



MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT

CATHOLIC CHURCH

2016 GUIDE BOOK & DIRECTORY



15615 Jefferson Hwy. | Baton Rouge, LA 70817 | (225) 752-6230

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15615 JEFFERSON HWY., BATON ROUGE, LA 70817

(225) 752-6230

September 30, 2016

Dear Parishioners,

Whether you're a long time parishioner, somewhat new to the area, or currently registering at Most Blessed Sacrament after the publication of this directory, please know that I am grateful for your presence in the M.B.S. family as your pastor and fellow disciple of Jesus Christ. You belong to a faith community that is relatively young (37 years) but has a rich history of active parishioners from all ages and backgrounds. We try to heed the call of Pope Francis to open ourselves to the healing of God's Mercy that we each need, and to reflect God's Mercy to others through prayer, service, and generosity. The Kingdom of God is "contemplation" and "action" now in our lives "on earth as it is in heaven".

This is why we embrace in the Diocese of Baton Rouge three phases of STEWARDSHIP that are interconnected and interdependent.

PRAYER: Both private/personal prayer and communal prayer (Mass/Eucharist) are necessary for the development of the spiritual life for Catholics... not either/or but both/and. If you find yourselves alienated from God and/or the Church, or in the habit of not practicing, or if practicing find yourself in need of spiritual direction, feel free to talk to me without worry of judgment or embarrassment. God engages us personally and as a family. We as "pray-ers" are to give back of ourselves to God in personal and communal praying as a response to God's self-communication to us...contemplation/prayer. All are welcome here.

SERVICE/MINISTRY: Now the action part... Because God gives God's Self to us in sacrificial love, how are we as stewards of our time, talent, skills, and spirit in giving back to God through our own sacrificial love to family, neighbor, the stranger, and the poor inside and/or outside of Church service/ministry? Our Catholic faith has a "receiving" dimension to it, certainly, but it must have a "giving back" dimension to it as well, to be complete. We breathe "in" and we breathe "out" to be able to live. You will find a multitude of opportunities to serve in lay ministry at MBS in big and small ways and hope that you consider responding so that one's Catholic faith is more than mere attendance at mass, as important as that is. We have several service organizations, committees, catechetical and liturgical ministries, etc., always open to new life... open to your life and spirit. Please check them out.

OFFERING/FINANCES: This third phase of stewardship even though it involves church financial support, also has a spirituality foundation to it. Giving/tithing acknowledges that everything we have is a gift from God, lent to us by God to be used fruitfully in our lives. We may work hard for what we earn or have earned but even the capacity to work hard is a gift from God. Stewardship of Offering is a prayerful discernment to give back to God in giving to God's Church a portion of our resources in appreciation, gratitude, and taking responsibility for one's Church family to build this local Kingdom of God in the operations of Most Blessed Sacrament Church, its ministerial outreach, and the management of its buildings, property, and savings for future building, capital improvements, and repair. In addition to the practicalities, the spirituality of generosity challenges this reality - the need of the giver to give no matter what the temporal needs might be. Thus we are responding to and reflecting God's generosity. The M.B.S. Finance Committee oversees the administration of our Church and its school and the necessary accountability. Be prayerful, reflective stewards. God is never outdone in generosity.

My gratitude and appreciation go out to God and to all of you for the gift to be in this church family. I have been "most blessed" to be a part of eight church parishes in my years as an Associate Pastor and Pastor. I invite you all to be "pray-ers" together, "servants/ministers" together, "givers" together, so that all of us evangelize not by being "preachy", but by taking the command at the end of mass literally: "Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life."

Love and Prayers,

Fr. Phil Spano



HISTORY OF MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT

Most Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church was organized as a Parish of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Baton Rouge in 1979. The Most Reverend Joseph V. Sullivan, S.T.D., Bishop of Baton Rouge gave the solemn blessing and with the founding pastor, the Reverend Monsignor Lester Lacassagne, laid the cornerstone in December of 1979.

MBS began as a family parish and strives to retain that flavor. There are more than 2,800 families in the parish, or approximately 9,000 persons, the average age of our parishioners is 29 years old. To minister to this youthful and growing population, over 30 ministries and organizations have been established, providing spiritual, social and material benefits for the parishioners and the community.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held on Sunday June 12, 2005 for the construction of a new administration building and a new Church. Most Blessed Sacrament had long outgrown its present facilities and it was only natural that the new church and administration building was needed.

The Administration Building was completed in June of 2006. In addition to the usual offices, conference rooms, waiting area, and other special purpose rooms, there are four meeting rooms of various sizes which can be opened and operated independently of the administration offices.

On January 21, 2007 a new church was completed and dedicated. The dedication ceremony was conducted by Bishop Robert Muench, the former Pastor Father Michael Collins, along with many of the diocesan priests and deacons in attendance. The new church consists of 17,000 square feet. It is constructed in the catholic tradition style following the guidelines and regulations of Vatican II. The Narthex is a very spacious area of the church which allows for meeting and greeting of parishioners and the celebrant in a friendly atmosphere. The narthex is flanked by special rooms for reconciliation, brides, vesting, ushers and restrooms. The main body of the church contains enough pews to seat 940 people. The Sanctuary contains the Altar, Ambo, Priest's Chair, and tabernacle. On the right side of the Sanctuary is the choir and on the left the baptismal font. Everyone who has attended Mass in the new church is overwhelmed with the beauty and the prayerful atmosphere.

