

March 11, 2018
Fourth Sunday of Lent
Vol. 50, No. 9



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
Carolyn Dupuy Bookkeeper
Pat Durbin..... Parish Secretary
June Hebert Director of Religious Education
Karen Lemoine Christian Formation
Celeste Veillon Music Director
Wayne Delapasse..... 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 Judy Thousand, 749-9257 or the Parish office

And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. - Jn 3:19-20

Dear Parishioners,

The Cistercian monk and author Father Thomas Keating, OCSO, writes that the fathers of the Church had a great fondness for verse 2:6 from the Song of Songs: "His left hand is under my head and his right arm embraces me." Father Keating writes, "According to their interpretation, God embraces us with both arms. With the left He humbles and corrects us; with the right He lifts us up and consoles us with the assurance of being loved by Him. If you want to be fully embraced by the Lord, you have to accept both arms: the one that allows suffering for the sake of purification and the one that brings the joy of union."

It is a beautiful metaphor to describe the dynamics of the spiritual life through which we seek union with Christ. We need both correction and acceptance if we are to achieve maturity of life and faith, and grow into the full likeness of our Creator. The sacrament of reconciliation affirms our openness to change and our willingness to practice forgiveness in all areas of our lives. I encourage everyone to go to confession sometime during the next two weeks.

Clara Barton, the founder of the American Red Cross, was known as a person who refused to hold grudges. The following story was printed on a desk calendar I once owned: "One time a friend recalled to her a cruel thing that had happened to her years previously, but Clara seemed not to remember the incident. 'Don't you remember the wrong that was done to you?' the friend asked. 'No,' Clara answered calmly. 'I distinctly remember forgetting that.'"

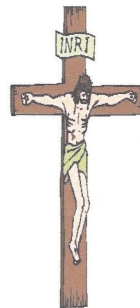
Every year, the American Cancer Society sponsors its "Relay for Life" in communities all over the country to support cancer survivors, caregivers, and ongoing research. The West Baton Rouge Relay will be held Friday, April 13, beginning at 5:00 p.m. at Brusly High School. To help promote the event, we are hosting the annual Relay for Life *Prayer Breakfast* on Saturday, March 24, at 8:30 a.m. in our Activity Center. For more information or to register, please call Elaine Pearce at 413-7102 or email deauxlady1947@yahoo.com. It's always a very nice event.

We are looking for a dedicated parishioner to chair

this year's *Feast on the Levee*. Last year we managed to get by without a chairperson thanks to the dedication of our office staff. However, this was by exception and I don't want to ask them to do it again this year. So we need an individual or married couple or a pair of close friends who can get things organized and attend to some of the early tasks like booking the bands. Please think about it and consider helping your parish in this important role.

Finally, thank you to all who attended last week's Parish Mission. The spiritual development of a faith community is even more important than its physical development, so it's appropriate that we dedicate time and resources for our spiritual growth. Parish Missions and other opportunities for prayer and the sacraments help to insure that our inner beauty matches the outer beauty of our parish church.

In Christ,
Father Matt



6TH GRADE STUDENTS

The 6th grade students ONLY WILL NOT COME TO MASS ON Tuesday, March 13TH. OR CLASS ON MONDAY, MARCH 12TH. They will come to CLASS on Wednesday, March 14TH 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.



MASS FOR CHRISTIAN FORMATION STUDENTS K-8

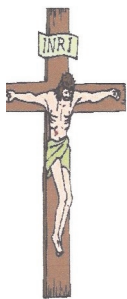
TUESDAY, MARCH 13TH
DROP OFF IN ACTIVITY CENTER 5:15

PICK UP IN CHURCH AT 6:30.

THERE WILL BE NO CLASS
ON MONDAY, MARCH 12TH
DUE TO MASS ON TUESDAY.



10TH GRADE
RETREAT
SUNDAY
MARCH 18
BEGINS WITH
MASS AT 11:00



5TH GRADE STUDENTS

The 5th grade students **ONLY WILL NOT COME TO CLASS ON MONDAY, MARCH 19TH. They will come to CLASS on Wednesday, March 21ST** 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.



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 Fr. Andrew Merrick at 225.336.8778, framerrick@gmail.com, or visit www.diobr.org/vocations.



SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION SESSION FOR ALL SECOND GRADERS AND ALL OTHER STUDENTS PREPARING FOR FIRST EUCHARIST ON MONDAY, MARCH 19TH OR TUESDAY, MARCH 20TH AT THEIR REGULARLY SCHEDULED CLASS TIMES. STUDENTS IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WILL CHOOSE TO COME ON ONE OF THESE DAYS. MAKE SURE YOU HAVE COMPLETED CH. 1-4 IN YOUR BOOK.



LENT

LENTEN SCHEDULE

Wednesdays, March 14, and 21

Confessions: 5:30 pm

Mass: 6:00 pm

Way of the Cross: 6:30 pm

The Light is On For You: 6:30-7:30 pm



**RELAY FOR LIFE
PRAYER BREAKFAST
Saturday, March 24, 2018**

The Annual Relay for Life Survivor Prayer Breakfast will be held on Saturday, March 24, 2018 beginning at 8:30 am in St. John the Baptist Activity Center. Survivors of all faiths are invited to attend. RSVP: For you and your spouse or caregiver to Elaine Pearce at Relayforlife.org/westbatonrouge or at 413-7102 or deauxlady1947@yahoo.com by March 17th.



**RICE BOWLS SHOULD
BE TURNED IN THIS
MONTH**

**STEWARDSHIP OF FINANCES
March 4, 2018**

REGULAR:

289 Identified- - - - - \$17,555.50

Loose Collection- - - - - 904.00

TOTAL- - - - - \$18,459.50

EASTER FLOWERS—\$2,065.00



Our Feast on the Levee is scheduled for October 28 this year!

We need a chairperson or couple to get it going. It's time for us to book the bands and it needs to be soon. Please call the office (749-2189) to help! WE NEED YOU!!!

Knights of Columbus

PRO-LIFE ROSARY

In Memory of the Unborn

Saturday, March 17—4:00 pm

In Church

BAPTISM



**BAPTISMAL SEMINAR
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14th**

6:00 pm

Classroom #5

Christian Formation Building
Mandatory for parents to attend before baptism.

Readings for the Week of March 11, 2018

- Sunday: 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23/Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6 [6ab]/Eph 2:4-10/Jn 3:14-21 Scrutiny: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [1]/Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 or Jn 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38
- Monday: Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b [2a]/Jn 4:43-54
- Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9 [8]/ Jn 5:1-16
- Wednesday: Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18 [8a] Jn 5:17-30
- Thursday: Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23 [4a]/ Jn 5:31-47
- Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23 [19a]/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
- Saturday: Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12 [2a]/ Jn 7:40-53
- Next Sunday: Jer 31:31-34/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15 [12a]/ Heb 5:7-9/Jn 12:20-33

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS 2017-2018

Donna Badon
John Begue
Bob Bewick
Maria Bertrand
Jamie Bourg
Chris Buckle
Jules Lefeaux
Mark Loreno, Vice-Chairman
Fr. Matt Lorrain
Mary Claire Meyer, Secretary
Jason Murphey
Andrea Smicker
Toni Tolar, Chairman



Fourth Sunday of Lent

Why is the world the way it is? We all wonder that from time to time. Each successive generation projects rose-hued longing on the past and casts furtive glances at the impending future. We see forces beyond our control in nature and in the newspaper. The world is changing and we're being pulled out with the tide.

In the face of this confusion, today's Gospel features one of the most oft-quoted Scripture verses of all time: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life." But if Christ has come, why is the world so challenging? Why is the world still -- to our eyes -- being carried off in a proverbial hand basket? Jesus' response is a deeply personal one. "This is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light." Patterns arise, habits are formed, and systems become engrained, but each is the result of an interconnected web of human choices.

Where do we stand? Our answers, perhaps, vary from week to week, hour to hour, missed traffic light to spilled coffee to teenage child's rebellion. The world isn't perfect because we aren't perfect. Our parish is flawed because we're flawed. Our families need work because every one of us needs to be converted. Christianity is a process, not a destination!

This Sunday, Jesus invites us to consider our own lives. Where in our own lives do we prefer darkness to light? What flaws are we trying to hide? Humbly acknowledge those places today. Ask God for the grace to be transformed. Share with your spouse or a friend where you'd like to improve this week. "Whoever loves truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God."