



# ST. JOHN *The* BAPTIST

catholic church



402 South Kirkland Drive (River Road) P. O. Box 248, Brusly, Louisiana 70719

**OFFICE:** 225-749-2189

**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.                  |
| Monday, 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.              |
| Monday, Wednesday thru Friday ..... | 7:40 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 .....         | Child Protection                |
| Layne Mire .....          | Parish Secretary                |
| Lil Stutes .....          | 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 11:00am 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 the Church 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 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 the Church Parish Office.

Dear Parishioners,

Who has bought an insurance policy or signed a contract, knowing that you have to read all the conditions and fine print? A contract is binding by law. A legal marriage is a contract, and is binding by law. But a sacramental marriage is a covenant, and it is not merely binding by law, but it is also bound by love. There is a difference between a contract and a covenant. God has entered into a covenant with us, and the binding force of that covenant is love, to which we are expected to respond with our love. This covenant is not expressed on paper, but in the person of Jesus Christ. In today's Gospel, Jesus indicates his part of the covenant; he will go to Jerusalem to die for us, and he will seal the covenant, not in print but with his own blood. What is our part in the covenant? How can we respond to the love of Jesus? Jesus states, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me." Isn't this a strange kind of love that we have, to take up the cross in order to come to the fullness of life? How many of us really understand the wisdom in such a statement?

In the first reading, we hear that even Prophet Jeremiah struggled to understand God's wisdom and complained, "You duped me, Oh Lord, and I let myself be duped." In the Gospel, we find that St. Peter failed to understand God's plan for Jesus, the goodness from the suffering and death of his beloved master. He failed to understand the meaning of this wisdom since he was thinking in human terms. Peter was brought into the idea that the Messiah is of power, glory and conquest. He could not believe that the messiahship of Jesus was connected to the cross and his suffering. It is this thinking that prompted Peter to say, "Oh, no, it must not happen to you." Then comes the great rebuke by Jesus, "Get behind me Satan." Jesus tries to make the disciples understand that the cross is a necessary part of life; it is in sacrifice that one finds the meaning of life.

We can identify with the Prophet Jeremiah and St. Peter because we all tend to think in human terms, and live in an illusory world. Our illusion is only what is pleasant, easy and worth living. We believe that every desire must be satisfied without cost, and that human development is achieved without self-denial. Money and material possessions make man seemingly happy, and must be attained at any cost; this is our lives in a perfect world. If this is our mode of thinking, then there is no place for the cross, there is no meaning in sacrifice. We may tend to doubt the divine wisdom in everything that happens in our lives. I don't think that we can live in such a world, nor is it God's plan that we should. What God wants from us, is not to turn away from the cross, difficulties or problems, but to take them as opportunities for growth. We are expected to take up our daily cross, sacrifice ourselves for others, and make room in our lives for God's ways. If there is no cross, then we are not living the religion of Jesus. It is a cross to follow Jesus, for in following him, we are expected to suffer rather than sin. It's a cross to reject the world's sleazy ways of life and live by God's ways. It's a cross to be faithful to the duties of one's vocation, such as marriage, parenting, priesthood or religious life. We must understand that it is by carrying our cross that we respond to the love of God expressed by Jesus on the Cross. Jesus promises us that the cross enriches our lives.

It's a fact that sometimes we have to lose certain things in order to find better things. People gain years of added life by giving up smoking or drinking alcohol. There is a saying that great hearts are the result of great troubles. There are things happening in our lives that seem to shake us at first, but they strengthen us afterwards. Unless we suffer and feel the cross, how will we come to understand the people whose lives are a cross? Someone once said, "It is when God seems to be most cruel to us, that he is most kind." So let us not be afraid of our cross, because along with it comes healing and glory. Just as God the Father rewarded Jesus' sacrifice on the cross with the resurrection, we too will be rewarded by the Father. However the cross is still a cross, yet there is a way for a Christian to love his cross instead of getting rid of it. Pray that we are able to follow Jesus by facing the crosses of our own lives, and find the true meaning of life and attain salvation.

God Bless You,  
Father John



## Christian Formation



**Grandparents Mass** for Religion Classes of K-8 has changed to Monday, September 18th at 5:30pm. All families are welcome to sit together. Please drop off your child at 5:15pm at Church and pick up your child at 6:20pm from Church. See you there!

**There will be no Religion Classes for K-8 from September 4th-6th due to the Labor Day Holiday.**

**Religion Classes resume on September 11th for grades K-8.**

**Religion Mass is at 5:30pm on Monday, September 18th for K-8. No Classes on Tuesday, September 19th or Wednesday, September 20th for K-8.**

BAPTISM



**Please welcome to our faith community:  
Reece Paul Robinson  
son of Nathan and Angela Robinson,  
who was baptized on August 27th.**

Stewardship of Finance

Total Collection for August 27th: \$8,392.00

Assumption of Mary Collection: \$2,073.00

Mission Appeal Collection: \$3,000.00



**R.C.I.A. Classes meet at 6:30pm on Wednesday night in the Church Office. To begin your journey of faith, please contact Carolyn Dupuy, 225-276-6269.**

