

February 22, 2015
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Vol. 47, No. 8



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
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

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." - Mk 1:14-15

Dear Parishioners,

As a way of entering fully into this holy season of Lent, our Catholic Church tradition has long recommended the three practices of *Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving*. These observances are similar to the three legs of a stool which work together to support a person's weight.

Prayer is a year-round practice for Catholics but that does not mean that we cannot enhance or deepen this aspect of our faith. Daily Mass and the Stations of the Cross are two especially treasured prayer opportunities that many people embrace during Lent. Starting this week, we are moving our Wednesday Mass to 6:00 p.m. so that some of you can attend after school or work. The Wednesday evening Mass will be followed by the Stations of the Cross at 6:30 p.m.. Other parishes have an evening Mass on Tuesdays or Fridays so look around for one that best fits your schedule.

Fasting is intended to help us to grow in self-discipline and holiness. It is very easy to become too attached to material possessions and use them as substitutes for genuine interaction with family, friends, and God. I fast from those foods or activities which have become unhealthy or taken on too much importance. It may be alcohol, television, the computer, fast food, or whatever. Abstaining helps me to focus on other forms of food, drink, or entertainment which are more nourishing to my soul.

Almsgiving includes activities such as the Lenten *Rice Bowl* where we set aside money that would normally have been spent at a restaurant or movie theater, and instead donate it to Catholic Relief Services. We give of our financial resources to alleviate the suffering of those who are poor or homeless or unemployed. Any of us can struggle financially from time to time, but most of us have to admit that we are rich compared to many people around us. We show our love for God by concrete acts of kindness and compassion for those who suffer daily.

As I mentioned last week, our four-night Parish Mission is set for Sunday – Wednesday, March 22-25, and will be led by Father Blaise Czaja, CP, (pronounced

Chai-ah). The theme for this year's Lenten Mission is "*On the Way to Jesus Christ*." Sunday night's talk will center on *Grace*; Monday night's session will focus on *Repentance* and will include an opportunity for confession; Tuesday night's theme is *Eucharist*; and Wednesday night's talk is entitled *God's Family*. Father Czaja will also celebrate an 8:00 a.m. morning Mass on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday mornings for the benefit of those who cannot attend the evening presentations. His morning talks will take the form of a twenty minute homily at each of the 8:00 a.m. Masses.

As part of this year's "*The Light is On for You*" program, I will be available for confession every Wednesday evening from 5:30 – 5:50 p.m. just prior to the 6:00 p.m. Mass, and then for a whole hour from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. (during the Way of the Cross). As mentioned above, we will also have a communal penance service on Monday, March 23, the second night of our Parish Mission. Our retreat director, Father Blaise, will also make himself available for confession at other times by request.

In Christ,
Father Matt

Jesus is
truly
human

Christian Formation

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

CHILDREN'S CHURCH CATECHIST

9:00 am Mass (once every 2 months)

SOCIAL EVENTS COORDINATOR

The committee is already formed, we just need an organizer (someone to contact the volunteers).

The Baton Rouge Diocese is hosting the Catholic Sexual Morality course here in our parish. The class dates are March 5, 12, 19 and 26 (6—9 pm). Registration is being done through the diocese, but you do need information from your profile file here in order to sign up. Call Karen at 749-3387 for more information.



LENTEN WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Tuesday, Thursday & Friday—8:00 am

Wednesdays—6:00 pm

WAY OF THE CROSS—Wednesdays—6:30 pm

ADORATION—Fridays after 8:00 am Mass



ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES

We have contracted Guide Book Publishing to publish a Guide Book & Directory for our congregation that will be updated and delivered directly to your homes annually. This book will be the Who, What, Where, When, Why and How of our church. The book is being provided at no cost to our Church. Local businesses are being solicited to advertise in the book. If you own or manage a business and would like to find out about advertising in our book, please call the church office at 749-2189.

UPDATE MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

- ⇒ Does our Church Census Program have YOUR family membership record correct?
- ⇒ Here is your chance to update YOUR record for our annual Guide Book & Directory (if you haven't already done so).
- ⇒ It is time for us to update our Census Program with any changes, additions, or deletions that may have occurred in YOUR family over the past few years.
- ⇒ Have you changed your phone number? Have you moved? Are you preparing to move soon? Are all of your children still at home and are they all included in your membership record? Do you want your record published?

