



ST. JOHN *The* BAPTIST

• catholic church •

December 7, 2014
Second Sunday of Advent
Vol. 46, No. 49



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
Julie Ginther Cilano Christian Formation
Carolyn Dupuy Bookkeeper
Pat Durbin..... Parish Secretary
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

John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. John was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me." - Mk 1:4, 6-7a

Dear Parishioners,

We have a Parish Blood Drive taking place this weekend on Sunday, December 7. The Advent season is a nice time to give of ourselves in preparation for receiving God's gifts at Christmas, so please donate if you are able. Also, I thank everyone who picked up a tag from the "Giving Tree" and ask you to return your gift to the church or office by next Sunday, December 14.

Msgr. Robert Berggreen celebrates the 50th anniversary of his priestly ordination at a special 2:30 p.m. Mass at St. Mary's in New Roads this Sunday, December 7. Msgr. Berggreen briefly served as pastor here in Brusly from April – December 1980, but is probably best known for the time he spent as pastor of Holy Family Parish in Port Allen for many years, before being transferred to St. Agnes in Baton Rouge, and then to his current assignment of St. Mary's in New Roads. He also served as vocation director during most of the time that I was in the seminary.

Among his brother priests, Msgr. Berggreen is best known for his kindness and his tardiness. Regarding his kindness, he is a priest who will listen attentively and compassionately to anyone in need. He is almost incapable of saying "no" to any request, which is an indication of his very big heart. However, don't expect him to arrive early for a gathering, and be prepared to start a little late. Please say a prayer for Msgr. Berggreen today in thanksgiving for 50 years of service to God and the Church.

The annual appeal for the Retirement Fund for Religious is next weekend, December 13 & 14. 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. St. John Church in Plaquemine and Holy Family Church in Port Allen

both have their penance services this Thursday evening, December 11, (St. John at 6:00 pm and Holy Family at 6:30 pm.) We will have our penance service here at **St. John the Baptist** the following week on **Tuesday, December 16, at 7:00 p.m.** We also have our regular Saturday afternoon confessions from 3:30 – 4:15 p.m. every Saturday.

Please remember that Monday, 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 Blessed Virgin Mary is patroness of the United States of America under the title of the Immaculate Conception.

In Christ,
Father Matt

SJB-180TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

In March of 2015, St. John the Baptist will celebrate the 180th anniversary of our Parish. As part of that event, we will unveil a mural which will serve as a memorial to the founders of our church parish. A rendering of the mural depicting the first Acadian settlers of our parish will be on display in the rear of the church next weekend. This rendering will serve as the model for a mural to be placed in the activity center alcove.

Parishioners will be available after each mass to answer questions and take input. As plans evolve for the 180th celebration parishioners will be informed. Contact Fr. Matt, Lucy Landry, David Landry or Steve Guidry to offer your suggestions.

Christian Formation

⇒ **Grades K—8:** No Class Monday, Dec. 8 or Tuesday, Dec. 9

⇒ **Grade 9 WILL HAVE CLASS** on Tuesday, Dec. 9th.

NEEDED: 9:00 AM CHILDRENS CHURCH CATECHIST (Call Karen at 749-3387)



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA
Sunday, December 14, 2014
8:30 am—12:30 pm (Activity Center)
Tickets on Sale After All Masses this weekend. (\$7.00 each)



Advent Penance Services will be held in our area as follows:

- ⇒ Tuesday, December 9
OLPS, White Castle—7:00 pm
- ⇒ Wednesday, December 10
St. Ann, Morganza—6:00 pm
St. Augustine, New Roads—6:00 pm
- ⇒ Thursday, December 11
Holy Family, Port Allen—6:30 pm
Immaculate Conception, Lakeland—6:00 pm
St. John's, Plaquemine—6:00 pm
- ⇒ Tuesday, December 16
St. John the Baptist, Brusly—7:00 pm

PRAYERS & SYMPATHY are extended to Joe Tircuit & family upon the death of his wife, Laura Mae; to Jackie Morain & family upon the death of her husband, Johnny; to Sunni Robertson & family upon the death of her mother, Brenda Devillier and to Sherrice Bible & Todd Mabile upon the death of their mother Jo Ann Lintzen. Please keep them in your prayers.

