



ST. JOHN *The* BAPTIST

• catholic church •

June 21, 2015
Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Vol. 47, No. 25



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
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

"Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing? "He woke up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Quiet! Be still!" The wind ceased and there was great calm. They were filled with great awe and said to one another, Who then is this whom even wind and sea obey?" - **Mk 4:38c-39, 41**

Dear Parishioners,

Please pray for two of our priests who are on medical leave and temporarily unable to minister in their parishes. The first is Father Phil Spano, a well-loved former pastor of St. John the Baptist, who misjudged a step and fell while distributing communion at Mass two weeks ago at his parish of Most Blessed Sacrament. Father Phil underwent surgery to repair a torn ligament in his leg and knee, and now begins a lengthy period of recovery and physical therapy. He is expected to be out for several months.

The second priest is Father Jack Nutter, pastor of St. Louis King of France Church in Baton Rouge and a member of my priests support group. Father Nutter is also well-loved by his parishioners and was granted a medical leave to address some health issues which were interfering with his ministry. No time table was provided for his leave so I imagine it will be anywhere from a few weeks to several months.

The Diocese doesn't really have any extra priests available to step in and cover these two parishes while their pastors are out on medical leave. Deacon Don Musso has been assigned as temporary parish life coordinator of Most Blessed Sacrament Parish and Father Trey Nelson has been assigned as temporary administrator of St. Louis Parish. Father Nelson, Father Mike Collins, and Father Philip Eapen, CMI, will handle the Masses at St. Louis, and a yet to be determined team of retired and active priests will celebrate the Masses at Most Blessed Sacrament.

This is an example of why the Bishop felt it timely to establish the *Pastoral Planning Task Force* that I mentioned in last Sunday's bulletin. This working group of priests, consecrated religious, and lay leaders is charged with studying the demographics of our Diocese in order to come up with strategies for meeting the present and future needs of our local Church. Members of the *Task Force* will meet with a representative group of our parishioners at the end of this month to see what ideas we may contribute to the formulation of a strategic plan.

Could St. John the Baptist eventually be combined with Holy Family and served by just one priest? It's

possible but it would mean sacrifice by all parties. Each of our two parishes would have to drop from four weekend Masses to just two Masses at each church. Canon law limits the number of Masses a priest may celebrate to two on weekdays and three on Sundays and holy days of obligation. That is why most parishes only have one Mass on weekdays—so as to allow for the priest to celebrate a second Mass in the case of a wedding or funeral. Saturday morning Masses have also disappeared by necessity in order for the priest to be able to celebrate a wedding or funeral in addition to his Saturday Vigil Mass.

Thankfully, we don't have to face these challenges all by ourselves. Jesus has promised to be with his Church until the end of the age, and we trust that he is faithful to his promises. Still, we want to be attentive to the activity of the Holy Spirit within the Church during this time of discernment because so often God works through human instruments. Pray that priests and laity may be open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we plan for a future full of hope.

In Christ,
Father Matt



ALTAR SERVER PRACTICES PRESENT SERVERS:

Sunday, June 28 (2—3:00 pm)

This session will be held in church.
Please make every effort to attend!

A training session for new altar servers was held on Sunday, June 14. Congratulations to the following new altar servers: Christian Black, Benjamin Black, Halsey Coco, Jeanette Coco, Ronnie Horn, and Corrine Moreau. Thanks for serving our parish!!!



MINISTRY APPRECIATION DINNER

Your presence and participation are what makes St. John the Baptist such a wonderful place to worship. Please come and let us show our appreciation at our Annual Ministry Appreciation Meal on [Saturday, June 27th](#) in the Activity Center immediately following 4:30 pm Mass.

Please call the Parish Office to RSVP no later than Friday, June 19th so that we can have a count for the caterer.

Dear Parishioners and Staff,

Thank you so much for the warm welcome I have received. I am truly blessed to be a part of such a faith-filled parish. I look forward to many "God" ventures which will help the young people of our parish grow in their relationship with God. The first of these will be VBS (July 13—17). We will need many volunteers to make this a wonderful experience for all of us. So, if God is calling you to say 'YES' to participate in this fun-filled faith ministry, please pick up a form at the back of church or call Karen or me at 749-3387.

On the day I called you answered me, you increased my strength of soul. -Psalm 138:3

*Peace of Christ,
June Hebert*



Vacation Bible School 2015
St. John the Baptist/Holy Family
"Exploring Mt. Everest,
With God Everything is Possible"
July 13—17, 2015 (9 am—12 Noon)
Grades K—5

Registration Fee \$20 (\$60 family max)

Pick up registration forms in the parish office or in the back of church. You can also download applications from our website: sjb-brusly.com

Registration Deadline: Tuesday, June 30, 2015

NEEDED!!!

