



*November 29, 2015  
First Sunday of Advent  
Vol. 47, No. 48*

# 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](http://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

"People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand." - Lk 21:26-28

Dear Parishioners,

On this First Sunday of Advent we might take encouragement from the following reflection posted on Creighton University's Online Ministries:

*Many of us are in an ideal place to begin Advent, but we don't know it. It can be tempting to think that, because we are struggling these days, we can't enter into Advent without a big change in our mood or without distancing ourselves from our real experience. Nothing could be further from the truth. Advent is about letting God come to us. We do the letting and God does the coming. And, the whole mystery of our faith is that God is not reluctant to come into an unusual relationship (like Mary and Joseph's) or to be born in the poverty of a makeshift stable. We are tempted to prepare for Advent by cleaning everything up first – by, in effect, saving ourselves first. Our opening to Advent is to realize we need saving and to accept the saving love of our God.*

I find that reflection comforting because things can easily become hectic this time of year. Some of our stress might be self-imposed as we try to find the perfect gifts for all of our loved ones. We can easily overspend and overcommit, and by doing so miss out on the spiritual graces that Advent has to offer. Salvation is God's work and God's gift, and we begin this new season by renewing our hope in God's saving love. Try not to worry about the messiness of your current situation or the long list of things you need to accomplish. Focus instead on the soft candlelight of the Advent wreath either at home or in church, and allow the Spirit to guide your devotion.

With trust in God's love, I encourage everyone to go to confession before Christmas so that we can celebrate our savior's birth with joyful hearts and minds. Jesus is the Prince of Peace and we need his gift of peace in order to handle the stress of everyday living. St. John Church in Plaquemine has its penance service this Thursday, December 3, at 6:30 p.m., and Holy Family Church in Port Allen has its penance service one week later on Thursday, December 10, at 6:30 p.m. We will have our penance service here at **St. John the Baptist** in two weeks on **Tuesday, December 15, at 7:00 p.m.** We also have our regular

Saturday afternoon confessions from 3:30 – 4:15 p.m. every week.

This Friday evening and Saturday morning, December 4 & 5, is the monthly all-night Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament led by our Catholic Daughters and Knights of Columbus. The twelve hour period begins at 8:00 p.m. Friday evening and ends with 8:00 a.m. Mass on Saturday morning. A schedule is available in the back of church if you would like to sign-up for an hour of prayer and adoration in the presence of our Lord.

Tuesday, December 8, is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and a holy day of obligation. Our Masses on the feast day will be at 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. The students in our Tuesday night religion classes will attend the 6:00 p.m. Mass that evening instead of class. We honor the Blessed Virgin Mary as patroness of the United States of America under the title of the Immaculate Conception.

In Christ,  
Father Matt



**Christian Formation**   **Attention Parents**

**IMPORTANT INFO FOR DECEMBER**  
**7th & 8th IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

- ◆ Youth in grades K-4 and 5-8 WILL have class on Monday, December 7th as regularly scheduled.
- ◆ The youth in grades K-4 who attend class on Tuesday, December 8th will be dropped off as usual, but will attend Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception at 6:00 pm. [Parents are invited to attend Mass. Please plan to pick up your children after Mass at 7:00 pm in the Activity Center if you do not attend Mass.](#) Young adults in the 10th grade will attend 6:00 pm Mass instead of having class that evening.



**ADVENT/CHRISTMAS CONCERT**  
 Thursday, December 17—7:00 pm  
 in Church  
 No Charge—Canned Good Donations  
 to benefit the Food Pantry are  
 welcome!  
 Christmas Cookie Reception will  
 follow in the Activity Center

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

**Sunday, December 6**

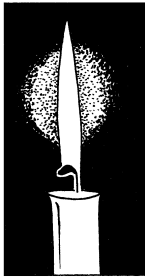
- \*Communion Service for K.C. Members and their families at 7:30 am Mass.
- \*Coffee & Donuts will be served following 7:30 am Mass.

**BEREAVEMENT COMMITTEE**

Thanks to Harold & Beverly Babin for chairing the committee during the month of November. Chaircouple for December will be Joel & Janice Hebert. Please give them a call at 749-3863 with any concerns.

**ALTAR SOCIETY**

Thanks to Mary Anita Tullier and her group for cleaning the church during the month of November. We will be contacting various groups to clean in December.



*THE SANCTUARY CANDLE IS  
 NOW BURNING IN MEMORY OF  
 LEONA MAYEUX.*



**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

*“Prepare the Way of the Lord!”*

Advent offers us a great opportunity to prepare our hearts and souls for Christmas.

