



ST. JOHN *The* BAPTIST

• catholic church •

*March 24, 2019
Third Sunday of Lent
Vol. 51, No. 12*



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
Carolyn Dupuy Bookkeeper
Pat Durbin..... Parish Secretary
June Hebert Director of Religious Education
Karen Lemoine Christian Formation
Celeste Veillon Music Director
Pedro Garcia Maintenance
Katie Roettger..... Mothers’s Day Out

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 the Parish Office

And he told them this parable: "There once was a person who had a fig tree planted in his orchard, and when he came in search of fruit on it but found none, he said to the gardener, 'For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none. So cut it down. Why should it exhaust the soil?'" - Lk 13:6-7

Dear Parishioners,

Last Tuesday evening I participated in an ecumenical gathering entitled "Bridging the Gap," which was an opportunity for white and black residents of our community to come together to discuss shared concerns and opportunities for building relationships. Even though we live in the same small community, we often have very different perspectives on economic opportunity, school, safety, and politics depending on our race, income level, and social relationships.

Some people have very positive relationships with law enforcement while others are more suspicious due to past painful encounters; some have thrived in school while others have struggled to fit in; and some have cultivated meaningful friendships with people of other races while others tend to associate only with people of their same race.

We have made good progress in integrating our schools but still have quite a long way to go in eliminating racial prejudice from our minds and hearts. Lent is a good season to examine attitudes and feelings which label whole classes of people according to their skin color or religion or appearance. I pray that God continues to guide the conversion of our hearts this Lent.

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 Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings, April 1-3. Our retreat director is Father Whitney Miller of the Diocese of Lake Charles, and the theme for this year's mission is "Living the Theological Virtues of Faith, Hope, and Love." Please try to attend all or part of the Mission.

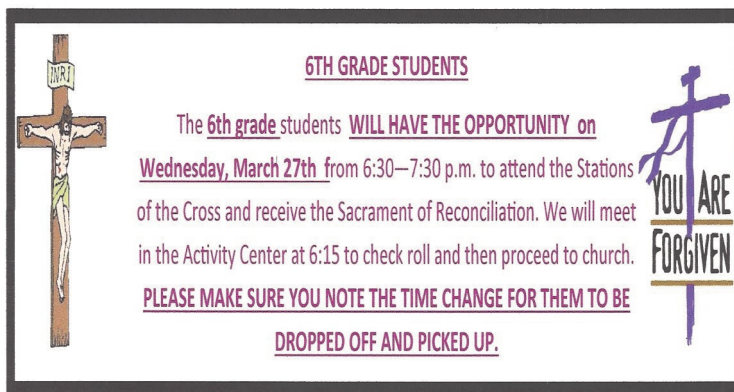
Parish Missions are often grace-filled opportunities to deepen our awareness of God's presence in our lives. It is a special time to attune one's mind and heart to God's voice speaking to us through the presenter, scripture readings, or music. Our Lenten practices have prepared us spiritually by removing 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.

Our neighbors at Holy Family Parish and School have their annual "Bear Fair" on Friday & Saturday, April 5 & 6, 2019. The fair opens at 5:00 p.m. on Friday and will include food, rides, and musical entertainment beginning at 6:30 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 4:30 p.m. Saturday. Lastly, barbecue chicken plates will be sold on Sunday from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Please help support this important fundraiser and community builder for the school.

Karen Lemoine, who assists June Hebert in our Christian Formation office, will be retiring this spring after many years of faithful service. So we are in need of someone able to work about 20 hours per week, with most of the time spent on Mondays and Tuesdays in preparation for the evening religion classes. Karen manages registration and attendance, updates the student files, and records the sacraments for the 2nd and 11th graders. She also serves as the Child Protection Coordinator for our parish and ensures that all catechists and employees receive safe environment training. Interested persons should fill out an application form available from either the parish or Christian Formation Office.

In Christ,
Father Matt



6TH GRADE STUDENTS

The 6th grade students **WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY** on **Wednesday, March 27th** from 6:30-7:30 p.m. to attend the Stations of the Cross and receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We will meet in the Activity Center at 6:15 to check roll and then proceed to church. **PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU NOTE THE TIME CHANGE FOR THEM TO BE DROPPED OFF AND PICKED UP.**

YOU ARE FORGIVEN



LIVING FAITH BOOKLETS FOR APRIL, MAY & JUNE ARE IN. PICK UP YOUR COPY AT THE PARISH OFFICE.

NO CHRISTIAN FORMATION CLASSES

**MONDAY, APRIL 1ST , TUESDAY, APRIL 2ND
AND WEDNESDAY APRIL 3RD**

DUE TO LENTEN MISSION

LAST CHRISTIAN FORMATION CLASS WILL BE A MASS

TUESDAY, APRIL 9TH—MASS K-8—EXCEPT 5TH GRADE

10TH GRADE LAST CLASS, TUESDAY, APRIL 9TH

MANY THANKS TO ALL OF OUR DEDICATED CATECHISTS WHO
MADE THIS A SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR OUR YOUTH HERE AT
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION

FIRST COMMUNION RETREAT

SATURDAY, MAY 4TH 9—12 IN THE ACTIVITY CENTER

FIRST COMMUNION

SUNDAY, MAY 5TH— 2:00 P.M. IN CHURCH

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW IN ACTIVITY CENTER



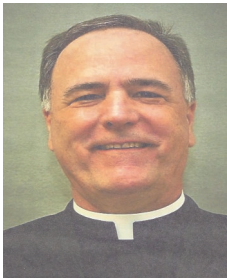
A VOCATION VIEW

When called by the Lord, Moses' immediate response was "Here I am." If you feel that God is calling you to the priesthood or religious life, call or email Father Andrew Merrick at 225.336.8778, framer-
rick@gmail.com or visit www.diobr.org/vocations.

