



ST. JOHN *The* BAPTIST

• catholic church •

September 21, 2014
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Vol. 46, No. 38



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

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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
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

"He said to one of them in reply, 'My friend, I am not cheating you. Did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what is yours and go. What if I wish to give this last one the same as you? Or am I not free to do as I wish with my own money? Are you envious because I am generous?'" Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last." - Mt 20:13-16

Dear Parishioners,

This Sunday, September 21, is designated as *Catechetical Sunday* for Catholic parishes and schools in the United States. It coincides with the start of Christian Formation classes in Parish Schools of Religion, as well as with RCIA sessions for those inquiring into the Catholic faith, and bible studies for adult Catholics interested in deepening their faith. We are blessed to have all of these opportunities available here at St. John the Baptist thanks to our many dedicated and talented catechists. Formation classes for our children start on Monday night so please say a prayer for all of our students and teachers.

Our Sunday Visitor published a nice pamphlet entitled "Top Ten Ways to be an Outstanding Catechist." I won't go through all ten but Number 6 is, "*Outstanding catechists instruct their students in the art of prayer.*" It is a great reminder that in addition to teaching Catholic beliefs, good catechists also model and reinforce the importance of prayer. Our students will have already learned about prayer from their parents and grandparents but it doesn't hurt to build upon that foundation and further their experience. It reminds us that the greatest of all prayers is the Mass that we are fortunate to celebrate together each week.


Number 1 on the Top Ten list is, "*Outstanding catechists know that, to form saints, we ourselves must become saints.*" Volunteering to teach religion is a wonderful act of service for which I am very grateful. It is also a call to holiness so that the catechist might grow in his or her faith and love for God at the same time that he or she is passing on that faith to his or her students. We cannot expect our children to grow in love and charity if we as adults are not also willing to grow spiritually.

Catholics are once again invited to participate in "40 Days for Life," an interdenominational pro-life campaign focused on prayer & fasting, peaceful vigil, and community outreach. This will be the fourth year that the Baton Rouge religious community has participated in this national and international effort. This year's campaign runs from September 24 to November 2 which overlaps with our own Catholic Church's "Respect Life Month" observance in October.

The first and most important way to participate in this campaign is to devote daily time in prayer for an end to abortion. Second, you may wish to sign-up to participate in an hour of peaceful witness outside of the Delta Clinic on Colonial Drive in Baton Rouge. St. John the Baptist Parish has adopted Saturday, October 11, from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. as our day to pray outside of the clinic, so try to help us fill those hours if you are able. Call Mary Benoit or Julie Millard to sign-up for an hour, or just come whenever you are able.

Finally, Charis Ministries is a Jesuit ministry to young adults in their 20s and 30s. They are offering a "Spirit@Work Retreat" in our parish on Saturday, November 1, from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.. The cost is \$35 which includes lunch and supper, and the retreat is open to all young adults throughout the Diocese. Please mark your calendar if you would like to attend and contact Sr. Ily at 456-5421 or breatholi-cya@diobr.org for more information.

In Christ,
Father Matt

**Catechetical
Sunday** 

CHRISTIAN FORMATION BEGINS

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!!!

Tuesdays:

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

SUBSTITUTES BOTH DAYS—ALL GRADES

A note from Julie...

To my dear parish community of St. John the Baptist,
Greetings from Washington, DC! I was sad to leave our amazing community so abruptly, but there was a job opportunity that I felt called to here in DC. I have accepted a job as the Campus Minister for the George Washington University Newman Catholic Student Center. It has been on my heart to work with college students for a long time, and Washington, DC is one of my favorite places to be, so after a lot of prayer and discernment, I decided it would be a good fit.

I want you to know that it was with bittersweet and mixed emotions that I left St. John, as you all have welcomed me, not only into the parish, but also into your families, your lives, and your hearts. I too have done the same with you, and I know it has changed me for the better. You have challenged me to learn, to grow, and to love in ways that I did not even know were possible. I am so unbelievably grateful for the time that I was able to spend with you. Your love, support, and encouragement will stay with me always.

I hope that my short time at St. John made some small difference in our parish. God puts us in certain places on purpose, and perhaps we may not know what that purpose was right now, but he always reveals it along the way. Thank you, my parish family, for teaching me how to be brave and trust in God, no matter how crazy it may seem.

