing the committee during the month of December. Chairman for January will be Ruth Landry (749-3101). Give her a call with any concerns.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Sunday, January 3

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

DECEMBER CALENDAR WINNERS

James Lachapelle, Jaye Guerin, Scott & Heather Martinez, Roy T. Mouch, Craig Landry, Heather Guthrie, Randy G. Gay, Ricky Oliphant, Marina Bourgeois, Shirley Rivet, Henry J. Daigle, III, Clark Rodrigue, Gary Russell, John Aillet, Tommy & Janell Whittington, Veronica Landry, Marcus Bass, Brooke Becho, Lou Didier, Lillian Lamothe, Jeffrey Rivet, Jon & Debra Bordelon, Troy Blanchard, Morgan Robnett, Ashley Cavalier, Michael Wall, Laurie Percele, Dillon Stelly, Alan Langlois, Mark Dugas, Craig Aucoin.

STEWARDSHIP OF FINANCES

December 13, 2015

206 Identified- - - - - \$6,927.00

Loose Collection- - - - - 657.46

TOTAL- - - - - \$7,584.46

Retirement Fund for Religious—\$2,982.00

*Pray for
Vocations*



A VOCATION VIEW

By Baptism we are God's holy family today. Pray for the grace to live faithfully your vocation as a single, married, ordained or consecrated person.

The glory of the Lord is revealed to us every day by the ministry of our priests, religious sisters and brothers. Would you consider helping other people to walk in the light of the Lord?

If God is calling you, call or email Fr. Matt Dupre' at 225.336.8778, mdupre@diobr.org.



**THE SANCTUARY CANDLE IS NOW
BURNING IN MEMORY OF
LORETTA GLOD.**

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS DONATIONS
PLEASE NOTE**

**Any donations for Christmas Flowers received
after January 1st will not be published
in the bulletin.**

Readings for the Week of December 27, 2015

- Sunday: 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28 or Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52
- Monday: 1 Jn 1:5--2:2/Ps 124:2-5, 7-8/Mt 2:13-18
- Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-3, 5-6/Lk 2:22-35
- Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-10/Lk 2:36-40
- Thursday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-13/Jn 1:1-18
- Friday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
- Saturday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1-4/Jn 1:19-28
- Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Readings for the Week of January 3, 2016

- Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12
- Monday: 1 Jn 3:22--4:6/Ps 2:7-8, 10-12/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
- Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44
- Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/Mk 6:45-52
- Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19--5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14-15, 17/Lk 4:14-22a
- Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-15, 19-20/Lk 5:12-16
- Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-6, 9/Jn 3:22-30
- Next Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11 or Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 104:1b-4, 24-25, 27-30/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7 or Acts 10:34-38/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22



Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

"He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them." We might be tempted to think that Jesus more or less raised himself. As the Son of God, it might appear on first glance that earthly parents would be a mere formality for this particular child. But it wasn't so. Mary and Joseph had real influence, and real authority, over their son.

Although Jesus apparently understood from a tender age how he related to God ("Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"), he also knew that he owed appropriate respect to his parents. This is why he stayed in their home in Nazareth and was obedient to them. And because of this obedience, clearly Mary and Joseph must have been deeply influential in his life. Their direction, their teachings, their example, and their rules would all have shaped Jesus in his humanity. It was thanks in no small part to the matriarch and patriarch of the Holy Family that Jesus "advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man."

We should be advancing in these ways too! And those of us who are parents are likewise called to direct and guide our children to develop as Jesus did, not only forming our sons and daughters to succeed in the eyes of men, but also leading them on the path of "favor before God." The Holy Family serves as a beautiful model for us in this regard. They help us learn how to submit our lives to the loving leadership of our heavenly Father. But more than this, Mary and Joseph also serve as intercessors who, like any faithful family member or friend, want to pray with us and for us. Let us turn, then, to the intercession of the Holy Family asking that our families may be holy too.

Epiphany of the Lord

"We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." These Magi did not know the person they were seeking to honor. They had not met Jesus, but had embarked upon a long and arduous journey in order to come into his presence. Although they were not from among the Jewish people who had received the ancient promises of a Messiah, they were nonetheless anticipating his arrival. And when they found him, "they were overjoyed." Their quest had come to its moment of fulfillment when "they saw the child with Mary his mother."

For those of us who have been raised Christian since our infancy, it's important to reflect on the joy of the Magi. They found Christ as a result of great effort and expense. The very trials of their journey, and the hope that was fulfilled when it was successful, made them appreciate their encounter with Jesus in a profound way as "they prostrated themselves... and offered him gifts." Converts to the faith may have a kind of advantage in comprehending the experience of the Magi. But cradle Catholics may need to exert a bit more effort to share in the wonder. Even when Jesus has always been a part of someone's life, it is still important to stand in awe of him. On the feast of the Epiphany of the Lord, we meditate on what it means to "find" Jesus. For some of us, this means remembering a conversion experience, but for others it means imagining what life would be like without him, and then rejoicing in the fact that he is truly with us. No matter how we found the Lord, we too should fall down on our knees in adoration and offer him the precious treasures of our lives: our fervent devotion and our will to serve him.