Most Blessed Sacrament School teaches grades K-8 in two sections and has an extended care program as well. Enrollment at the school averages about 520 students. The parish also has an Early Learning Center for children 2-4 years old.

New Pastor Announced: Father Phil Spano

Fr. Philip Spano is a native of Donaldsonville, born on September 27, 1954. He is the second of five sons of Victor Spano, Sr. and Doris Ferris of Donaldsonville who are both deceased. His brothers are Gregory, Mike, Victor and Tommy. A 1972 graduate of Ascension Catholic High School, Fr. Phil graduated from Louisiana State University in 1977 and taught one year of religious studies at Ascension Catholic High School.

He entered the Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans in 1978. Fr. Phil completed his studies and formation for the priesthood in 1982 and was ordained on June 4th of that year in Ascension Catholic Church in Donaldsonville.

He served his diaconate year at Holy Rosary Parish in St. Amant under the supervision of Fr. Donald Blanchard. Fr. Phil's first assignment as priest was a Associate Pastor at St. Isidore in Baker from 1982-85; he then served for 3 years at St. Aloysius and for 2 years at St. Louis King of France in Baton Rouge as an associate. He was the Pastor of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Brusly-Addis from 1990-1996 and Pastor of St. Theresa of Avila in Gonzales from 1996-2004. Since 2004 he has been serving in his hometown of Donaldsonville as Pastor of both Ascension of Our Lord and St. Francis of Assisi which the Diocese clustered that year.

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Dear New Parishioners,

Welcome to MBS Parish! Please check ministries you are interested in and return to the parish office.

Name: _____

Phone/Email: _____

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament as a means of focusing the heart and mind in prayer, with attention affixed on the mystery of the Eucharistic presence of Christ in church.

Altar Ministry

Those who set up for weekend Mass and clean vessels and linens afterwards.

Altar Servers

Assist priest at liturgical services. Open to boys and girls, from fourth grade through high school. All servers attend a parish training.

Boy Scouts

Programs for boys which follow the procedures and guidelines of the national scouting program directives. Adult volunteer ___ Interested child ___

Catholic Daughters

Court Divine Mercy #2318- serves the parish and community through active support and participation in charitable works. Parochial, diocesan, state and national levels. Open to Catholic women age eighteen and older.

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

Men and Women in the parish who assist priest with the distribution of the Eucharist. Some also bring the Eucharist to the homebound. All Eucharistic Ministers attend a parish training.

Girl Scouts

Programs for girls which follow the procedures and guidelines of the national scouting program directives. Adult volunteer ___ Interested child ___

Good Timers

You are invited to be a part of our Senior ministry ages 55+ and celebrate the joy of faith, fellowship and fun with planned monthly activities!

Grounds Crew

Come join us as a family to take care of the property in and around our school from March through October. We have teams that take turns once a month on a rotating basis. It's a great way to earn school service hours.

Habitat for Humanity

This ministry builds and renovates houses working with the future homeowner to improve living conditions and foster a community spirit.

Knights of Columbus

A national fraternal service organization open to all Catholic men age eighteen years and older. Provides assistance for the work of the church and the community through family support and the spiritual development of its members.

Lector

Catholic Adults who proclaim the Word at Holy Days and other Liturgical services. Open to all adults eighteen years and older. Lectors attend a parish training.

Martha Ministries

Meals for two weeks after childbirth/surgery. Providing a meal once in a two week period through our website: takethemomeal.com

___ Outreach to homebound/nursing home
Visiting our residents and helping with meals, prayer, and/or communion.

___ Bereavement
Praying with the family at a hospice center or home/food for the family at funeral home or after funeral
Praying a rosary in narthex during a wake in church

___ Military Outreach
Praying for them, sending them letters of encouragement and care packages/Providing them (if wounded) a handmade woven prayer lap blanket to ensure them of our support.

Men's Club

A service and social organization for all men in the parish. Provides a variety of projects for the parish, school and community.

Music Ministry

Serves the worshipping community with music for liturgical celebrations. Cantor and instrumentalist. Adult and Contemporary Choirs.

Momnipotent: Finding Peace, Balance, & Joy in your vocation as a Mother

A prayer/support group for mothers of young children

Musk Ministry

Serves the worshipping community with music for liturgical celebrations. Cantors and instrumentalists. Adult and Contemporary Choirs.

Religious Education - PSR

Parish School of Religion provides catechesis and faith formation to the youth of our parish, kindergarten to twelfth grade. Adult volunteer ___ Student ___

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

A process of conversion focused primarily on those belonging to a non-Catholic faith, but seeking information on becoming Catholic. The process begins in the Fall and concludes at Easter. Sponsor ___ Inquirer ___

Scripture & Spirituality

Men and women gather to study scripture through prayers and small group sharing. Day and evening sessions available.

Stephen Ministry

"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ" -Galatians 6:2

What is Stephen Ministry?
Stephen Ministry is the one-to-one lay caring ministry that takes place in congregations that use the Stephen Ministry system. Stephen Ministry congregations equip and empower lay caregivers called: Stephen Ministers, to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ centered care to people who are hurting.

Ushers

A ministry of Hospitality to all who attend our liturgies on Sunday and Holy Days. Men and women who greet and help with the seating of the congregation. They also assist with the offertory collection.

For more information and contact for each ministry please call Kathy Duplessis, Director of Ministries @225-752-6230.





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