

# SACRED HEART OF JESUS

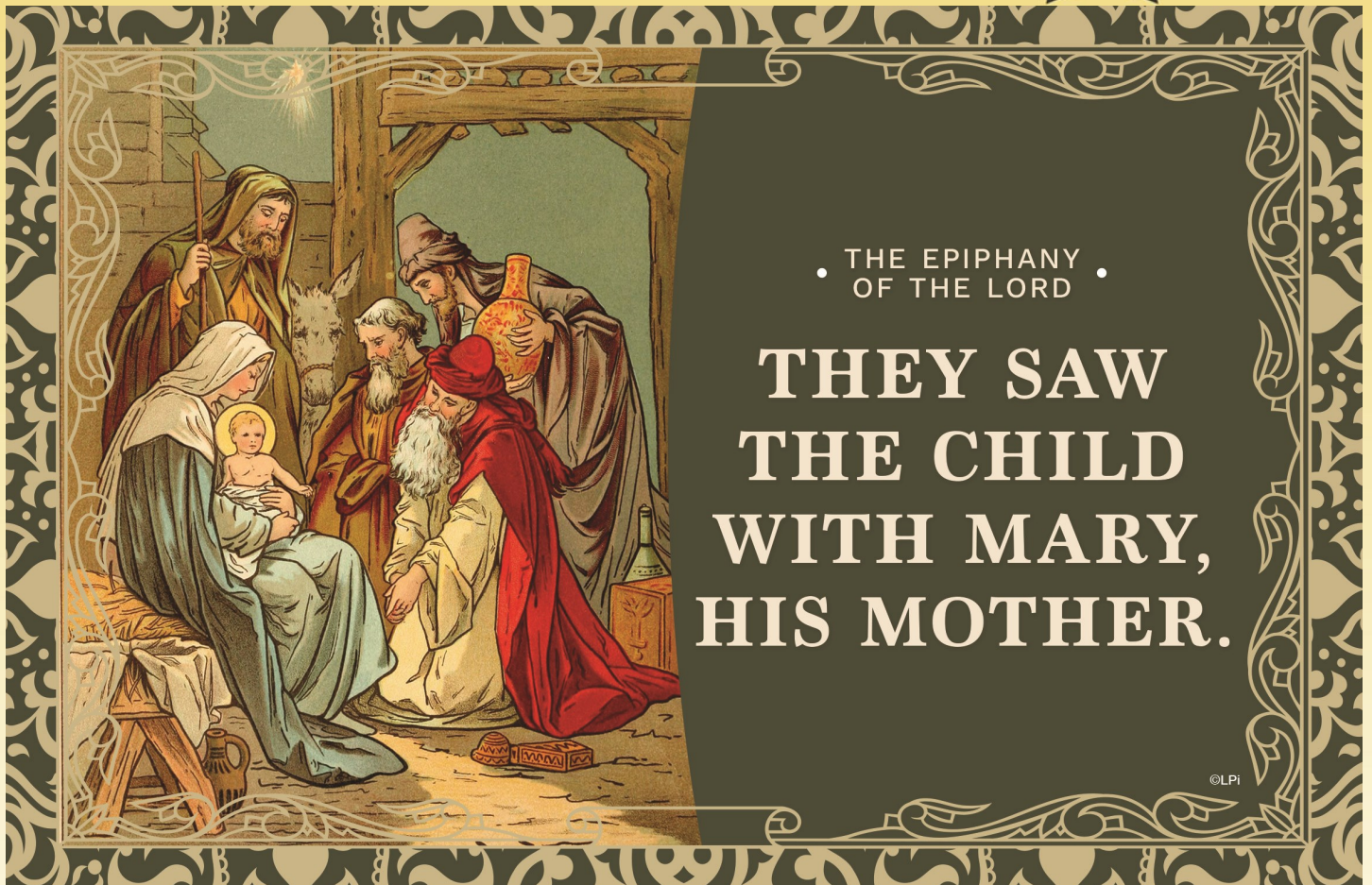
CATHOLIC CHURCH

## PARISH MESSENGER



Volume 96, Number 1 | January 4, 2026

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



THE EPIPHANY  
OF THE LORD

THEY SAW  
THE CHILD  
WITH MARY,  
HIS MOTHER.

©LPI

### MASS SCHEDULE



Give online  
via cell phone  
with our  
QR code.