Adult & Youth Volunteers (Forms available in the Parish Office and in the back of church).

Call Jennifer LeJeune: 336-4463

Karen Lemoine: 749-3387 or June Hebert: 749-3387



NEEDED!!!

Children's Church Catechist
for 11:00 am Masses.
Please call Karen (749-3387)
for more information.

STEWARDSHIP OF FINANCES

June 14, 2015

REGULAR:

246 Identified- - - - - \$11,592.83

Loose Collection- - - - 673.42

TOTAL- - - - - \$ 12,376.25

A VOCATION VIEW

Life can remind us of life-eternal; Death can remind us of death-eternal. Each day we must choose to live or die physically or spiritually. What we do daily either builds us up or tears us down. Priests and religious are unique proclaimers of eternal life. If you feel God is calling you to be one, call or email Father Matt Dupre' at 225.336.8778, mdupre@diobr.org.



PRAYERS & SYMPATHY are extended to Babs Babin & family upon the death of her husband Ronnie and to Bobby & Penny Palermo upon the death of their son, Steve. Please keep all of them in your prayers.

CONGRATULATIONS to the following babies who were baptized here last weekend: Benjamin Michael Roettger, son of Zachary & Katie Roettge and Ransome Wade Smitherman, son of Jesse & Nicole Smitherman.

WELCOME INTO OUR FAITH COMMUNITY!



ARCHDIOCESE OF
NEW ORLEANS

Retreat Center

Upcoming Retreats

July 10-12, 2015
Exploring the Pathways
To Gospel Joy
Rev. Whitney Miller

July 23-29, 2015
Come to the Quiet
(5 Day Directed Retreat
With Spiritual Center)

July 17-18, 2015
A Mother Molds the Clay but the
Daughter is the Final Sculptor
Sr. Judith Gomila

August 7-9, 2015
Living as a Fully Alive
Catholic
Rev. Joe Palermo

5500 St. Mary Street, Metairie, LA 70006
(504) 267-9604 * retreats.arch-no.org

Readings for the Week of June 21, 2015

Sunday: Jb 38:1, 8-11/2 Cor 5:14-17/Mk 4:35-41
Monday: Gn 12:1-9/Mt 7:1-5
Tuesday: Gn 13:2, 5-18/Mt 7:6, 12-14
Wednesday: Vigil: Jer 1:4-10/1 Pt 1:8-12/Lk 1:5-17
Day: Is 49:1-6/Acts 13:22-26/
Lk 1:57-66, 80
Thursday: Gn 16:1-12, 15-16 or 16:6b-12, 15-16/
Mt 7:21-29
Friday: Gn 17:1, 9-10, 15-22/Mt 8:1-4
Saturday: Gn 18:1-15/Mt 8:5-17
Next Sunday: Wis 1:13-15; 2:23-24/2 Cor 8:7, 9, 13-15/
Mk 5:21-43 or 5:21-24, 35b-43

PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION

Next week our diocese will take up the Peter's Pence Collection, which provides Pope Francis with the funds he needs to carry out his charitable works around the world. The proceeds benefit the most disadvantaged: victims of war, oppression, and disasters. Join our Holy Father as a witness of charity to those who are suffering.

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



12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Who then is this whom even wind and sea obey?" Incredible. Unbelievable. Miraculous. What a sight to behold. If only we had been there with those disciples! What a help it would be to our wavering faith to see Jesus calm the waves. Could we ever doubt again that he was Lord of all creation after a moment like that?

Well ... maybe. These remarkable moments do have a way of losing their luster from a distance. In retrospect, we too often second-guess such episodes of spiritual clarity: "Perhaps it was just a coincidence. Maybe the storm was about to end anyway. How can we know for sure?" In fact, it appears as though the disciples themselves were already struggling with forgetting the power of the signs they had previously seen. This is why Jesus reprimands them because of their fear, "Do you not yet have faith?"

Why does Jesus expect them to have faith already? Because, as Mark's Gospel records for us, Jesus had already cured countless people, cast out demons for all to see, and even had a divine voice announce at his baptism, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased," (1:11). The miracles were not in short supply. The problem was believing in the miracles even after they were over.

Let's not fall prey to the same problem, thirsting for other miracles than the ones we have already experienced in our own lives, subtle though they may have been. Let's not make our faith dependent upon the appearance of the next sign from God. No. Let us join the psalmist in maintaining an attitude of belief, as we thank the Lord for "his wondrous deeds to the children of men."