



ST. JOHN *The* BAPTIST

• catholic church •

*January 5, 2014
Feast of the Epiphany
Vol. 46, No. 1*



402 S. KIRKLAND (RIVER ROAD) • P.O. BOX 248 BRUSLY, LA 70719

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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
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 at weekend Masses. Parents should call the office early to enroll in our baptismal preparation program. Parents should be registered and actively practicing the 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.

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. - Mt 2:10-11

Dear Parishioners,

Sunday, January 5, is the eleventh day of Christmas and a good day on which to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. On the twelfth day of Christmas college football fans get to watch the BCS Championship Game between Florida State and Auburn. It should be a pretty good game to watch and hopefully more exciting than 12 drummers drumming. Our Christmas season extends for one more week and concludes with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord next Sunday.

Our Diocesan Respect Life Rally is set for next Sunday, January 12, in the Main Auditorium of the Catholic Life Center. This year's keynote address will be delivered by Mr. Shawn Carney, the co-founder of *40 Days for Life* and a well-respected inspirational speaker. The Pro-Life Oratory contest winner will also deliver his or her winning address, and Catholics of all ages are invited to attend.

Last month, on the 17th of December, Pope Francis announced the surprise canonization of St. Peter Faber, friend and roommate of St. Ignatius Loyola and the first of the original group of seven friends to be ordained a priest for what would become the Society of Jesus (Jesuits). In doing so, Pope Francis waived the normal requirements for sainthood just as Pope Benedict XVI had done previously in May 2012 with the canonization of St. Hildegard of Bingen.

St. Peter Faber was a remarkable man and priest, and I have enjoyed reading about him since his canonization. His name has been Anglicized but he was actually French, born Pierre Favre on April 13, 1506, in Villaret, Savoy. His family's humble circumstances prevented him from starting school until he was 10 years old, but he soon made up for lost time. He arrived at the College of Sainte-Barbe at the University of Paris in 1525 and became a roommate with Francisco de Javier (St. Francis Xavier), also 19 years old and from Navarre in Northern Spain.

In 1529 Peter and Francis added a third roommate, a former soldier 15 years their senior, 38 year old Inigo de Loyola (St. Ignatius Loyola). Only God's providence could have arranged the remarkable meeting of these three great future saints. St. Peter Faber wrote

that the three shared "the same room, the same table, and the same purse." Peter tutored Ignatius in Greek and Ignatius led Peter through his *Spiritual Exercises*.

The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius are a series of prayers, meditations, and practices which a retreatant follows over the course 30 days and under the guidance of a spiritual director. They are designed to enable a person to let go of the disordered aspects of one's life and to discern and embrace God's will. They form the foundation of the silent retreats given at the Jesuit retreat houses at Manresa, Grand Coteau, and elsewhere.

St. Peter Faber was a very devout young man who was troubled by excessive self-criticism. The *Exercises* as directed by St. Ignatius drastically altered his worldview for the better. Ignatius Loyola would become the founder and leader of the Society, Francis Xavier its greatest missionary, and Peter Faber a spiritual counselor who helped to strengthen the Catholic faith during the Reformation. Ignatius would later say that Peter was the most skilled of all the Jesuits in directing the Spiritual Exercises. St. Peter Faber died in Rome on August 1, 1546 at the age of 40. His feast day is August 2.

In Christ,
Father Matt

CHRISTIAN FORMATION CLASSES RESUME

Monday, January 6 & Tuesday, January 7
REMINDER: 10th Grade has class on Tuesday,
January 7

YOUTH NIGHT—January 9th

Jr High: 6:00—7:00 pm

Dinner: 7:00—7:30pm

High School: 7:30pm—8:30 pm

10th Grade Retreat: January 12

10:30am—5:00 pm

2nd Grade Reconciliation Retreat

January 18th

9:00am—12:00pm



JANUARY POT LUCK DINNER

Thursday, January 16, 2014
6:30 pm in the Activity Center
Theme: Italian

A MESSAGE FROM FR. BOB KONOPA

"Thank you people of St. John the Baptist Church for your generous support and healing prayer for my cancer. I have slowly been learning this:

Imagine in one hand you put your brain cancer diagnosis and all the disruptive upheaval for your life and ministry. Feel the heaviness of that pain and questioning; that which is unresolved and unanswered, along with your future and anxieties. Stay honest; Stay true.

In your other hand, put your faith, your bed-rock trust in the goodness and personal Love of God—the deep-down fidelity of the One as pure Love—even when you didn't have the glasses to see clearly; your inspiration, your ministry, your homilies, your books, your very identity. Remember those times, when Lord, "I am here with You; You are here with me." Feel the strength and fullness of God's powerful, personal love.

With both hands open, though you want to resolve these two realities, you can't. Your call is simply to trust, to simply trust, and be hopeful and patient as you discover a deepening of inner peace.