#### WEEKDAY MASSES

**Mondays:** No Daily Mass  
**Tuesdays:** 6:00 PM Mass  
**Wednesdays:** 8:00 AM Mass/  
*Devotion to Our Mother of Perpetual Help  
follows Mass*  
**Thursdays:** 6:00 AM Mass  
**Fridays:** 8:00 AM Mass

#### WEEKEND MASSES

**Saturdays:** 4:00 PM Vigil Mass  
**Sundays:** 9:00 AM  
11:00 AM

#### ROSARY TIMES

**Tuesdays:** 5:20 PM (*Before Mass*)  
**Saturdays:** 3:20 PM (*Before Mass*)

## PARISH CLERGY

Pastor

Reverend Joshua Johnson  
JJohnson@diobr.org

Permanent Deacons

Deacon Clayton Hollier  
CHollier@sacredheartbr.org

Deacon Eulis Simien

ESimien@sacredheartbr.org

## PARISH STAFF

Business Manager

Tiffany Dykes  
TDykes@sacredheartbr.org

Contribution Accounting

Mary Eggart  
info@sacredheartbr.org

Director of Music/Organist

Davis Hotard  
fpsparkey@aol.com

Sacred Heart of Jesus School Principal

Sharon Jones  
sjones@sacredheartbr.com

Receptionist/Wedding Coordinator

Chloe LeBlanc  
Receptionist@sacredheartbr.org

Director of Evangelization/Catechesis

Jennifer Monette  
JMonette@sacredheartbr.org

Director of Integration  
for Church & School

Jenny Morales  
JMorales@sacredheartbr.org

Custodian

Edith Rivera-Blanco  
erblanco@sacredheartbr.org

Funeral Coordinator

Rainette Stephens  
Receptionist@sacredheartbr.org

Church/School Bookkeeper

Denise Williston  
DWilliston@sacredheartbr.org



**AED** located in the back, west stairwell of the Church.

## Vocations Chalice Program



Join our Sacred Heart Parish prayer efforts for an increase in holy vocations in our diocese.

Every Sunday a family will be presented with Father Josh's ordination chalice to take home and pray the entire week for an increase in vocations.

If your family would like to participate, call the parish office: 225-387-6671

## DOROTHY DAY CAFÉ

Monday through Friday

7:30–9:30 a.m.  
in the Underground Hub



## CONNECT WITH SACRED HEART CHURCH!



2250 Main Street  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802



Email  
info@sacredheartbr.org



Phone  
(225)387-6671



Website  
www.sacredheartbr.org

## OFFICE HOURS

Mondays–Thursdays: 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM

Fridays: CLOSED

Parish Office Closed every Wednesday from 10:30 AM–12:30 PM  
(Closed Daily for Lunch 12:00 – 12:30 PM)

## ADORATION CHAPEL

Mondays–Sundays: 7:00 AM – 9:00 PM

(The Chapel is in the Church Sacristy and can be accessed from the ramp in the rear of the Church. Call Parish Office for code to enter.)

## CONFESSIONS

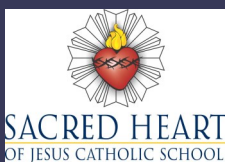
Tuesdays: 5:30 PM

Wednesdays: 7:30 AM

Thursdays: 6:30 AM

Fridays: 7:30 AM

Saturdays: 3:00 PM



## SACRED HEART OF JESUS SCHOOL

2251 Main Street  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
Telephone: (225)383-7481

Principal  
Mrs. Sharon Jones

Assistant Principal  
Mother Mary Rosario

Website: www.sacredheartbr.com

Email: info@sacredheartbr.com

## SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS

Monday–Friday 7:15 AM – 3:05 PM,  
(Summer Hours: Monday - Thursday: 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM)

## NOVENA TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

EVERY 1ST FRIDAY  
OCTOBER - JUNE ONLY

CONFESSIONS: 11 AM  
MASS: 12 noon  
NOVENA: 12:30 PM

Please call or e-mail your prayer requests to the Parish Office Receptionist at 387-6671 or Receptionist@sacredheartbr.org

## Advent Giving Tree 2025

Thanks to all our Sacred Heart of Jesus parishioners and volunteers who made this year's Advent Giving Tree such a great success. From contacting families and preparing the angels for the trees to gift and financial donations for the program, this would not have been possible without you!

This year, nearly 150 children will experience the joy of Christmas by your giving spirit. May God continue to bless our Church, our School and our Community!

