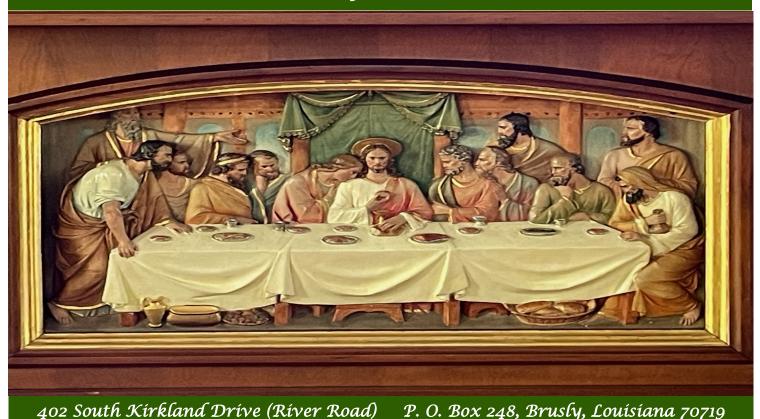
Fifth Sunday of Lent St. John the Baptist Catholic Church



OFFICE: 225-749-2189
WEBSITE: sjb-brusly.com
CHRISTIAN FORMATION: 225-749-3387

MASS SCHEDULE Saturday Vigil4:30 p.m.

Sunday	7:30, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.	
Monday, Wednesday & Thursday	8:00 a.m.	
Friday8:00 a.m., wit	h Adoration until 11:30 a.m.	
First Saturday of the month only		
RECONCILIATION		
Saturday	3:30–4:15 p.m.	

Monday, Wednesday thru Friday7:40 a.m. or by appointment

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Arun John, IMS	Pastor
Dana Babin	Bookkeeper
Candice Breaux	Youth Group Minister
June Hebert	Director of Religious Education
Sara Hernandez	Janitorial
Jayne Jason	
	Parish Secretary
	Mother's Day Out
Celeste Veillon	Music Director

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Office closed for lunch 12:00-1:00 p.m.

BAPTISM

Celebrated monthly after the 11:00 am Mass and also celebrated after the 11:00 am Mass on the Feast of the Baptism of Our 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: Please call Carolyn Dupuy, 225-276-6269.

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 as soon as possible. Communion calls to homebound weekly by request. Please notify the office if someone is homebound.

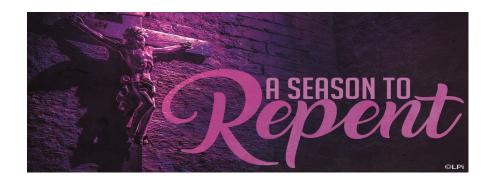
CHRISTIAN BURIAL

Family should contact the Pastor to begin funeral arrangements.

For Cemetery information, please call Jerry Deshotel 225-281-0333.

PRAYER LINE

Please call Carolyn Dupuy, 225-276-6269.



Dear Parishioners,

Before a pastor began to preach one Sunday morning, he thought he should explain why he had a Band-aid on his chin. He said, "As I was shaving this morning, I was thinking about today's message, I lost my concentration, and accidently cut my chin with the razor." He then went on to preach the longest sermon of his life. After the service, one of the teens greeted the pastor and said, "Pastor, next week, why don't you think about your shaving and cut the sermon." One day a man was walking along the beach when he noticed a boy picking something up and gently throwing it into the ocean. Approaching the boy, he asked, "What are you doing?" The boy replied, "I am throwing the starfish back into the ocean. The surf is up and the tide is going down. If I don't throw them back, they will die." "Son," the man said, "Don't you realize that there are miles and miles of beach and hundreds of starfish? Your effort wouldn't make much difference by throwing a few fish back into the ocean." After listening politely, the boy bent down, picked up another starfish and threw it back into the ocean. Then smiling at the man, the boy said, "See, I made a difference for that one." This is a classic story of the power within each one of us to make a difference in the lives of others. Today's Gospel challenges us to make a difference in the lives of other people by our sacrificial service to those around us, in our own families, in the workplace, and in the wider world.

Just as Jesus made a difference in the lives of humankind during his time and the centuries that followed by offering his life for others, we too must possess heaven by making a difference in the lives of others, by dying to self, and spending our lives in self-giving sacrificial service. How do we make a difference in others' lives? How do we die to our own self so that we can serve others and thus make a difference in their lives? First of all, we have to realize that new life and eternal life are possible only by dying to self through suffering and service. There are so many day-to-day examples which can help us to understand this: Look at lighted candles. The candle that is lit is diminishing itself by melting its wax as it keeps burning but as it diminishes itself, it also gives light to many. Salt delivers its taste by dissolving in water. The oyster produces a priceless pearl by a long and painful process. Loving parents sacrifice themselves so that their children can enjoy better lives than they themselves had.

Secondly, only a life spent for others will be glorified here in this world and in heaven. We know that the world owes everything to people who have spent their time and talents for God and for their own fellow human beings. Mother Teresa, for instance, gave up her comfortable teaching career and with just 17 cents in her pocket, began her challenging life for the "poorest of the poor" in the crowded streets of Calcutta. Thus, she became in the words of the Secretary General of the U.N, "the most powerful woman in the world." We see similar cases in the history of great saints, scientists, and benefactors of mankind in all walks of life.

