

*December 6 2015  
Second Sunday of Advent  
Vol. 47, No. 49*



# 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](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.  
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

"Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God." - Lk 3:5-6

Dear Parishioners,

The Advent Season is distinguished from Ordinary Time by virtue of its music, décor, readings, and prayers. The vestments are purple rather than green as in the preceding season, and the familiar notes of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" often accompany the entrance procession. And then there is the beautiful advent wreath with its four candles marking our progression through each of the four Sundays.

Here in our parish as in many other parishes we also celebrate Mass using pewter or silver chalices and patens instead of the more elegant gold vessels. We noticed last year that our pewter chalices had become rather misshapen from use so we recently purchased two new ones made of a more durable metal to use during Advent and Lent. They were not very expensive and we were able to cover the cost with our regular offertory income.

The annual appeal for the Retirement Fund for Religious is next weekend, December 12 & 13. This is our chance to help provide for our consecrated religious who have given so much to the Church over the years. Since this is also the weekend for our monthly Building Fund collection, I ask that you place your contributions in envelopes marked "Religious Retirement" and then drop them in the first collection.

We can transform our lives and our community this Advent by each making a commitment to go to confession before Christmas. We already have a loving parish family but think of how much better we would be if everyone regularly sought the forgiveness of Christ in the sacrament of confession. Holy Family Church in Port Allen has its penance service this Thursday, December 10, at 6:30 p.m. We will have our penance service here at **St. John the Baptist** the following week on **Tuesday, December 15, at 7:00 p.m.** We also have our regular Saturday afternoon confessions from 3:30 – 4:15 p.m. every week.

This Tuesday, December 8, is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and a holy day of obligation. Our Masses on the feast day will be at 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. The students in our Tuesday night religion classes will attend the 6:00 p.m. Mass that evening

instead of class. December 8 is also the beginning of the "Jubilee Year of Mercy" as announced by Pope Francis. A *Jubilee Year* or *Holy Year* is a special time for people of faith to grow in holiness through pilgrimage and other religious observances.

Remember to mark your calendars for our *Advent/Christmas Concert* to be held on Thursday, December 17, at 7:00 p.m. in the church. Admission is free but you are invited to bring a canned good for our food bank. This is a small but simple way of observing the "Year of Mercy" by helping to feed the hungry. A Christmas Cookie reception will follow in the Parish Activity Center.

In Christ,  
Father Matt




### **GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE**

***No Shopping or Wrapping Required!!***

The Our Lady of the Lake Blood Donor Team will be here at St. John's on **December 13th from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** Please donate blood at the drive. No appointment necessary. Please eat before donating. All donors receive a free t-shirt or a cholesterol test. Blood collected at this time of the year is critical to maintaining an adequate supply to meet patient blood needs at the more than 20 healthcare facilities across south Louisiana that rely on OLOL for their patient blood supply. Touch the life of a patient in need by donating blood at the Blood Drive.

—David Gremillion

NATIVITY CAROL  
~an evening of Advent and Christmas song~  
December 17, 2015  
7:00PM  
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH  
BRUSLY, LOUISIANA



Canned good donations to benefit the  
Food Bank are welcome!  
A Christmas Cookie reception to follow in the Activity Center.

# Baptisms

The following children were baptized here last weekend: Easton James Babin, son of Hunter Impson & Kaitlyn Babin; Audrey May Lacy, daughter of John & Samantha Lacy; Nereyda A. & Louis G. Jimenez, children of Mardonio & Mona Martinez Jimenez; Jesus Hernandez, son of Rosa M. Hernandez; and Bryan Israel Moreno, son of Transito & Gariella Martinez Moreno. Congratulations and welcome into our faith community!

**PRAYERS & SYMPATHY ARE EXTENDED TO THE FAMILY OF KARL HEBERT UPON HIS RECENT DEATH.**

## Advent Penance Services

PREPARE



Thurs., Dec. 10 (6:30 pm)	Holy Family, Port Allen
Thurs., Dec. 10 (6:00 pm)	Immaculate Conception, Lakeland
Tues., Dec. 15 (7:00 pm)	St. John the Baptist, Brusly
Wed., Dec. 16 (6:00 pm)	St. Ann, Morganza

**LIVING FAITH BOOKLETS FOR JANUARY, FEBRUARY & MARCH ARE IN PICK UP YOUR COPY AT THE PARISH OFFICE.**

### RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Support elderly religious. A Catholic school graduate writes, "As a Catholic school student from grades K-12, I was formed to be the person I am by many religious brothers and sisters, and I am forever grateful." Show your appreciation for the senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who made a positive difference in so many lives. Please give generously to next week's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious.

