



# ST. JOHN *The* BAPTIST

• catholic church •

*September 14, 2014*  
*Exaltation of the Cross*  
*Vol. 46, No. 37*



**402 S. KIRKLAND (RIVER ROAD) • P.O. BOX 248 BRUSLY, LA 70719**

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**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  
Julie Ginther Cilano ..... Christian Formation  
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

"And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life." 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. - Jn 3:14-16

Dear Parishioners,

On Wednesday of this week I will be mailing a letter to each of our registered families asking that we prayerfully consider increasing our offertory contribution by a small amount. No priest enjoys asking for money but every so often it is necessary in order to keep up with the rising costs of essential services such as insurance, utilities, salaries, and the maintenance of our church and parish buildings.

Our offertory collections for the fiscal year just ended on June 30, 2014 totaled \$549,333. This was about \$6,000 less than the previous year. Our Building Fund collections totaled \$181,914, or \$71,336 less than the previous year. The decrease in Building Fund collections was expected since the majority of pledges are now paid in full. Thanks to the generous bequest of Mr. Leighton Delahaye, our debt now stands at \$715,265, which is still a big number but significantly less than the previous balance of \$1.1 million.

Our expenses for the previous fiscal year included \$273,401 for clergy and lay salaries, \$127,107 for support of diocesan services, \$45,270 for utilities, and \$37,431 for insurance. These amounts reflect about a 4.7% increase over last year's expenses which is in part the reason why I now ask for your help.

The generosity of one or two families cannot supply the income needed to put us in positive territory but all of us working together can surely bridge the gap. I completely understand those of you who are on fixed incomes or who have recently increased your giving. But others among us may not have examined their contributions in some time and might be able to increase their giving by \$5, \$10, or even \$15 per week. I really need your help so please pray about it and then return the response card included with my letter.

This year's *Feast on the Levee* is Sunday, October 26, and I hope you will all be able to join us for food, music, and fellowship. Even though I had to dip into our savings last year to pay bills, I try to hold the *Feast* income as sacred and reserved for special projects rather than typical operating expenses. Last year's *Feast* income was divided between our Building Fund Savings (\$20,000), Loan Repayment (\$20,000), and

regular Parish Savings (\$19,000).

The *Feast on the Levee* serves as both a fund raiser and a community builder for our church parish. Your donations of time, food, and money help to strengthen the ties that bind us together as a community of faith. Please support this important annual event by your presence at the *Feast*, and by your sale or purchase of raffle tickets and other donations which contribute to its success.

The August Pot Luck supper was a great success and it's already time for our September supper. The Parish Pot Luck this month will take place on Thursday, September 18, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Activity Center. The theme this month is *Barbeque* so please make plans to join us!

In Christ,  
Father Matt



## CHRISTIAN FORMATION BEGINS

Classes begin Monday & Tuesday

September 22nd & 23rd

If your child has not been registered with the Christian Formation Office yet, please do so as soon as possible. The 9th Grade class on September 23rd and the 10th Grade class on September 30th is a session for both the parents and students.



Are you interested in being more engaged in the parish? Come get involved with passing on the Catholic faith to our young people! They need role models like YOU! Call the Christian Formation Office for more information.

## CATECHISTS NEEDED!!!

### Mondays:

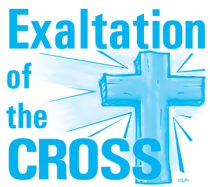
- ◇ One 6th Grade Class

### Tuesdays:

- ◇ One 1st Grade Class
- ◇ One 4th Grade Class

**SUBSTITUTES BOTH DAYS—ALL GRADES**





**THE SANCTUARY CANDLE  
IS NOW BURNING IN  
LOVING MEMORY OF  
"MOO" LANDRY**

**WE WILL NEVER FORGET  
SEPTEMBER 11, 2001**  
*God Bless America*  
**Thank You!**

"We want to take this opportunity to say **THANK YOU** to everyone for keeping us in your prayers, your support and encouragement in the time of our loss as we never could have made it without your help!

Special thanks to Fr. Matt for the beautiful service and to our Bereavement Committee for their loving and tireless efforts with 'food for our body & for our souls'.

With warmest thanks, grateful hearts and deep appreciation, we thank you."