Thirdly, it is better to burn out than to rust out. This is one of the repeated pieces of advice Jesus gave us. George Bernard Shaw, in his play, "Joan of Arc," shows the saint praying, "Lord, I shall last only a year, use me as you can." There are many charitable foundations and research institutions financed by generous millionaires who understood this great Principle of life while so many others selfishly keep their God-given wealth and talents for themselves. Let us learn to live this Lenten period spending our time and talents for others around us by our humble, selfless, and self-giving service. If we wish to share in Jesus' hour of glory, we have to be prepared to die - die to our own selfish desires, set aside our search for selfish gain and our self-centered advancements, even our personal safety and security. Then we will live to share in the intimacy between the Father and Son, which truly is life eternal. This way we will be glorified in Jesus. May God bless us all!

Fr. John

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Youth Group meets on Sunday, March 24th in the Activity Center. Middle School students will meet from 4:00pm-5:30pm. High School students will meet from 6:00pm-7:30pm.

Our last Religion Classes for K-8th are April 8th, 9th & 10th.

Children's Church April 7th and April 21st We are still in need of helpers for 9:00am & 11:00am Masses. Please call Jayne Jason, 225-749-3387, to be a part of this ministry.

First Eucharist will be at 2:00pm on Sunday, April 14th.

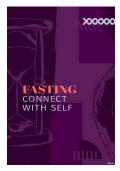


Adult Confirmation 10:30am on May 19th at St. Joseph's Cathedral Please contact June Hebert. 225-749-3387, by April 12th, if you wish to receive this Sacrament.

The Sanctuary Candle burns in memory of Dee & Rosie Hernandez and Brennan Bujol.

Prayers and Sympathy are extended to the families of Stephen Deville and Gus Lopez. Sr. upon their deaths.





Pray for Vocations Are you being called to serve? Will you follow Christ as a priest, deacon, sister or brother? If so, please contact your priest or reach out to **Father Josh Johnson at** 225-336-8778 or email him: jjohnson@diobr.org or visit: www.diobr.org/vocations

Stewardship of Finance Total Collection for March 10th: \$10,892.00 Catholic Relief Services Collection: \$835.00

Please help a family in need throughout the world by filling your rice bowl with a monetary donation and returning it to our Church by March 31st.

Thank you for your generosity during this Lenten season.





Divine Mercy Novena & Mass Mass at 6:00pm every Wednesday through April 3rd, followed by the sung chaplet of the Divine Mercy Novena.

Stations of the Cross Mass will be at 12:00pm on Fridays during Lent, followed by the Stations of the **Cross.** Confessions will be heard at 11:30am before Mass.







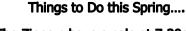
Holy Week Liturgical Ministers' Practice in Church Saturday, March 23rd at 9:00am For all those serving at Holy Thursday, Good Friday & **Easter Vigil**

Holy Thursday, March 28th: Mass at 7:00pm Good Friday, March 29th: Passion at 12:00pm followed by the Stations of the Cross Easter Vigil, March 30th: Mass at 8:00pm Easter Sunday, March 31st: Masses at 7:30am, 9:00am & 11:00am

Please welcome this child to our faith community who was baptized on March 10th:

Parker Elizabeth Richoux daughter of Ainsley & Kayla Richoux





The Zippers have a sale at 7:30am on Thursday, March 21st. They will be closed from March 22nd-April 1st. No donations will be accepted during this time.

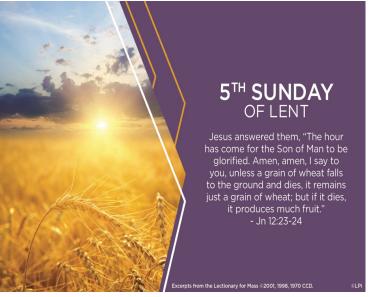
The Eucharistic Revival featuring "The Eucharist as Sacrifice," will take place in the Activity Center on Thursday, March 21st at 6:30pm.

The Women's Ministry will Pray & Paint the Stations of the Cross at 6:00pm on Friday, March 22nd in the Activity Center.

The Lion's Club Easter Egg Hunt will take place at 10:00am on Good Friday, March 29th at the Lion's Club on East St. Francis Street.

The Lion's Club Card Party will be held on Monday, April 22nd in our Activity Center.





Readings for the week of March 17, 2024

Sunday: Jer 31:31-34/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15 (12a)/

Heb 5:7-9/Jn 12:20-33

Scrutiny: Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 (7)/Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27,

33b-45

Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62/

Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Jn 8:1-11

Tuesday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and

29/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/

Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a

Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56/

Jn 8:31-42

Thursday: Gn 17:3-9/Ps 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Jn 8:51-59 Friday: Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7/

Jn 10:31-42

Saturday: Ez 37:21-28/Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13/

Jn 11:45-56

Next Sunday: Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16/Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-9,

17-18, 19-20, 23-24 (2a)/Phil 2:6-11/

Mk 14:1—15:47 or 15:1-39

Maintenance Committee
Richard Dugas
Joey Normand
Danny Rabalais
Nat Smith
Gary Tullier

VITA Volunteers are needed now through April 15th at Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Baton Rouge. These volunteers assist low-wage working families prepare their tax returns. No experience is needed; training will be provided. Please call 225-336-8700 to sign up or email: drials@ccdiobr.org