### STEWADSHIP OF FINANCES

**Sunday, November 22, 2015**

201 Identified- - - - \$8,479.00  
 Loose Collection- - - - 810.00  
 TOTAL- - - - \$9,289.00  
 Campaign for Human Development -\$746.00

**Sunday, November 30, 2015**

201 Identified- - - - -\$6,284.00  
 Loose Collection- - - - 1,002.00  
 TOTAL- - - -\$7,286.00  
 Thanksgiving—\$960.00

# Pray for Vocations



### A VOCATION VIEW

Are you seeking "knowledge and full insight to help you determine" your vocation in Christ as a priest? If God is calling you, call or email Fr. Matt Dupre' at 225.336.8778, mdupre@diobr.org, or visit, [www.diobr.org/vocations](http://www.diobr.org/vocations).



### ROSARYVILLE RETREAT

Men's Emmaus Retreat  
 January 29—31, 2016

Put aside the "hustle and bustle" of daily life and attend the upcoming Emmaus retreat which will be held at Rosaryville Spirit Life Center in Ponchatoula, LA, Based on the scripture passage "The Road to Emmaus" (Lk 24:13-35). To register or for more info call Norm Madere at (504) 481-0411.



### FRENCH TOURS AVAILATE AT WEST BATON ROUGE MUSEUM

Walk-in and scheduled tours of the W.B.R. Museum's six acre campus are now available in FRENCH! The museum has bilingual tour guides available most days of the week and is pleased to announce the addition of a printed French tour booklet. This French tour covers the permanently installed exhibitions on the ground of the museum.

The museum is a regional history museum about south Louisiana's 18th through 20th century cultural heritage. It is on the Louisiana State African American Heritage Trail with guided tours that describe sugar plantation life from the antebellum period through the Civil Rights Era.

For more info call (225) 336-2422, ext. 15.

### Readings for the Week of December 6, 2015

Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-6/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/  
 Lk3:1-6  
 Monday: Is 35:1-10/ Ps 85:9-14/Lk 5:17-26  
 Tuesday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1-4/  
 Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38  
 Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10/  
 Mt 11:28-30  
 Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1, 9-13/Mt 11:11-15  
 Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-4, 6/Mt 11:16-19  
 Saturday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a,  
 10ab/Jdt 13:18-19/Lk 1:26-38 or  
 Lk 1:39-47  
 Next Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-6/Phil 4:4-7/  
 Lk 3:10-18

**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  
Andrea Smicker  
Toni Tolar, Vice-Chairman  
John Windham



**Our Lady of Guadalupe**

"Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." Elizabeth uttered these words to Mary in recognition of her great faith. Indeed, what profound faith it must have taken for Mary to believe the words of the Angel Gabriel! The miracle that took place in Mary's body when the Christ was conceived in her would have been easy enough to believe once the pregnancy was starting to show. But before that concrete "evidence" was present, what a tremendous thing it was to be asked to accept. That Mary could conceive in her womb through the power of the Holy Spirit--outside of all human and scientific explanation--only a person of extraordinary faith could accept such a thing.

Perhaps this is why Mary chose to speak to St. Juan Diego. He too was a person of extraordinary faith. Like her, he was asked to accept something that defied human and scientific explanation when he listened to this lady from heaven up on the hill of Tepeyac. And like Mary, this simple peasant man chose to believe. He didn't dismiss his vision as a hallucination or the result of mental illness. Instead, he took Mary at her word and did what she asked him to do, even when other people thought he was delusional or dishonest.

In our day and age, just being Christian often takes an act of extraordinary faith. So many people have become skeptical of anything that can't be proven by science, that accepting Christ's divinity can be a challenge. When we are tempted to question or doubt the truths of faith, may we turn to the powerful intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Juan Diego, models of faith.