



*March 15, 2015
Fourth Sunday of Lent
Vol. 47, No. 11*

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
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

“For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.” - Jn 3:20-21

Dear Parishioners,

Our Lenten Mission begins next weekend with a brief introduction by our presenter at all four of our weekend Masses, followed by the main presentations at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings, March 22-25. Our retreat director is Father Blaise Czaja, CP, and the theme for this year’s mission is *“On the Way to Jesus Christ.”* Father Czaja will also celebrate an 8:00 a.m. morning Mass on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday mornings of the same week for the benefit of those who cannot attend the evening presentations. His morning talks will take the form of a twenty minute homily at each of the 8:00 a.m. Masses. Please try to attend all or part of the Mission.

As I wrote last year, Parish Missions are often grace-filled opportunities to deepen our awareness of God’s presence in our lives. It is a special time to attune one’s mind and heart to God’s voice speaking to us through the presenter, music, or gathered assembly. The sobriety of the Lenten season has prepared us spiritually by removing many of the typical distractions that might ordinarily interfere with our ability to recognize God’s voice. We pray for the openness to respond to God’s call to holiness during this Lenten mission.

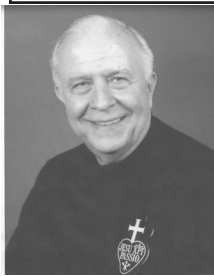
This Thursday, March 19, 2015, is the *Solemnity of St. Joseph* and the 180th anniversary of the founding of our church parish. The act of incorporation was signed on this date in 1835 and so we wish to celebrate our anniversary by hosting an informal “dinner theater” this Thursday evening beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Activity Center. We will retell the history of our parish by means of a short skit ably performed by some of our younger parishioners, then enjoy a delicious meal, and finally witness the unveiling of a new historical painting of our Acadian ancestors. Please call the parish office (749-2189) by Monday, March 16, if you plan to attend so we can plan for the dinner. The combined meal and program should last about two hours.

Our neighbors at Holy Family Parish and School have their annual “Bear Fair” next weekend, March 20-22, 2015. The fair opens at 5:00 p.m. on Friday and will include food, rides, and musical entertainment “Bag of

Donuts” beginning at 7:00 p.m. The silent auction opens Friday and ends at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, and is followed by a live auction beginning at 4:00 p.m. Saturday. The musical band on Saturday night is “Prime Mates.” Please help support this important fundraiser and community builder for the school.

I set a personal goal to lose at least ten pounds this Lent, but have only lost about three pounds so far. They say slow and steady wins the race but I may have to redouble my efforts these last three weeks if I am to limp across the finish line. All joking aside, I encourage you to persevere in your Lenten practices so we can together receive the full benefit of this blessed season. God is never outdone in generosity so we can be confident that he will multiply the graces attained through our prayers and sacrifice. Be assured of my daily prayers for all of you as we approach Holy Week and Easter.

In Christ,
Father Matt



PARISH MISSION
“On the Way to Jesus Christ”
Father Blaise Czaja—Presenter
Four Nights—March 22—25
7:00 pm in Church
8:00 am Masses March 23—25

St. John the Baptist
To Celebrate 180th Anniversary
Thursday, March 19, 2015 (6:30—8:30 pm)
ACTIVITY CENTER

PLEASE RSVP (749-2189)
by March 16 IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND SO
THAT WE CAN PLAN FOR THE MEAL

Christian Formation

LAST CLASS—Tuesday, March 17th
Please return Rice Bowls by that date.

They can also be placed in the Collection Baskets at Mass or can be dropped off at the office by Easter.

GUIDE BOOK TO BE PUBLISHED

Be sure to call the Office if you have any updates on your census information such as changes in phone number, address, children who have moved out of your home. Publication will begin this month!



PRAYERS & SYMPATHY are extended to Roy Guidry & family upon the death of his wife, Olivia. Please keep them in your prayers.

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS

Are you a Catholic Woman 18 years or older interested in joining a wonderful, fulfilling, faith-filled service and charitable organization? Please consider the Catholic Daughters. All interested are welcome to come and join us. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 18th in the Activity Center. There will be NO DINNER this month as the meeting will immediately follow Mass and the Way of the Cross and will begin at approximately 7:15 pm. Hope to see you there!



AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY RELAY FOR LIFE BREAKFAST

Sponsored by
St. John the Baptist Knights of Columbus
Saturday, March 28 (8:30 am)
Reservations for survivors and sponsors and caregivers—Call Elaine Pearce (413-7102) or deauxlady1947@yahoo.com

RICE BOWL:

Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

This week's Rice Bowl story of a Syrian boy that now lives as a refugee in Lebanon mirrors the experience of many seeking a new home in America. Our Diocese welcomes families who are resettled through Catholic Charities Refugee and Immigration Services after escaping their war-torn homelands seeking safety for religious, economic, or political reasons. Arriving with only the clothes on their backs, 25% of your donation helps these families get back on their feet.

STEWARDSHIP OF FINANCES

March 8, 2015

REGULAR:

212 Identified- - - - - \$7,980.00

Loose Collection- - - - - 608.00

TOTAL- - - - - \$8,588.00

Easter Flowers—\$1,929.00

A VOCATION VIEW

Jesus told Nicodemus that when we find our calling in life we are reborn. We really become a new person, fired with a new love, aimed in a new direction, with purpose and love. Listen to Jesus' voice within you. If He is challenging you to a Church vocation, call or email Father Matt Dupre' at 225.336.8778 or email mdupre@diobr.org.

CATHOLIC HIGH SUMMER COURSES

Summer courses at Catholic High will run from May 18—July 24, 2015. Activities are offered for students as young as 5 years old. Course times and exact dates can be found in the 2015 Summer at CHS brochure which can be picked up in the CHS main office or viewed on the CHS Website at www.catholichigh.org/summeratchs. Please contact Mrs. Sherie LeBlanc or Ms. Tracy Ducote at 383-0397 or summeratchs@catholichigh.org for questions regarding program activities or registration.

ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW ORLEANS RETREAT CENTER UPCOMING RETREATS

The Spiritual Life and the Theology of the Body of St. John Paul II

Presented by Very Rev. Jose Lavastida
March 18—20, 2015

Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday: New Life in Christ

Presented by Rev. Joe Krafft
March 27—29, 2015

Call (504) 267-9604 or retreats.arch-no.org for more info or to register.

K.C. CALENDAR WINNERS—FEBRUARY

Newton Raffray, Shirley Rivet, Everette Rabalais, Ken Ducote, Katheryn Willis, Suzanne Anderson, Ethan Greenblatt, Kiley Landry, Katie Soniat, Patricia Hergruder, Allie Tramonte, Vincent Bianca, Ray "Chip" Crochet, Faye Bourgoyne, Randy G. Gay, Chris Reeves, Harry Landry, Lacey Vitteri, Roy T. Mouch, Kallie Somme, Burton Vidrine, Elnora Blanchard, Eden Dawson, Jeffrey Ourso, Don Neisler, Mildred St. Germain, Rachel Cazes, Kiley Landry

Readings for the Week of March 15, 2015

Sunday: 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23/Eph 2:4-10/
Jn 3:14-21

Monday: Is 65:17-21/Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12/Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday: Is 49:8-15/Jn 5:17-30

Thursday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or
Lk 2:41-51a

Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday: Jer 11:18-20/Jn 7:40-53

Next Sunday: Jer 31:31-34/Heb 5:7-9/Jn 12:20-33

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



4th Sunday of Lent

"But whoever lives the truth comes to the light."

Think about the sun for a moment. The light from this gigantic celestial orb provides so many things for us. Most obviously, it provides brightness by which we see, by which we work, play, and navigate the world around us. It also provides the warmth necessary for our comfort and our survival. The sun sustains plant life, which in turn sustains our lives as well. It helps us mark the passing of time, the change of seasons, and the rhythm of every day. The sun is a tremendous gift from God, and our lives--just like our planet--quite literally revolve around it.

When Jesus uses the image of light in today's Gospel, it may help us to understand him if we think of the sun. Just as this magnificent star nourishes our physical existence, so too Jesus, "the light [who] came into the world," nourishes our spiritual existence. He gives us the "brightness" to see the right choices in front of us through his teaching and his example. He warms our hearts through his mercy and forgiveness, changing our coldhearted sinfulness into burning charity. He sustains our spiritual lives by offering us the gift of salvation: eternal life in heaven that never sees death. And he helps us mark the passing of time as we grow ever closer to him, entering more and more deeply into the knowledge and love of our Lord.

But of course, just as we are free to hide in a dark room with the shades drawn, so too we are free to "shade" ourselves from the light of Christ: "for everyone who does wicked things hates the light." To choose wickedness is to cut ourselves off not just from light, but from life. May we choose instead to stay always in the light of the Son.