NOTICE!

Our Church Parish is looking forward to hosting a parish-wide Supper and Substance event for married couples. We are currently in need of married couples to help plan and coordinate the event. If you are interested in helping, please contact Kayla Reggio at 225-405-9207 or kreggio1812@gmail.com.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



LENTEN MISSION
Presented by Fr. Whitney Miller
A Lenten Challenge:
Living the Theological Virtues of
Faith, Hope & Love
April 1, 2 & 3
PLEASE JOIN US!!!

BEREAVEMENT COMMITTEE

Thanks to Scrap & Ella Dean Thibodeaux for chairing the committee during the month of March. Sandra & Gerald Fitzgerald (749-3294) will be chairpersons for the month of April. Please give them a call with any concerns.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Sunday, April 7, 2019

Communion Service for K.C. Members & their families at 7:30 am Mass.
Coffee & Donuts will be served in the Activity Center after 7:30 am Mass

ALTAR SOCIETY

Thanks to Maria Bertrand and her group for cleaning the church during the month of March.
Cleaning will be done by Karen Cordell (749-3458) and her group. Give her a call if you want to help!

STEWARDSHIP OF FINANCES

March 10, 2019

173 Identified- - - - - \$7,218.00
Loose Collection- - - - - 850.00
TOTAL- - - - - \$8,068.00
Black & Indian Missions—\$556.00

March 17, 2019

212 Identified- - - - - \$13,021.83
Loose Collection- - - - - 831.00
TOTAL- - - - - \$13,021.83
Catholic Relief —\$603.00

THE SPIRITUAL GRACES OF AGING:

For Caregivers of the Aged

Saturday, April 6, 2019

9am—Noon

St. Joseph's Academy Mother Alice Hall
3080 Kleinert Ave., Baton Rouge

Presenter: Dana Territo, Retired Director of
Alzheimer's Service of the Capital Area
& Ignatian Trained Spiritual Director

Your experiences as a caregiver can change you in profound ways. While caregiving is difficult, it is also an incredible opportunity to be transformed. This retreat examines aging and caregiving while helping the retreatant discover God's gifts of grace in deeper and more meaningful ways. REGISTER AT www.stjocenter.org/events or call 225.383.3349.
FEE \$40

Readings for the week of March 24, 2019

Sunday: Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 11
[8a]/1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12/Lk 13:1-9
Monday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8, 8b-9, 10, 11
[8a, 9a]/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38
Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9
[6a]/Mt 18:21-35
Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9/Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20
[12a]/Mt 5:17-19
Thursday: Jer 7:23-28/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 [8]/
Lk 11:14-23
Friday: Hos 14:2-10/Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab,
14 and 17 [cf. 11 and 9a]
Mk 12:28-34
Saturday: Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab .
[cf Hos 6:6]/Lk 18:9-14
Next Sunday: Jos 5:9a, 10-12/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 [9a]/
2 Cor 5:17-21/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS 2017-2018

John Begue
Bob Bewick
Jamie Bourg
Chris Buckle
Christie Chapman
Jules Lefeaux, Vice-Chairman
Mark Loreno, Chairman
Fr. Matt Lorrain
Mary Claire Meyer, Secretary
Jason Murphey
Joey Normand
Derek Scott
Andrea Smicker



Third Sunday of Lent

"There once was a person who had a fig tree planted in his orchard, and when he came in search of fruit on it [he] found none." We live in a results-driven society. It can be easy to put pressure on ourselves to succeed. If we're not keeping up with the perceived "good life" of those around us, we feel anxious and disappointed. Some of the Gospel stories about fruitfulness can seem to play out in this fashion. "For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none. So cut it down." The message seems to be clear. Abide in God and bear fruit! Stand apart from God and be barren. But what happens when we're trying, but the growth we wanted doesn't seem to be coming our way? What if it feels like life just isn't bearing fruit?

This Sunday, Jesus gives us a sign of hope. "[The gardener] said to him in reply, 'Sir, leave it for this year also ? it may bear fruit in the future.'" How quick we can be to judge! Perhaps you started out Lent with high hopes and big ideas for getting closer to God. Maybe things haven't gone exactly like you thought. It can be easy to lose patience with our failures or slow growth. We shouldn't be too quick to assume that God has given up on us. He hasn't.

The same ideas apply to those around us. Perhaps we're the planter of the fig tree. We expect a certain amount of growth from someone in our life, and they just aren't measuring up. Let today's Gospel be a gentle nudge for mercy. As Lent continues to unfold, be patient with yourself and those around you. Wait for God to provide the growth.