Thank you for your upholding and generous prayer, truly a gift. I wish you a Merry and Blessed Christmas Season in name of God's peace and joy....."

-Fr. Bob Konopa, OFM

PRAYERS & SYMPATHY are extended to Janet

Bankston & family upon the death of her husband, Rodney "Slim" Bankston, Ruby Allain & family upon the death of her husband, Ferd, Sara Ann Sarradet & family upon the death of her husband, Kutchie, and the family of Joseph "Penu" Quatrevingt upon his recent death. Please keep them in your prayers.

The Bereavement Committee wishes to thank the Bankston family for their recent donation.



BAPTISMAL SEMINAR
Wednesday, January 8, 2014
6:30 pm—Classroom #5
Mandatory for Parents

STEWARDSHIP OF FINANCES

December 22, 2013

Regular:

216 Identified- - - - -\$6,279.00

Loose Collection- - - - 730.00

TOTAL- - - - -\$7,009.00

A VOCATION VIEW

Wise Men brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The gift of self is far more precious than these. If you think God is calling you to His priesthood or religious life, call Fr. Matt Dupre' at 225.336.8778 or email mdupre@diobr.org.

2014—25th & 50th

Wedding Anniversary Celebration

Sunday, February 23, 2014 (3:00 pm)

Our Lady of Mercy Church

445 Marquette Ave., Baton Rouge

Bishop Robert W. Muench, Celebrant of Mass

Honoring couples on their 25th, 50th, 60th or greater wedding anniversary. Families of the honored couples are invited to attend the liturgy and the reception

afterward in Our Lady of Mercy Activity Center.

Please call the Parish Office (749-2189) before

February 24th if you plan to attend.

RESPECT LIFE RALLY

January 12, 2014 (2—4 pm)

Main Auditorium—Bishop Tracy Center

There will be a Living Rosary for Life with a

Knights of Columbus Honor Guard. Bible crafts

and activities will be available for children 7

years and younger during the keynote speech.

Call Danielle Van Haute at the Marriage and

Family Life Office (242-0164) if you need more

information.

IN THE NAME OF JESUS BE HEALED!

Seelos Birthday Healing Mass with Sacrament of Anointing

Sunday, January 12, 2014 (1:00 pm)

National Seelos Shrine/St. Mary's Assumption Church

Corner of Josephine & Constance Sts.), New Orleans

For more information call (504) 525-2495

LIVING FAITH BOOKLETS

**FOR JANUARY, FEBRUARY & MARCH
ARE IN. PICK UP YOUR COPY AT THE
PARISH OFFICE.**



Readings for the Week of January 5, 2014

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Monday: 1 Jn 3:22-4:6/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Mk 6:45-52

Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19--5:4/Lk 4:14-22a

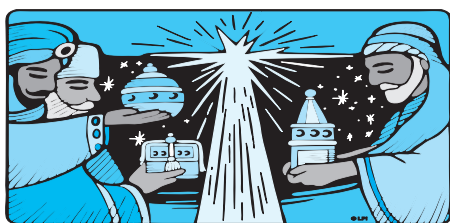
Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Lk 5:12-16

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Jn 3:22-30

Next Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Acts 10:34-38/Mt 3:13-17

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS 2013-2014

Donna Badon
Maria Bertrand
Chris Buckle
Deacon Sammy Collura
Jerry Deshotel, Chairman
Stacy Gauthreaux
David Landry
Jules Lefaux
Mark Loreno
Fr. Matt Lorrain
Andrea Smicker
Toni Tolar
David Toups, Vice-Chairman
John Windham, Secretary



Epiphany of the Lord

"They prostrated themselves and did him homage." The Magi were men of great faith. Their worldly position and power could have made them scoff at the sight of this humble infant. Their treasury of wealth could have blinded them to the true value of this child king. But instead these men placed themselves at the feet of Jesus in a gesture of complete submission. Then, as a sign of their devotion, they "opened their treasures" and offered this baby costly and precious gifts. Only a deep and sincere faith could justify such a surprising scene.

Real faith often runs contrary to worldly wisdom. Without the firm belief that Jesus was the Messiah, it would seem absurd to travel all those miles and part with all that gold, much less to bow down in the presence of a poor child. But the eyes of faith can see much more than the eyes of the world alone. The Magi understood that all the prestige and possessions of the earth are nothing in comparison to the kingdom of heaven. They wanted to use their worldly wealth to give glory to the King of Kings, rather than for their own glory.

Taking the Three Kings as models, we can examine our own lives. Are we willing to "travel" for our faith, leaving our comfort zone for the sake of the Gospel? Are we willing to share our "wealth" to glorify God? Are we willing to submit our desires and plans to the authority of Christ? As we begin the journey of this New Year, let us resolve to follow in the faithful footsteps of the Magi.