



# ST. JOHN *The* BAPTIST

• catholic church •

*January 11, 2015  
The Baptism of the Lord  
Vol. 47, No. 2*



**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  
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

*It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." - Mk 1:9-11*

Dear Parishioners,

This past Thursday, January 8, marked the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans. As most of us learned in school, the decisive battle was fought after a peace treaty had been signed ending the War of 1812. However recent historical research sheds new light on the significance of the battle. Documents uncovered in the National Archives in London reveal that Major Gen. Sir Edward Pakenham had secret orders to disregard any news of peace and capture the city of New Orleans. A victory by the British could well have changed the course of history and refashioned Louisiana as a British colony.

The British force of 11,000 under Pakenham was opposed by an American force of 4,000 under the command of Major Gen. Andrew Jackson. The first battles took place in December of 1814 on Lake Borgne and then on land in and around Villeré plantation located just below the city. The British forces then paused which allowed Jackson time to fortify the American line along a canal stretching from the Mississippi River to the cypress swampland.

The citizens of New Orleans were very fearful of being captured by the British and also worried that Jackson might burn the city in order to prevent it from falling into British hands. Many wives and mothers of the American defenders gathered with the sisters in the Ursuline Convent chapel on the night of January 7 in prayer before the statue of Our Lady of Prompt Succor. On the morning of January 8, Father Dubourg arrived to celebrate Mass in the chapel. Before the Mass had ended, a messenger rushed in and announced an American victory over the British. A Mass of thanksgiving has been celebrated on the anniversary of the battle every year since 1815.

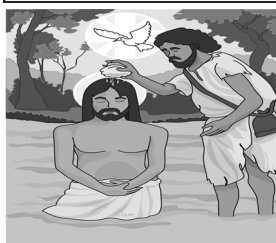
Confirmation candidates are reminded of their final "Day of Reflection" this weekend on Sunday, January 11, in preparation for celebrating their Confirmation at 7:00 p.m. this Thursday, January 15. Bishop Robert Muench always enjoys interacting with youth and I know he will make the celebration of the sacrament a memorable experience for our candidates and their families. Since Confirmation completes the sacraments of initiation, our 11<sup>th</sup> graders will now be qualified

to serve as godparents at baptisms and as sponsors at future confirmations.

I will be away from the parish this week from Sunday afternoon, January 11, through Thursday, January 15, attending the annual Spring Formation Days with all of the priests of the Baton Rouge Diocese. Our theme this year is "Learning to Embrace the Gifts of Priesthood: Getting to Healthy and Happy," and our presenters are Very Rev. James Greenfield, OSFS, a member of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales; and Mr. Jeff Soileau and Ms. Claudia Cormier, RD, both with Healthy Lives and Our Lady of the Lake Medical Center.

Since the Study Days are mandatory for all priests, we will not be able to have daily Mass on Tuesday – Thursday this week. The priests who I sometimes call to celebrate Mass in my absence will also be attending the study days, so we will have Communion Services in place of the Masses on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of this week. 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.

In Christ,  
Father Matt



## Christian Formation

**CLASSES RESUME JANUARY 12th & 13th  
FOR GRADES K—10th**

**PARENT SESSION FOR GRADE 9  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 13th (7:00 pm)  
PARENTS WILL MEET IN CHURCH**

**NO CLASSES 19th & 20th  
FOR GRADES K—10**



*THE SANCTUARY CANDLE IS  
NOW BURNING IN MEMORY  
OF WILSON MABILE & SHIRLEY TALBOT*

***PRAYERS & SYMPATHY** are extended to Wayne Perrault & family upon the death of his brother, Melvin Free, to Walter & Sydney Belle Griffin & family upon the death of their son, Chad Griffin, to Mrs. Hilda Guedry & family upon the death of her husband, Ed Guedry and to Jennifer Catoir and family upon he death of her mother, Agnes Allain. Please keep them in your prayers.*

**THANK YOU!**

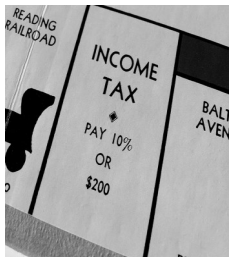
*The Bereavement Committee wishes to thank everyone for the donations in memory of Chad Griffin & Ed Guedry.*

**A BIG THANKS** to SID RICHARDSON for the fabrication and installation of the guard rail in the cemetery.

**2015 - 25th & 50th  
WEDDING ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRATION**



Sunday, February 8, 2015 at 3:00 pm  
Our Lady of Mercy Church  
445 Marquette Ave, Baton Rouge, LA  
**BE SURE TO CALL THE PARISH OFFICE  
(749-2189) THIS WEEK TO REGISTER.**



**IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!**  
**If you need a record of your  
contributions for 2014 call  
Carolyn at the Parish Office  
749-2189.**

**STEWARDSHIP OF FINANCES**

**December 25—Christmas Offering**  
262 Identified- - - - - \$8,328.00  
Loose Collection- - - - - 2,097.00  
TOTAL- - - - - \$10,425.00  
**Diocesan Services—\$1,064.00**

**December 28, 2014**  
202 Identified- - - - - \$6,466.00  
Loose Collection- - - - - 848.00  
TOTAL- - - - - \$7,314.00

**Mary, Mother of God—January 1, 2015**  
117 Identified- - - - - \$3,175.00  
Loose Collection- - - - - 505.00  
TOTAL- - - - - \$3,680.00

**January 4, 2015**  
311 Identified- - - - - \$16,822.00  
Loose Collection- - - - - 605.00  
TOTAL- - - - - \$17,427.00

**A VOCATION VIEW**

Jesus' identity is revealed as "the Son of God" through His baptism in the Jordan. Our identity as "children of God" is revealed through our baptism. Our lives, then, must constantly witness Jesus as Lord. If you think God is calling you to a Church vocation, call or email Fr. Matt Dupre' at 225.336.8778, mdupre@diobr.org.

**BAPTISM**



**BAPTISMAL SEMINAR**  
Wednesday, January 14th  
6:00 pm Classroom #5  
Please call the Parish Office to register.  
This seminar is mandatory for parents before Baptism.

***CONGRATULATIONS!***

**BAPTISMS**

The following children were baptized here recently. We extend our congratulations to them and their families: Paige LoBue, daughter of Louis & Laura LoBue, Mabelleine Whatley, daughter of Sim & Jill Whatley, and Trent, Bryce & Logan David, children of Ryan & Heather David.

**MARRIAGES**

*Timothy & Kharisa Miller Tucker  
Jeremy & Ashley Burger Prejean*

***A Note from Deacon Sammy...***

*"I take this means to personally thank all of you who sent cards and called me after my recent surgery. I am recuperating nicely and look forward to being back in the parish within the next two weeks. The parishioners here at St John the Baptist Parish are like family to me. And, I must admit, I have missed being with and among you. However, the weather has been lousy, and I could not have picked better time to be recuperating. Your concern, thoughts and prayers mean a lot to me and my family. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts. With this, I say, a belated Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. May 2015 be a year of Peace, Love, Happiness Joy and Prosperity, with many blessings from Almighty God! See you soon!!!"*  
**- -Deacon Sammy**

**Readings for the Week of January 11, 2015**

Sunday: Is 55:1-11 or Is 42:1-4, 6-7/1 Jn 5:1-9  
or Acts 10:34-38/Mk 1:7-11  
Monday: Heb 1:1-6/Mk 1:14-20  
Tuesday: Heb 2:5-12/Mk 1:21-28  
Wednesday: Heb 2:14-18/Mk 1:29-39  
Thursday: Heb 3:7-14/Mk 1:40-45  
Friday: Heb 4:1-5, 11/Mk 2:1-12  
Saturday: Heb 4:12-16/Mk 2:13-17  
Next Sunday: 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/  
Jn 1:35-42

**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



**The Baptism of the Lord**

"I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals." That was a lowly job. Removing someone's sandals back in the days when everyone walked everywhere on dusty, sandy desert ground was a dirty task. So when John the Baptist said he wasn't even worthy for that humble duty, he was emphasizing an important point.

John understood Jesus' real identity. He knew that this was not just another good man, not just a wise teacher or a gifted leader. John realized that Jesus was truly God-made-man. And because of this, the prophet also comprehended how perfect Jesus was. In relation to this perfection, John honestly acknowledged his own sinfulness with this analogy about the sandals. But look what happened: even though John proclaimed that "one mightier than I is coming after me," Jesus showed up at the Jordan River and asked John to baptize him! Jesus humbled himself by going through this ritual of cleansing and purification, even though he didn't need to. John may have thought himself unworthy, but that didn't stop Jesus from coming to him.

Jesus wants to come to us too. Not because we have "earned" his love or because we are "worthy" of some great honor, but simply because he loves us. God sent his Son to us to be one of us, to walk among us, to care for us and guide us. When we were baptized, he counted us among his beloved children in a special way, but that joyful bond is not a thing of the past. By our baptism we are always his children, even when we may be disobedient or belligerent ones. His love is not calculated or quantified; it is a free gift. May we appreciate this gift enough to show our gratitude by a life well lived.