*Thank You*



The Roman Catholic Diocese of  
**BATON ROUGE**

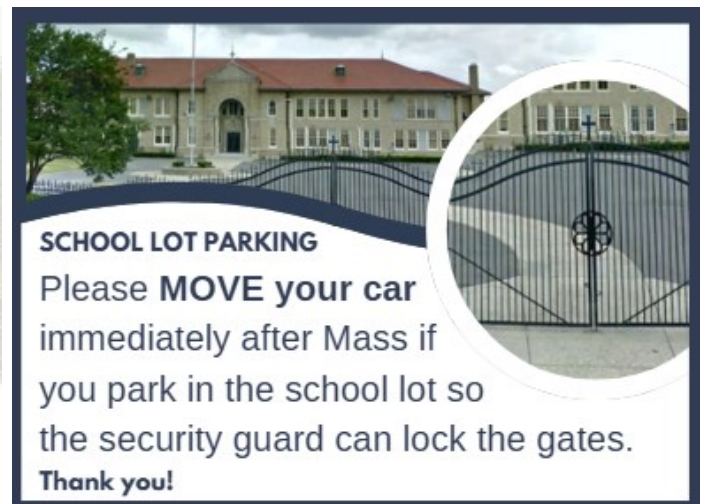
## RESPECT LIFE MASS

Celebrated by Bishop Michael Duca

**January 24, 2026 | 8:30 a.m.**

**St. Joseph Cathedral**  
401 Main Street, Baton Rouge LA

Join us, following Mass, for fellowship, coffee and hot chocolate before we join thousands of others for the Louisiana Life March beginning @ 10 am on the State Capitol Lawn.



## The Cat in the Creche

Since the mid 1980s, a tabby cat statue has been placed among the figures of Sacred Heart's beautiful Nativity scene. It was included in accordance with an old Italian legend about the cat who witnessed the first Christmas.

There is also a legend about Mary and the tabby cat in the manger. It seems that the baby Jesus was cold and fussing, and Mary asked the manger animals to move in closer to warm him. The manger was simply too small to accomplish that, but a little tabby cat came in and nestled next to the baby, and comforted Him with purring and warmth. Mary was so grateful, she bestowed her own initial, "M" on the cat's forehead.

Sacred Heart's Nativity cat is named Gloria.



### The Legend of the Cat

At midnight's stroke,  
On the first Christmas, half the world awoke.  
Then out of nest and lair  
Came thronging to Bethlehem the wordless folk;  
Hurried the beasts of the forest, the birds of the  
air,  
To pay the Lord their homage and His due.

And Cat came, too,

Mincing on delicate feet to see the Child.  
But being shy and wild,  
Approached no nearer than the hearth; lay dumb  
And distant there.

While the rest knelt in praise,  
The Cat by too much glory overcome  
Could not withdraw her gaze  
From the Nativity; could only stare  
Through slitted eyes as things of fur and feather  
(The deer beside the lion, the pheasant, the hare  
Safe in the fox's paws) bent down together.  
Although their anthems lifted all around,  
She, in her throat, made only a trembling sound  
And could not bow her head.

Yet as the morning dawned  
And one by one the other creatures fled  
Each to his habitat—

The eagle to his crag and to his pond  
The otter--only Cat  
Remained beside the dying fire, unable  
To quit the place that was both Crib and Stable.

Then Mary spoke aloud.  
"Dear Cat," she said, "dear, stiff-necked, proud  
And obstinate beast, I bless you. From this hour  
Leave wilderness behind you.  
Because you stayed, though none shall have the  
power  
To call you servant, yet the hearth shall bind you  
Forever to itself. Both fond and free,  
Wherever Man is, you shall also be.  
And many a family  
Will smile to hear you singing (where you settle)  
Household hosannahs like a pulsing kettle."

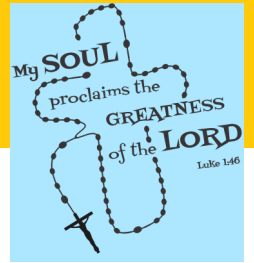
Some winter night  
Observe Cat now. Her eyes will suddenly gleam  
Yellow against the light,  
Her body shudder in a jungle dream,  
Her claws unsheath their sharpness. She remembers  
Old times, old barbarous customs, old Decembers  
Before she called the tribes of Man her friends.  
But the dream ends.

Then, reassured, she curls herself along  
The floor and hums her cool, domestic song.

*Author unknown*



SACRED HEART  
OF JESUS CATHOLIC SCHOOL



# SACRED HEART OF JESUS SCHOOL

Open House  
January 15  
5-7 PM



Pre-K3 through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

2251 Main Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802

225.383.7481

[www.sacredheartbr.com](http://www.sacredheartbr.com)



◆◆ Readings ◆◆

<p><b>Sunday, January 4</b> Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12</p>	<p><b>Tuesday, January 6</b> 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44</p>	<p><b>Thursday, January 8</b> 1 Jn 4:19-5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/Lk 4:14-22a</p>	<p><b>Saturday, January 10</b> 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b/Jn 3:22-30</p>
<p><b>Monday, January 5</b> 1 Jn 3:22-4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, January 7</b> 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/Mk 6:45-52</p>	<p><b>Friday, January 9</b> 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Lk 5:12-16</p>	<p><b>Sunday, January 11</b> Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10/Acts 10:34-38/Mt 3:13-17</p>

