

January 15, 2017
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Vol. 49, No. 3



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

John testified further, saying, "I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from heaven and remain upon him. I did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, ' On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain, he is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God." - Jn 1:32-34

Dear Parishioners,

Our second graders celebrate their First Reconciliation this Wednesday, January 18, at 6:00 p.m. Please pray for them and their parents that this might be a special moment of grace for their families. Fathers Joey Angeles, Todd Lloyd, and Amrit Raj will be here to assist with our celebration of this beautiful sacrament.

Our Catholic faith teaches that it is next to impossible to make any real progress in the practice of faith until we discover that our sins can be forgiven. So we try to impart this lesson at the relatively young age of seven, with the understanding that a deeper awareness of this mystery will only come with the passage of time and the benefit of experience. So do not give up if you are still wrestling with the practice of this sacrament in your own life. Its value only gradually becomes apparent after many years of trying to reconcile the presence of both grace and sin in our lives as baptized children of God.

The "Louisiana Life March" will be held next Saturday, January 21, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at Galvez Plaza behind the Old State Capitol. Participants will march to the new State Capitol where there will be speeches and prayers for the sanctity of life. The program usually ends around 12:00 noon. Sunday, January 22, is the 44th anniversary of the *Roe vs. Wade* Supreme Court decision which legalized abortion. Since January 22 falls on a Sunday this year, the observance of the "Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children" for all dioceses in the United States is transferred to Monday, January 23.

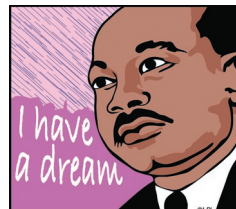
The national "March for Life" will take place in Washington, DC on Friday, January 27, this year. The "March" is a week later than usual due to the Presidential Inauguration on the preceding Friday, January 20. We pray for all of the participants in the March, especially the young people from our parish and diocese, who give powerful witness to the beauty of life and the dignity of each person. We also pray for our new president and all of our elected officials as they begin a new year of governing our country.

Several men from our Diocese have organized a Catholic Men's Conference to be held on Saturday,

February 11, 2017, at Sacred Heart Church in Baton Rouge, beginning at 7:30 a.m. and ending with the 4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass. Speakers include Dr. Brant Pitre from Notre Dame Seminary, Fr. Michael Champagne of the Community of Jesus Crucified, Sr. John Thomas Armour of the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia, and Mr. Mark Hartfiel, national program director for the *That Man is You* program. For more information and to register, please visit <http://www.catholicmenbr.com/>.

Our Parish Pastoral Council is once again sponsoring a raffle for Valentine's Day. First prize will be a gift basket containing champagne, chocolate, and a gift card for dinner at a fine restaurant. Second and third prizes include a dozen roses and a bottle of wine. Tickets are \$5.00 and will be available for purchase at all Masses starting the weekend of January 28 & 29. The drawing will be held on Sunday, February 12, immediately following the 11:00 a.m. Mass.

In Christ,
Father Matt



**WE REMEMBER
THE MAN & THE DREAM!**
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Monday, January 16th

Christian Formation Update

NO CHRISTIAN FORMATION CLASSES ON MONDAY,
JANUARY 16TH OR TUESDAY, JANUARY 17TH DUE TO
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY.



CONFIRMATION WILL BE HELD ON
THURSDAY, JANUARY 26TH AT 7:00 P.M.
RECEPTION TO FOLLOW IN THE ACTIVITY
CENTER. THANKS TO ALL OF THE
PARISHIONERS WHO HAVE BEEN PRAYING
FOR OUR YOUNG ADULTS ON THIS FAITH
JOURNEY. THANKS TO THE CONFIRMA-
TION TEAM FOR BEING WITNESSES TO
OUR FAITH AND TO THE CANDIDATES
OPENNESS TO THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Organizations

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

MONTHLY MEETING
 Wednesday, January 18, 2017
 Officers—6:00 pm; Regular—7:15 pm
 Activity Center

PRO-LIFE ROSARY
 Saturday, January 21—4:00 pm in Church

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS

NEXT MEETING
 Wednesday, January 18, 2017
 Dinner with the K.C.'s at 6:30 pm and meeting
 immediately after.

If you are a Catholic woman, 18 years or older and are interested in joining a wonderful organization, meet new people and fellowship, we invite you to come and see what we are all about!

Pray for Vocations

Through your baptism you are God's servant and a light to others. With whom will you share your bright light? Think about a life of service as a priest, sister or brother. Call Fr. Andrew Merrick at 225.336.8778 or email amerrick@diobr.org.



