



*January 1, 2017
Solemnity of Mary,
The Holy Mother of God
Vol. 49, No. 1*

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
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

When Herod had died, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." He rose, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. - Mt 2:19-21

Dear Parishioners,

On this Solemnity of Mary, the holy Mother of God, I would like to share with you the following beautiful reflection by the Trappist monk and writer, Thomas Merton:

"The genuine significance of Catholic devotion to Mary is to be seen in the light of the Incarnation itself. The Church cannot separate the Son and the Mother. Because the Church conceives of the Incarnation as God's descent into flesh and into time, and His great gift of Himself to His creatures, she also believes that the one who was closest to Him in this great mystery was the one who participated most perfectly in the gift..."

"Mary, who was empty of all egotism, free from all sin, was as pure as the glass of a very clean window that has no other function than to admit the light of the sun. If we rejoice in that light, we implicitly praise the cleanness of the window. And of course it might be argued that in such a case we might well forget the window altogether. This is true. And yet the Son of God, in emptying Himself of His majestic power, having become a child, abandoning Himself in complete dependence to the loving care of a human Mother, in a certain sense draws our attention once again to her. The Light has wished to remind us of the window, because He is grateful to her and because He has an infinitely tender and personal love for her."

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 6, and concludes with 8:00 a.m. Mass on Saturday, January 7, 2017. 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" next Sunday, January 8, in preparation for celebrating their Confirmation at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 26. In a similar manner, our 2nd Graders will have a short retreat on Saturday, January 14, in preparation for celebrating their First Reconcilia-

tion at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 18. Please pray for all of our 2nd graders, 11th graders, and their families.

The priests of the Baton Rouge Diocese have their annual Spring Formation Days January 9-13, 2017, so I will be away from the parish that whole week. Our theme this year is "The Priest at Prayer," and a host of speakers will offer presentations on different styles of prayer. The presenters include Fr. Whitney Miller from the Diocese of Lake Charles, Fr. Len Kraus, SJ, from Manresa Retreat House, Sr. Tracey Dugas, FSP, from New Orleans, Fr. Ephrem Arcement, OSB, from St. Joseph Abbey, and Mr. Steven Binz, a Catholic biblical scholar from Baton Rouge.

Since the Study Days are mandatory for all priests, we will not be able to have daily Mass on Tuesday – Friday of that week. We will have Communion Services in place of the Masses on those days. 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

THERE WILL BE A SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION SESSION FOR ALL SECOND GRADERS ON MONDAY, JANUARY 9th or TUESDAY, JANUARY 10th AT THEIR REGULARLY SCHEDULED CLASS TIMES.

STUDENTS IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WILL CHOOSE TO COME ON ONE OF THESE DAYS.

FIRST RECONCILIATION RETREAT FOR ALL SECOND GRADERS AND THEIR PARENTS WILL BE ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 14th FROM 9a.m.—12pm IN THE ACTIVITY CENTER



Organizations

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

This Sunday, January 1, 2016

- ⇒ Monthly Communion Service for K.C. Members & their families at 7:30 am Mass.
- ⇒ **NO COFFEE & DONUTS THIS SUNDAY.**

ALTAR SOCIETY

Thanks to everyone for helping to clean the church during the month of December! Cleaning for January will be Josie Delaune (749-5026) and her group. Give her a call if you can help.

BEREAVEMENT COMMITTEE

Thanks to Janice & Joel Hebert for chairing the committee during the month of December. Chairperson for January will be Ruth Landry (749-3101/939-2007). Please give her a call with any concerns.



Rest in Peace

PRAYERS & SYMPATHY are extended to

Paula Daigle and family upon the death of her mother, Lela Carrier Miller and to Kirk Theriot upon the death of his mother, Verniese Theriot. Please keep them in your prayers.



BAPTISMAL SEMINAR

Wednesday, January 11, 2017

6:00 pm Classroom #5

This class is mandatory for parents wanting to baptize their children. Call the Parish Office to register.

BAPTISM



STEWARDSHIP OF FINANCES

December 18, 2016

REGULAR:

218 Identified- - - - - \$ 9,890.83

Loose Collection- - - - - 597.00

TOTAL- - - - - \$10,487.83



A VOCATION VIEW

“They made known what had been told them about this Child.” If you may be one of those called to make the Christ Child known to others as a priest or consecrated religious, call Fr. Andrew Merrick at 225.336.8778, amerrick@diobr.org.



2017—25th & 50th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Sunday, February 12, 2017 at 3:00 pm

Our Lady of Mercy Church

445 Marquette Ave., Baton Rouge, LA

Bishop Robert W. Muench will celebrate a liturgy honoring couples on their 25th, 50th, and 65th or greater wedding anniversary. The families of the honored couples are also invited to attend the liturgy and reception afterward in the Our Lady of Mercy Parish Activity Center.

PLEASE CALL THE PARISH OFFICE TO REGISTER (749-2189)



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Come visit Jesus Christ our Newborn King in the Most Blessed Sacrament and give God thanks for His great gift to us!!

All night Eucharistic Adoration is Friday, Jan, 6th at 8pm thru Saturday Jan. 7th at 8 am
Sign-up sheets are in the foyer of Church.

For more info,

Contact Julie@749-8260 or Mary@324-5278

Can you play the piano, or any instrument? Can you recite poetry? Give free “concerts” to the forgotten people in nursing homes and assisted living centers.

Readings for the Week of January 1, 2017

Sunday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
Monday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98/Jn 1:19-28
Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:29--3:6/Ps 98/Jn 1:29-34
Wednesday: 1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98/Jn 1:35-42
Thursday: 1 Jn 3:11-21/Ps 100/Jn 1:43-51
Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147/Mk 1:7-11 or
Lk 3:23-28 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38
Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149/Jn 2:1-11
Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/
Mt 2:12

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS 2015-2016

Donna Badon
John Begue
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



MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

"And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart." Supernatural communication was nothing new for Mary. The angel Gabriel had already appeared and spoken to her when she agreed to bear God's Son. Her husband, Joseph also had a kind of divine intervention in the dream where the angel told him to go ahead and marry her. When she was first pregnant, her cousin Elizabeth had been led by the Holy Spirit to know the secret that Mary was "the mother of my Lord" (Lk 1:43). Now, Jesus has just been born and a crew of earthly shepherds appears at her door with a message from heaven: that the Savior has been born. And Mary believed them. She did not doubt their sincerity or the authenticity of their message. She took the words to heart, and meditated upon the meaning of it all.

What might strike us as peculiar in all of this is that God chose to speak to Mary in a variety of ways. This holy and immaculate woman, this Mother of God, did not always receive direct communication from on high. Sometimes, God chose to speak to her through other people. Sometimes, he revealed himself to them in order to reveal himself to her. And God does the same with us.

It's easy to daydream about having our own personal revelation from God, to hear his voice loud and clear, directing, encouraging, and supporting us in our times of need and confusion. But this isn't the standard pattern of God's operation. Mary was tuned in enough to hear God's voice all around her instead of expecting it to always sound the same. We can imitate this same kind of openness by seeking to discover how God may be speaking to us through the voices of others.