

January 8, 2017
The Epiphany of the Lord
Vol. 49, No. 2



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
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

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. John tried to prevent him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?" Jesus said to him in reply, "Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed him. - Mt 3:13-15

Dear Parishioners,

Confirmation candidates have their final "Day of Reflection" this 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 next Saturday, January 14, in preparation for celebrating their First Reconciliation 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 this 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 this 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.

The "Louisiana Life March" will be held on 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.

The year 2016 was marked with numerous shootings between police and civilians, many of which ended in death. The confrontations renewed a much needed dialogue on societal inequalities based on race, income, and neighborhood. In response to these tragedies, Bishop Muench has asked that all parishes begin reciting a "Prayer for Racial Harmony" at all of our weekend Masses. The prayer has been placed on the back inside cover of the Music Issue, and we will pray it together at the conclusion of the Prayers of the Faithful each Sunday.

In Christ,
Father Matt

BAPTISM OF THE LORD MONDAY, JANUARY 9th



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



PRAYERS & SYMPATHY are extended to the families of Felton Crockett, Jr., Jim Safford, Jr., and Marjorie LeJeune, mother of Lana Prejean upon their recent deaths.. Please keep them in your prayers.

The Bereavement Committee wishes to thank the families of Felton Crockett, Jr. & Jim Safford, Jr. for the recent donations.



THE SANCTUARY CANDLE IS NOW BURNING IN MEMORY OF RONNIE BABIN

By Harold & Beverly Babin

2017 LOUISIANA LIFE MARCH

All are welcome to join in the 2017 Louisiana Life March happening in Baton Rouge on Saturday, January 21, 2017! The mission of the Life March is to unite the pro-life people of Louisiana, across all denominational lines, to take a stand for life in our state's capital city, and mobilize them with resources to go make a difference in their community. Pre-Event remarks will begin at 9:30 am at Galvez Plaza (behind the Old State Capital). The March will begin at 10 am and end at the State Capital. Activities will conclude by noon.

BUS TRIP TO MEMPHIS

March 20—24, 2017

Total cost of \$439 includes transportation, lodging, most meals and all attractions including a tour of amazing Graceland. For more information, call Leslie Tassin, member of St. Aloysius Church and KC member at 225-769-5872. Only 10 seats remaining in Bus 2 so call ASAP.

STEWARDSHIP OF FINANCES

December 25, 2016

Regular:
342 Identified- - - - - \$12,891.00
Loose Collection- - - - - 2,512.00
TOTAL- - - - - \$15,403.00

Diocesan Services—\$795.00

January 1, 2017

Regular:
308 Identified- - - - - \$16,589.00
Loose Collection- - - - - 846.00
TOTAL- - - - - \$17,435.00



A VOCATION VIEW

The Son of God is manifested to the world first through the visit of the magi. Today God's Son is brought into the world and is present to the world through His church. If you think God is calling you to a Church vocation, 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)

Lead with a kind comment with friends as well as strangers!

BAPTISM



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.

Readings for the Week of January 8, 2017

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/
Mt 2:1-12
Monday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Acts 10:34-38/Ps 29/
Mt 3:13-17
Tuesday: Heb 2:5-12/Ps 8/Mk 1:21-28 or
Heb 1:1-6 and 2:5-12/Ps 8/
Mk 1:14-20 and 1:21-28
Wednesday: Heb 2:14-18/Ps 105/Mk 1:29-39
Thursday: Heb 3:7-14/Ps 95/Mk 1:40-45
Friday: Heb 4:1-5, 11/Ps 78/Mk 2:1-12
Saturday: Heb 4:12-16/Ps 19/Mk 2:13-17
Next Sunday: Is 49:3, 5-6/Ps 40/1 Cor 1:1-3/
Jn 1:29-34

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



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

"And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was." In our day and age, the star of Christmas has become a kind of decorative symbol that adorns manger scenes and Christmas trees. It suggests something good and bright and holy, a visual indicator that the "Light of the world" has appeared. But today, on the feast of the Epiphany, we recall that originally, this star was not just a pretty symbolic ornament. This star was a sign from God that intervened in the operations of the physical universe. The Magi understood that this star was sent from God to indicate where his Son would be born.

Of course it should not surprise us in this season of all seasons that God should choose to order the universe according to his purposes. Jesus has just been born of a virgin! God has just taken on human flesh. These events in themselves are extraordinary divine interventions--miracles that defy the standard operation of things. Why shouldn't God choose to send a luminous star where he wants it, when he wants it? Why shouldn't he reveal his plan through the things that he created in the first place?

The beauty of today's feast is found, in part, in the fact that the Magi were able to recognize this sign from God. They waited for it, they saw it, and they rejoiced in it: "They were overjoyed at seeing the star." We too should be overjoyed in this season of God's special revelation to us. We may need the eyes to recognize it, but truly we have waited for a Savior, we have seen his appearance at Christmas, and now it is time to celebrate! God is at work in our physical world. He has come here, now to save us. This is cause for rejoicing!