-The family of Willie Thousand

**The Bereavement Committee wishes to thank everyone for the donations in memory of Willie Thousand & Carolyn Milazzo.**

## Increased Giving Program

This weekend, our parish is beginning an Increased Weekly Giving Program. It is very important that our parish improves its financial well being. In the coming week, every family will be asked to consider a reasonable increase in their current weekly offering and make consistent use of our parish envelope system. Next weekend please the special response envelope that was enclosed with Father Matt's letter to indicate your new total weekly giving amount. The following weekend, simply return to your regular envelopes while maintaining your new giving amount. Pray for the success of this most necessary program.

### STEWARDSHIP OF FINANCES

#### August 24, 2014

235 Identified-----\$6,211.00  
Loose Collection----- 517.00  
TOTAL-----\$6,728.00

#### August 31, 2014

195 Identified-----\$6,104.00  
Loose Collection----- 707.00  
TOTAL-----\$6,811.00

### A VOCATION VIEW

Jesus continues to draw those who believe. Our world is hungry and thirsty for the Bread of Life. Will you share your faith? Consider being a sister, brother, priest or deacon, call or email Father Matt Dupre' at 225.336.8778, mdupre@diobr.org.

## 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 at our next meeting on **Wednesday, September 17th** in the Activity Center. We will be enjoying dinner at 6:30 PM with KC's and the **meeting will begin at 7 PM.** We hope to see you there!

## Cards, Etc.

Monday, October 20, 2014

10:00 am—3:00 pm

Get your group together and register for a fun day of Bridge, Bouree, Poker, Canasta, Pokeno, Hand and Foot Canasta, Sequence or other board games. Also be ready to enjoy a delicious lunch of meatballs & spaghetti with salad, bread & dessert.

All of this for a \$25.00 fee. There will be Door Prizes including tickets for the LSU vs Mississippi Game! The day will also include a 50/50 Raffle and a Cash Bar.

Registration deadline is October 15th. Forms are available at the Church Office or we can mail or email one to you.



**PRAYERS & SYMPATHY** are extended to Mrs. Bea Tullier & family upon the death of her husband, "Buck" and to the family of Mr. Myron "Mackie" Comeaux upon their recent deaths. Please keep them in your prayers.

### Readings for the Week of September 14, 2014

Sunday: Nm 21:4b-9/Phil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17  
Monday: 1 Cor 11:17-26, 33/Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35  
Tuesday: 1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a/Lk 7:11-17  
Wednesday: 1 Cor 12:31--13:13/Lk 7:31-35  
Thursday: 1 Cor 15:1-11/Lk 7:36-50  
Friday: 1 Cor 15:12-20/Lk 8:1-3  
Saturday: 1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49/Lk 8:4-15  
Next Sunday: Is 55:6-9/Phil 1:20c-24, 27a/ Mt 20:1-16a

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

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



**The Exaltation of the Holy Cross**

"And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up." The first reading today refers to the story of the Israelites and the serpents. These venomous creatures were biting and killing the people of Israel wandering in the desert. Moses begged God to save them from the affliction. God chose a strange antidote to the poison: he told Moses to mount a bronze serpent on a pole. Those who looked at it survived.

In the Gospel reading, John refers to this historical event in the context of salvation. Then, the people of God were saved from physical death by looking up. Now, we are saved from spiritual death in much the same way. Through the cross where Jesus was "lifted up," God has given us an antidote to the poison of sin. The habits of selfishness that threaten to suffocate our souls can be overcome when we raise our eyes to this cross upon which Christ made the ultimate act of selflessness.

Today at Mass, many of us will sing the rousing hymn "Lift High the Cross" and call to mind this "triumphant sign" that has come to be equivalent with Christianity itself. The cross is our symbol, our banner, and our hope. As Christians, we march behind it with confidence and courage because through it, even the most fearsome of all human realities—sin and death—have been conquered. Now we can enjoy the gift of eternal life.

But, like the children of Israel wandering in the desert, we have to participate in our own salvation. God desired that they actively "look" at the bronze seraph instead of passively being cured. So too, we must choose to actively embrace the cross of Christ by modeling our lives after the generous, life-giving love of the Lord.