Congratulations!

BAPTIZED

Giulia Nicole Barbato, daughter of Michele & Melissa Barbato. Giulia was baptized here last weekend. WELCOME INTO OUR FAITH COMMUNITY!

MARRIED

*Ryan Edwin Robicheaux and Cynthia Kay Booth
BEST WISHES!*

LECTOR WORKBOOKS

The new workbooks are in the Sacristy.

Please pick up your copy.

MASS INTENTIONS BOOK FOR 2015 IS NOW OPEN.

Come to the Office to schedule.

STEWARDSHIP OF FINANCES

November 23, 2014

198 Identified- - - - - \$6,663.00

Loose Collection- - - - - 670.00

TOTAL- - - - - \$7,333.00

Campaign for Human Development- - - - - \$531.00

November 30, 2014

205 Identified- - - - - \$7,751.00

Loose Collection- - - - - 750.55

TOTAL- - - - - \$8,501.55

Thanksgiving Collection—\$923.00
(Designated to the Food Pantry)

A VOCATION VIEW

John the Baptist is sent by God to prepare the way for His Son. In our present time God sends priests and religious especially to prepare the people to receive His Son. If you think God is calling you to a Church vocation call or email Father Matt Dupre' at 225.336.8778, mdupre@diobr.org, or visit www.diobr.org/vocations.



THE ADVENT GIVING TREE IS NOW IN THE BACK OF CHURCH. PLEASE TAKE ONLY ONE TAG PER FAMILY. THE GIFTS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY THE WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 13 & 14th

THANKS!

The Bereavement Committee would like to thank the families and friends of Bob Blanchard, Allen David, Johnny Morain and L.J. Berthelot for their recent donations.

DIOCESAN RESPECT LIFE RALLY

The annual Diocesan Respect Life Rally will be held on January 11, 2015 (2-4 pm) in the Main Auditorium of the Bishop Tracy Center. Bobby Schindler, brother of the late Terri Schiavo, will share the powerful, firsthand account of Terri's story and the effect the case has had across America. Catholic Charities will also share information on Project Rachel, a confidential ministry offering hope and healing to women and men hurting from past abortions. The K.C. Honor Guard will lead a Living Rosary for Life. Bible crafts and activities will be available for children 7 years and younger during the keynote speech. Contact Danielle Van Haute at the Marriage and Family Life Office 225-242-0164 or dvanhaute@diobr.org for more information.

Readings for the Week of December 7, 2014

Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

Monday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/

Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Mt 11:28-30

Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Mt 11:11-15

Friday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a,
10ab/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Next Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/1 Thes 5:16-24/

Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS 2014-2015

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



2nd Sunday of Advent

"One mightier than I is coming after me." In today's Gospel, John the Baptist speaks about what's to come. It's going to be different. It's going to be better. When he comes --the Messiah--something amazing is going to happen. "I have baptized you with water," John says, but "he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." With the coming of Christ, we move from water to Spirit--in other words, from the natural to the supernatural. Jesus takes our lives to a new level. But we have to be ready to join in on this spiritual journey. That's why John went around baptizing people for the repentance of their sins. He wanted to be sure their spirits were open to the Spirit. He wanted to help them be ready when the time came.

During Advent, we take a similar approach. We focus on what lies ahead: the coming of Christ. Of course he already came at the first Christmas when he was born of the Virgin Mary. Certainly, part of this season involves preparing for Christmas when we remember this original "advent" of the Lord. But another important element of these days is to make ourselves ready for the second coming of Christ. This is the moment for which we must always be ready.

But, we have an advantage that John's followers did not have. We already have the Spirit of the Lord in our hearts as baptized Christians. Now, the Lord himself is at work in our souls to prepare us for his return. The question is only how cooperative we are going to be in the process. How attentive will we be to the promptings of this Holy Spirit which are often as quiet as a whisper? Let's be sure, during the busy pre-holiday bustle, to set aside enough quiet time that we can properly "prepare the way of the Lord" by listening to his voice.