St. John Food Pantry would like to thank the following for their donations made during the holidays:

- ◆ Thanksgiving Mass Donations
- ◆ The Brusly Lions Club
- ◆ Cub Scouts Pack #39
- ◆ Westside Women's Club
- ◆ Catholic Daughters
- ◆ Individual Donors

W.B.R. Museum

The West Baton Rouge Museum will be open on Monday, January 16 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. The Exhibition, *Changing America: The Emancipation Proclamation, 1863, and the March on Washington, 1963*, opens at the Museum on January 28 and runs through March 12, 2017. This exhibit examines the relationship between two great people's movements that resulted from the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, and the March on Washington in 1963. Both grew out of decades of bold actions, resistance, organization, and vision. One hundred years separate them, yet they are linked in a larger story of liberty and the American experience—one that has had a profound impact on the generations that followed.

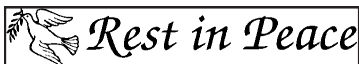
Congratulations!



BEST WISHES TO MEGAN CLAIRE ROBNETT AND ANTHONY JOSEPH PLATSMIER WHO WERE MARRIED HERE LAST WEEKEND.

The following children were baptized here last weekend: Wes Bourque, child of Russ & Stephanie Bourque; Eva Rosemary LeBlanc, daughter of Ben & Brandy LeBlanc; Addison Grace Sanchez, daughter of Robert & Michelle Sanchez; and Elyse Joy Thibodeaux, daughter of Blake Thibodeaux and Brooke King.

CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOME INTO OUR FAITH COMMUNITY!



Rest in Peace

PRAYERS & SYMPATHY are extended to Catherine Blanchard & family upon the death of her son, Gary Gisler and to Bernadette Purnell and family upon the death of her sister, Arlene Richard. Please keep them in your prayers.



2017—25th & 50th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Sunday, February 12, 2017 at 3:00 pm
Our Lady of Mercy Church—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)



YOU MAY NOW CALL THE PARISH OFFICE AT 225-749-2189 TO REQUEST YOUR TOTAL 2016 CONTRIBUTIONS FOR INCOME TAX PURPOSES

STEWARDSHIP OF FINANCES

January 8, 2017

REGULAR:

216 Identified- - - - - \$8,280.00
 Loose Collection- - - - - 955.00
TOTAL- - - - - \$9,235.00

Readings for the Week of January 15, 2017

Sunday: Is 49:3, 5-6/Ps 40/1 Cor 1:1-3/
 Jn 1:29-34
 Monday: Heb 5:1-10/Ps 110/Mk 2:18-22
 Tuesday: Heb 6:10-20/Ps 111/Mk 2:23-28
 Wednesday: Heb 7:1-3, 15-17/Ps 110/Mk 3:1-6
 Thursday: Heb 7:25--8:6/Ps 40/Mk 3:7-12
 Friday: Heb 8:6-13/Ps 85/Mk 3:13-19
 Saturday: Heb 9:2-3, 11-14/Ps 47/Mk 3:20-21
 Next Sunday: Is 8:23--9:3/Ps 27/1 Cor 1:10-13, 17/
 Mt 4:12-23 or 4:12-17

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS 2016-2017

Donna Badon
John Begue
Maria Bertrand
Jamie Bourg, Secretary
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



SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God."
John the Baptist had an important message to impart. He was called by God to prepare the people of Israel to recognize Jesus' true identity. In a sense, he helped establish credibility for Christ by confirming that he was in fact the Messiah. Jesus didn't just have to claim it on his own; John also "testified" to the fact. We, of course, also benefit from the witness of John the Baptist recorded for us in the Gospels. And we have additional witnesses from the rest of the people throughout the Gospels who knew and recognized Jesus as the Son of God. But we also have the benefit of two thousand years of Church history! We have countless testimonies of saints and believers throughout the centuries who have known Jesus in their own lives and acted accordingly.

This raises two questions. First, are we willing to believe these testimonies from those who have gone before us? Consider how much credence we give to the experiences and the stories of our forefathers and foremothers in the faith--whether they are blood relatives or members of the larger communion of saints. Sometimes these personal accounts of coming to know the Lord are much more powerful than any "proof" or intellectual proposal about Christianity. They do require a degree of faith and trust, but they nonetheless provide us with real evidence about the impact of being close to Christ.

Secondly, let us consider whether or not we are willing to give testimony to who Christ is to us? It's one thing to believe in Jesus; it's another thing to share that faith with others. But like John the Baptist, we are called to share the truth so that others may come to believe.