If you have not already informed the Church Office about changes to your record, please let us know now so that the information in the Guide book & Directory is

RICE BOWL

"Life & Dignity of the Human Persons"

In Tanzania, over 70% of farmers work plots smaller than 3 acres. CRS teaches 11,250 of their independent soybean farmers about crop spacing and fertilizers and connects them with marketing groups to increase their income. In Baton Rouge, Catholic Charities' domestic and international adoption services have been placing children from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds in loving homes for almost 50 years. 25% of your Rice Bowl contribution stays local to fund Diocesan services like these. This week, give to Rice Bowl and pray for those who enhance the life and dignity of the human person.

A VOCATION VIEW

In today's Gospel, people have difficulty believing that Jesus can forgive sins. Through the sacrament of reconciliation we have a powerful sign of God's mercy, understanding, and forgiveness for those who are sorry for the sinfulness of their lives. A priest becomes God's minister to visibly assure those seeking forgiveness that God's mercy is theirs. If you think God is calling you to a Church vocation, call or email Father Matt Dupre' at 225.336.8778, mdupre@diobr.org.



The Sanctuary Candle is now burning in loving memory of Darryl Cheek

K.C. CALENDAR WINNERS—JANUARY

Mildred St. Germain, Andrea Dabadie, Brandon Wille, Ralph & Dawn Rivet, Paul Levert, Zae Lemoine, Kristi Parnell, Keith Morris, Ashley Cavalier, Heidi Ray, Brett St. Germain, Tim & Jennifer Piendel, Carter Breaux, Charles O'Donnell, Nicole Jaubert, Jada Diamond, Ronald Ocmand, Tommy Landry, Christy Altazan, Newton Raffray, Anthony Falcon, Ashton Greenblatt, Ruth Clement, Jory Comeaux, Charles Jarreau, Jessie Richard, Stephanie Hebert, Patty Marks, Steve & Katie Landry, Veronica Landry, Vincent Bianca

St. John the Baptist to Celebrate 180th Anniversary

Thursday, March 19, 2015 (6:30—8:30 pm)

The 180th Anniversary includes a skit performed by parish children, a meal, and the unveiling of the painting honoring the first Acadian settlers. Remember to call in your registration for this event by Monday, March 16th.

A Glimpse of St. John the Baptist History

Jean Baptiste Hebert and his first wife, Marine, married in 1785. Jean Baptiste had arrived at the Baton Rouge District of Louisiana c.1779. Coming from Baltimore, he met his brothers, Belony and Charles, and his sister, Marie. Jean Baptiste acquired land southeast of what is today St. Francis Street, and that is where he established a sugar plantation. There, in his two story home, some of the first Masses for the Acadians were celebrated. It was from this land that Jean Baptiste eventually donated land for a cemetery and a primitive chapel. At that time, St. Francis Street was known as "cart road", as it was used for cart transportation between several families—cart road, though privately owned, was a shared road. We will hear more Jean Baptiste in the skit, "We Remember" on March 19th.

Readings for the Week of February 22, 2015

Sunday:	Gn 9:8-15/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15
Monday:	Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Mt 25:31-46
Tuesday:	Is 55:10-11/Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday:	Jon 3:1-10/Lk 11:29-32
Thursday:	Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Mt 7:7-12
Friday:	Ez 18:21-28/Mt 5:20-26
Saturday:	Dt 26:16-19/Mt 5:43-48
Next Sunday:	Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/ Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10

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



1st Sunday of Lent

"And he remained in the desert for forty days." Lent is meant to be like our journey into the desert. Just as Jesus spent these days fighting with temptation and ultimately building up his spiritual strength, we too are called to spend the next forty days doing battle with the things that tempt us. We are invited during this holy season to grow in self-discipline by giving something up for Lent. The long-standing Christian practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are also important elements of this spiritual battle. When we pray, we open ourselves to the Holy Spirit, thereby squeezing out any spirit of selfishness or evil that threatens to control our hearts. When we fast, we exercise the virtue of temperance, or self-control. This virtue is of tremendous value when we are tempted to indulge our bodily senses in ways that are not healthy or holy. And almsgiving--when it is truly generous--also strengthens us spiritually by shifting our gaze to the needs of others, even to the point of making a personal sacrifice.

Today's Gospel tells us that Jesus "was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him." What a contrast! The brutal, vicious, bloodthirsty beasts and the pristine, heavenly angels were both there at the same time: each with radically different intentions. And so it is with us. Our reality is also marked by the contrast between the brutality and vice of sin and the grace and goodness of faith. During Lent, we acknowledge the battle between good and evil within our own souls and do what we can to stir up a victory for goodness. This season of purification can help each of us to become a better, holier, and therefore happier person. May we make good use of this, our journey into the desert.