**Cypress Springs Mercedarian Prayer Center presents The Profound Symbolism of the 4th Cup and the Lamb of God by Mike Fulmer, a Catholic Convert on Friday, September 8th at 6:00pm. To register, call 225-752-8480. The Prayer Center is located at 17560 George O'Neal Road in Baton Rouge.**

# HAPPY LABOR DAY

**The Church Office will be closed on Monday, September 4th for the Labor Day holiday.**

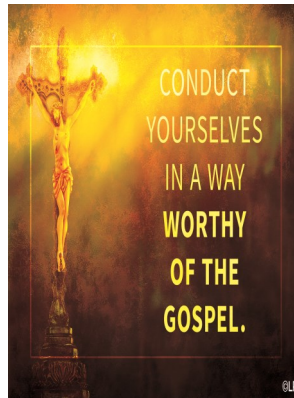
**Food Pantry Distribution will be at 8:30am on Monday, September 11th at the Activity Center.**

**The Baptism Seminar will take place on Wednesday, September 13th at 6:00pm in the Church Office.**

**The Parish Council will meet at 6:30pm on Thursday, September 14th in the Activity Center.**

**Zipper Sale Dates are September 14th & 21st at 7:30am.**

*The Sanctuary Candle burns in memory of Alfred Chustz.*



### Vocations

**Will you share your faith? Can you spread the Gospel? If God is calling you to the priesthood or a religious life, please contact Father Josh Johnson at 225-336-8778 or email him: [jjohnson@diobr.org](mailto:jjohnson@diobr.org) or visit: [www.diobr.org/vocations](http://www.diobr.org/vocations)**

**Get your Feast on the Levee T-Shirt! These T-shirts will be sold after all Masses on the weekends of September 2nd & 3rd and also on the 9th and 10th. You can also call Pam LeDoux, 337-513-1334, to get one.**

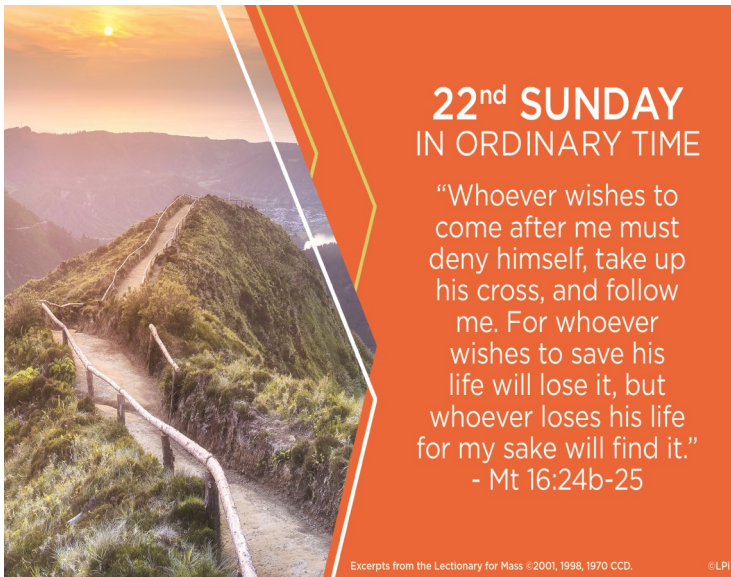


**Feast on the Levee is Sunday, October 8th. Join us from 11:00am-7:00pm! We still need volunteers! If you need service hours, please call the Church Office to sign-up.**



**5K, Bike, Fun Run Saturday, October 7th at 8:00am**

**Please scan the QR code to register!**



## 22<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”  
- Mt 16:24b-25

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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### Readings for the week of September 3, 2023

- Sunday: Jer 20:7-9/Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 (2b)/  
Rom 12:1-2/Mt 16:21-27
- Monday: 1 Thes 4:13-18/Ps 96:1 and 3, 4-5, 11-12, 13/  
Lk 4:16-30
- Tuesday: 1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Lk 4:31-37
- Wednesday: Col 1:1-8/Ps 52:10, 11/Lk 4:38-44
- Thursday: Col 1:9-14/Ps 98:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6/Lk 5:1-11
- Friday: Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30/Ps 13:6ab, 6c/  
Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 or 1:18-23
- Saturday: Col 1:21-23/Ps 54:3-4, 6 and 8/Lk 6:1-5
- Next Sunday: Ez 33:7-9/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 (8)/Rom 13:8-10/  
Mt 18:15-20

### Marriage Saving Weekend

**Retrouaille will host a program on September 15-17 for those couples who want a better marriage by offering mercy to one another. For more information, please call Randall and Robin Bellard, 225-271-4092, or visit: [www.HelpOurMarriage.org](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.org)**

**For All Parents in the Diocese of Baton Rouge There will be a presentation at St. Michael's Gym in Baton Rouge on how to protect your family from the dangers of Pornography. The presentation will take place at 6:30pm on Tuesday, September 5th. For more information, contact: [EFROEBA@SMHSBR.ORG](mailto:EFROEBA@SMHSBR.ORG)**

**Memorial Scholarship Foundation for Ava & Jacob Saucier will hold a Jambalaya Benefit and Online Silent Auction on Sunday, September 24th from 10:30am-1:00pm at the Holy Family Parish Hall. You can call Andrea Normand, 225-328-4843 to acquire your tickets.**



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