A perfect way to prepare ourselves is by spending time with Him who is, was and is to come by attending Eucharistic Adoration!

All night Eucharistic Adoration is Friday, Dec. 4th at 8pm thru Saturday, Dec. 5th at 8 am.

Sign-up sheets are in the foyer of Church  
 For more info, contact Mary @324-5289

**STEWADSHIP OF FINANCES**

**Building Fund Collection**

September—\$13,373.33  
 October—\$28,168.60

**Loan Balance**

\$476,210.11

*Pray for  
 Vocations*



**A VOCATION VIEW**

St. Paul tells us that the love we received from the Lord must increase and be shared with those around us that we need to be holy before God. Are you willing to teach the Gospel to others and to help prepare them for the coming of the Lord? If yes, call or email Father Matt Dupre' at 225.336.8778, mdupre@diobr.org or visit, [www.diobr.org/vocations](http://www.diobr.org/vocations).

**Advent Penance Services**

**PREPARE**



**FOR HIM**

<u>Tues., Dec. 1 (7:00 pm)</u>	St. Joan of Arc, Bayou Pigeon
<u>Thurs., Dec. 3 (6:30 pm)</u>	St. John's, Plaquemine
<u>Thurs., Dec. 10 (6:30 pm)</u>	Holy Family, Port Allen
<u>Thurs., Dec. 10 (6:00 pm)</u>	Immaculate Conception, Lakeland
<u>Tues., Dec. 15 (7:00 pm)</u>	St. John the Baptist, Brusly
<u>Wed., Dec. 16 (6:00 pm)</u>	St. Ann, Morganza

***“WHOEVER IS KIND TO THE NEEDY HONORS GOD” Proverbs 14:31***

One of our parishioners, Virgie Fabre will be joining a group of people on Saturday, December 5th under the North Blvd. overpass in downtown Baton Rouge to serve a hot meal and distribute shoes, clothing and other items to men, women and children in need.

She will take toiletries and gently used clothes and shoes in all sizes. Items for men are especially needed. They would also be happy to accept your donation to help pay for the meal.

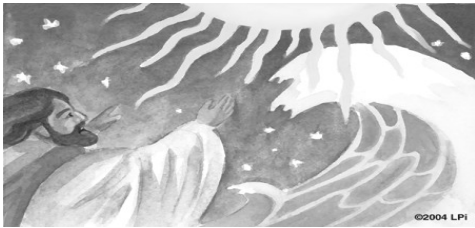
Please give Virgie a call at (225) 485-4358 for details and other ways that you can get involved.

**Readings for the Week of November 29, 2015**

Sunday:	Jer 33:14-16/Ps 25:4-5, 8-10, 14/ 1 Thes 3:12-4:2/Lk 21:25-28, 34-36
Monday:	Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8-11/Mt 4:18-22
Tuesday:	Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/ Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday:	Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-6/Mt 15:29-37
Thursday:	Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27/ Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday:	Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/ Mt 9:27-31
Saturday:	Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-6/ Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8
Next Sunday:	Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-6/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/ Lk 3:1-6

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**  
**PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS 2014-2015**

Donna Badon  
Maria Bertrand  
Jamie Bourg  
Chris Buckle, Chairman  
Deacon Sammy Collura  
Stacy Gauthreaux  
Jules Lefeaux  
Mark Loreno  
Fr. Matt Lorrain  
Jason Murphey  
Andrea Smicker  
Toni Tolar, Vice-Chairman  
John Windham



**1st Sunday of Advent**

"But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand." Jesus instructs his disciples to take this posture of confidence in the midst of a terribly disturbing situation. Describing his second coming, Jesus says that on seeing this event unfold, "People will die of fright." And yet the disciples are supposed to be pillars of strength. While others cower in fear, the Lord's followers are somehow immune, with heads raised high. Why?

Well, presumably, because those who follow Christ--those who earn the distinction of being disciples--have nothing to fear. On the contrary, when they have to "stand before the Son of Man," it will be a happy occasion. But here's the catch: "disciple" is more than an empty title. If we want to be counted among this confident crew, there are a few things for us to do. Today's Gospel spells out these tasks, which are all perfect things to pursue during Advent.

First, we have to make sure that our "hearts do not become drowsy." We are called to stay awake in a spiritual sense, not allowing "carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life" to numb us. We need to avoid whatever might reduce our ability to recognize and relate to Jesus, because we don't want his appearance to catch us "by surprise like a trap." Advent is an ideal time to examine our lives to determine what activities, priorities, or pastimes might be putting our hearts to sleep. Secondly, we need to pray. We need to ask Jesus himself for "the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man." We can't do it alone. But with Christ's help, we can be true, fearless disciples.