



*February 8, 2015
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Vol. 47, No. 6*

ST. JOHN *The* BAPTIST

• catholic church •



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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

He told them, "Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come." So he went into their synagogues, preaching and driving out demons throughout the whole of Galilee.

-Mk 1:38-39

Dear Parishioners,

You have hopefully noticed how well our Sunday collections have been doing since our Increased Offertory Campaign last fall. Our income for the first six months of the fiscal year, July – December 2014, including Sunday collections, sacramental offerings, religious education fees, and other earnings, totaled \$370,807. This represents an increase of \$50,000 over the same period last year. Our Building Fund collections and donations for the same period totaled an additional \$89,512 which allowed us to contribute \$12,785 more than scheduled to debt reduction over the same six months. Thank you very, very much for your generous and sacrificial support of our parish.

Our expenses for the same six month period (excluding loan payments) totaled \$322,010 which is about \$1,800 less than budgeted. So we are in very good shape as we approach the second half of this current fiscal year. As I mentioned in last week's bulletin, the net income from this year's *Feast on the Levee* was \$61,800. I decided to apply two thirds or \$41,200 toward the repayment of our loan, and deposit the remaining one third or \$20,600 into our Building Fund savings account for future needs. Our debt now stands at about \$650,000.

I will be in New Orleans on Wednesday and Thursday of this week attending Alumni Day at Notre Dame Seminary. I usually try to attend Alumni Day each year to enjoy some priestly fraternity, visit with our seminarians, and support the good work of the seminary. Father Matthew Bonk, CSSR, will celebrate the 8:00 a.m. Masses on both Wednesday and Thursday of this week while I am away.

Lent is just one week away and so please take note of our Mass and confession schedule for Lent. I would like to try something different this year by celebrating an evening Mass and Way of the Cross on **Wednesday evenings** instead of Fridays during Lent. So daily Mass would remain at the normal time of 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, but move to 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday. This would allow our regular practice of Benediction and Adoration to remain at 8:30 a.m. on Friday mornings or immediately following the Friday morning Mass.

On the Wednesdays of Lent, everything will move to the evening beginning with confessions at 5:30 p.m., followed by Mass at 6:00 p.m. and then the Way of the Cross at 6:30 p.m. led by Deacon Sammy. I will be available for confessions in the confessional from 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. each Wednesday as part of the "Light is On for You" program. I encourage everyone to try to attend at least one daily Mass each week as part of your Lenten devotions.

Our Masses on Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2015, will be at 8:00 a.m., 12:00 noon, and 6:00 p.m. Please remember also to mark your calendars for this year's Lenten Mission to be held on four consecutive evenings, March 22 – 25, beginning at 7:00 p.m. each night. Our Mission is being led this year by Father Blaise Czaja, CP, who will introduce the Mission by preaching at all of the weekend Masses on the Fifth Sunday of Lent.

In Christ,
Father Matt



MARDI GRAS HOLIDAYS

The Parish Office will be closed for Mardi Gras on Monday, & Tuesday, February 16th & 17th.



ASH WEDNESDAY—February 18, 2015

Masses with Ashes
8:00 am; 12:00 noon; 6:00 pm

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



We will be working on the Baptismal Font on Monday & Tuesday February 9th & 10th.

This will create some inconvenience because of dust and some activity in the church except during Mass.

Christian Formation

10th GRADE RETREAT

Sunday, February 8th—Beginning with 11:00 am Mass until 5:00 pm. Lunch will be provided.

**NO CHRISTIAN FORMATION CLASSES
MONDAY & TUESDAY
February 16th & 17th
MARDI GRAS HOLIDAYS**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: CHILDREN'S CHURCH CATECHIST 9:00 am Mass (once every 2 months)

Volunteer to work with 4 students (various ages, but all junior high) that need to be caught up on their sacraments. Meetings will take place in six 1-hour sessions, so that they can receive the sacraments needed during our Easter celebrations. Material needed for this program will be provided by the Christian Formation office. Please call Karen Lemoine at 749-3387 for further information.

SOCIAL EVENTS COORDINATOR

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



Christian Formation students will be given Rice Bowls this week to be filled this Lent and returned during Holy Week.