Please know that I am praying for you, and I am here for you, no matter where I go, because I take a piece of St. John the Baptist with me in my heart, always!

Love,
Julie Cilano



Increased Giving Program

Our Increased Weekly Giving Program is now underway. Please respond by using the red response envelope enclosed with the letter you received from Father Matt this week. The participation of ALL parishioners is essential for the success of this effort. If you increased your weekly offering but did not use the special envelope, please do so next weekend so we can properly acknowledge your response.

STEWARDSHIP OF FINANCES

September 7, 2014

REGULAR:

297 Identified- - - - - \$13,480.00
Loose Collection- - - - - 522.00
TOTAL- - - - - \$14,002.00

A VOCATION VIEW

Life in service of the Lord is never dull, and often challenging. Consider life as a priest, brother or sister. For help as you think about this call Father Matt Dupre' at 225.336.8778, mdupre'@diobr.org.

Eucharistic



Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament

Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament in our parish has been ongoing for twenty-eight (28) years; we started this beautiful devotion on September 5, 1986.

The Most Blessed Sacrament is in the monstrance each Friday morning following the 8:00 am Mass until 11:30 am. All parishioners and visitors are invited to come pray with us during these hours.

Many thanks to those who regularly come to spend an hour with our Lord and to all who make this devotion so successful.

On September 5th one of the Mass Intentions was for the living and deceased Eucharistic adorers.

GOD BLESS YOU



SPIRITUAL ADOPTION Eight Month Developing Baby

Your spiritually adopted baby is now finishing his development and concentration on gaining weight. He is probably making his mother uncomfortable with his size and recognizes his mother's voice. In a short time, he will be born! It has not been easy for him and his mother, but your prayers have given her the grace she needed to make the right choices!!

CONGRATULATIONS to...

The following babies who were baptized here recently:
Reese Elizabeth Smith, daughter of Robin & Magen Smith
and Kathryn Lee Irvine, daughter of Christopher & Kristy Irvine.

WELCOME INTO OUR FAITH FAMILY!

Readings for the Week of September 21, 2014

Sunday: Is 55:6-9/Phil 1:20c-24, 27a/
Mt 20:1-16a
Monday: Prv 3:27-34/Lk 8:16-18
Tuesday: Prv 21:1-6, 10-13/Lk 8:19-21
Wednesday: Prv 30:5-9/Lk 9:1-6
Thursday: Eccl 1:2-11/Lk 9:7-9
Friday: Eccl 3:1-11/Lk 9:18-22
Saturday: Eccl 11:9--12:8/Lk 9:43b-45
Next Sunday: Ez 18:25-28/Phil 2:1-11 or 2:1-5/
Mt 21:28-32

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



25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Are you envious because I am generous?" So often, we expect God to operate the way we do. We expect to be able to understand everything he does. When we don't, it's tempting to think that the problem is on God's end, not ours. In today's Gospel, Jesus tells a parable about God's mercy. And some of us may not understand it at first glance. Why should the "lazy" workers who showed up late in the day be given the same wage as the diligent ones? Doesn't this suggest a kind of fundamental disrespect for the efforts of the first group? Extending the principle spiritually, we might ask a similar question. Why should sinners who spend much of their lives doing wrong be allowed to "show up" suddenly and receive the mercy of God? What about those faithful Christians who have walked the road of virtue all along? Shouldn't they receive something more than these ne'er-dowells?

As Jesus points out, there is nothing unjust about being generous (or merciful) to a certain group or individual. As long as no one is cheated out of what they were promised, there is no reason for envy or anger. Furthermore, and perhaps this is the real point of the parable, no one should be so quick to assume that he or she is a diligent worker. In fact, when we honestly assess our own weaknesses and sins, when we acknowledge the ways that we personally have fallen short of perfect virtue, the picture changes. It becomes clear that in fact we are the beneficiaries of God's generous mercy. We are the ones who showed up late in the day. Instead of calculating the degree of others' sins, let us call to mind and be sorry for our own. Then we can truly rejoice in God's forgiveness, no matter who is so fortunate as to receive it.