Bishop Muench stated in a recent communication, "40 years ago, Catholics in the United States wanted to respond to famine in Africa during Lent. Could we feed the hungry through Lenten prayers, fasting and almsgiving? The answer was yes—and it came in the form of a small cardboard box.

Today, CRS Rice Bowl continues to connect Catholics in our diocese with our brothers and sisters in need around the world, while providing resources to bring Lenten spirituality to life for families and parish and school communities.

I encourage all of the parishes and schools in our diocese to use CRS Rice Bowl for Lent 2015..."

STEWARDSHIP OF FINANCES

February 1, 2015

REGULAR:

310 Identified-	-----	\$16,298.00
Loose Collection-	-----	748.00
TOTAL-	-----	\$17,046.00

A VOCATION VIEW

Jesus created much excitement in His day through His preaching, teaching, and healing. Today the Church communicates that same wonder and grace by those active in priesthood, religious life, and lay ministries. If you think God is calling you to a Church vocation, call or email Fr. Matt Dupre' at 225.336.8778, mdupre@diobr.org, or visit, www.diobr.org/vocations.



February 14th



RETURN TO LIFE SERIES

For Divorced & Separated Persons

Sponsored by the Office of Marriage & Family Life
Catholic Diocese of Baton Rouge

Healing for the Separated and Divorced—St. Aloysius is offering a six-part series entitled Return to Life beginning Sunday, February 22 from 2:30 pm—5:00 pm. The program is open to all faith denominations. Cost is \$50. For more information or an application, please call Angela Falgoust at (225) 343-6657, ext. 3031 or email afaulgoust@staloyusiusparish.com. Applications can be found online at <http://church.aloyusius.org/forms/>. The application may be mailed or brought to St. Aloysius Church, 2025 Stuart Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70808, Attn: Angela Falgoust. "Healing by the grace of God and through the grieving process."

*THE SANCTUARY CANDLE
IS BURNING IN MEMORY OF
RIDLEY GUILLOT*

PRAYERS & SYMPATHY

to David Cordell & family upon the death of his mother, Grace M. Cordell and to Brenda Rills & Cathy Prejean upon the death of their father, Lawrence Miller.



Readings for the Week of February 8, 2015

Sunday:	Jb 7:1-4, 6-7/1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23/ Mk 1:29-39
Monday:	Gn 1:1-19/Mk 6:53-56
Tuesday:	Gn 1:20--2:4a/Mk 7:1-13
Wednesday:	Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17/Mk 7:14-23
Thursday:	Gn 2:18-25/Mk 7:24-30
Friday:	Gn 3:1-8/Mk 7:31-37
Saturday:	Gn 3:9-24/Mk 8:1-10
Next Sunday:	Lv 13:1-2, 44-46/1 Cor 10:31--11:1/ Mk 1:40-45

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



5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Then the fever left her and she waited on them."

What a day for this woman! She had been confined to bed, burning with a fever, too sick to move around. Then, her son-in-law showed up with his brother, two friends, and a man with a growing reputation for working miracles. With no ceremony, this man came straight over to her, took her hand and helped her to her feet. There was no time to question Jesus' bold action because in an instant, the woman was healed. Whatever he had done had worked!

We can imagine that the appearance of this group of guests at her house caused Simon's mother-in-law some distress; in her illness, she had been unable to offer them the hospitality so important in that culture. But as soon as the fever disappeared, she regained the freedom to properly welcome her visitors. No longer sick, she was able to serve. And that was exactly what she wanted to do. Without hesitation, she began to use her restored health to care for others. And soon enough, her hospitality was extended to new levels because "the whole town was gathered at the door" to see Jesus in action.

How do we use our health? Do we think of it as a gift from God to be put at the service of others? Or do we think of good health as simply our own right? Today's virtuous woman teaches us about a kind of physical generosity. Recognizing that her health had been given to her as a gift, she in turn offered her strength, her ability to stand and walk and work, as a gift to others. What a beautiful way to understand the human body. Instead of focusing on how our bodies can serve us, may we follow the example of this woman who was so quick to attend to the needs of her family, her friends, and her neighbors.