◆◆ Calendar ◆◆

<b>MON 5</b>	<p><b>No Daily Mass</b> <b>SHS Virtual Day—No School, Office OPEN</b> <b>Walking with Purpose</b>, 5:30 PM, AC-Fr. Gauci Rm. <b>Men's ACTS Team Formation</b>, 6 PM, AC-Fr. Blasco Rm. <b>Knight's of Columbus Rosary/Mtg</b>, 6:30 PM, Parish Hall</p>
<b>TUE 6</b>	<p><b>Rosary, 5:20 PM   Confessions, 5:30PM   Daily Mass, 6PM</b> <b>SHS Students Return</b> <b>SHS Pre-K &amp; K Conferences—No School Pre-K &amp; K</b> <b>Baptism Seminar</b>, 6 PM, AC-Fr. Dugas Rm.</p>
<b>WED 7</b>	<p><b>Confessions, 7:30 AM   Daily Mass, 8 AM</b> <b>Staff/Team Prayer Meeting—Office Closed, 10:30-12:00</b> <b>O.C.I.A. Class</b>, 6 PM, AC-Fr. Blasco Rm. <b>Walking with Purpose</b>, 6 PM, Parish Hall <b>SVdP Meeting</b>, 6:30 PM, AC-Fr. Gauci Rm.</p>
<b>THU 8</b>	<p><b>Daily Mass, 6 AM, Church   Confessions, 6:30 AM</b> <i>(Note: Confessions follow Mass on Thursdays.)</i> <b>Men's Lectio Divina</b>, 6:30 AM, Parish Hall <b>Vagabond Open Holy Hour</b>, 9 AM, Church</p>
<b>FRI 9</b>	<p><b>Confessions, 7:30 AM   Daily Mass w/ SHS, 8 AM</b> <b>SHS Spirit Shirt Day</b></p>
<b>SAT 10</b>	<p><b>Confessions, 3 PM   Rosary, 3:20 PM</b> <b>Vigil Mass/2nd Collection for SH School, 4 PM</b></p>
<b>SUN 11</b>	<p><b>The Epiphany of the Lord</b> <b>Masses/2nd Collection for SH School, 9 &amp; 11 AM/School</b> <b>Mass at 11 AM Mass</b> <b>Coffee &amp; Doughnuts</b> following 9 am Mass <b>only</b> <b>PSR 1st Eucharist Class</b>, 10 AM, AC-Fr. Smith Rm. <b>Confirmation Retreat</b>, 12 PM, Entire Campus <b>Sober Hearts: Open AA Meeting</b>, 5 PM, AC-Fr. Gauci Rm.</p>

◆◆ Mass Intentions ◆◆

Date	Mass	Intention(s)
Tuesday 01-06-26	6 PM	Ryan Spencer Leggio Karen Tramonte
Wednesday 01-07-26	4 PM	Special Intention of John Ross Garbarino
Thursday 01-08-26	12 AM	Special Intention of Lucy Ruch
Friday 01-09-26	12 PM	Jerome Leggio, Jr.
Saturday 01-10-26	4 PM	Parishioners of Sacred Heart
Sunday 01-11-26	9 AM	Cecilia & Shelley Tramonte; Geraldine Jones; Ryan Spencer Leggio; Olga Coulon; Special Intention of Joel Reech
	11 AM	David & Bradley Smith; Peter & Nelda Polozola



The Adoration Chapel Lamp is available for the month of February. If you are interested in requesting the Church lights for your loved one for February, or to see what other months are available, please contact the Church Office.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

Adoration Chapel Hours | 7AM - 9PM Daily



◆◆ Minister Assignments ◆◆

January 3 - 4: The Epiphany of the Lord		
Mass	Readers	Cantor
<b>Saturday 4:00 PM</b>	Mark LeBlanc (1) Philip O'Neill (2)	Melissa Simien
<b>Sunday 9:00 AM</b>	Lisa Gardner (1) Gene Todaro (2)	Alana Buckley
<b>Sunday 11:00 AM</b>	Jackie Culotta (1) Morgan Reech (2)	Alana Buckley

January 10 - 11: The Baptism of the Lord		
Mass	Readers	Cantor
<b>Saturday 4:00 PM</b>	Clare Coulon (1) Joell Keller (2)	Natalie Overall
<b>Sunday 9:00 AM</b>	Perry Key (1) Tamekia Jones (2)	Natalie Overall
<b>Sunday 11:00 AM</b>	SHS Student 1 (1) SHS Student 2 (2)	Natalie Overall

**MARRIAGE**

Couples should contact the Parish Office at least six (6) months prior to the desired date and must complete the Marriage Preparation Program.

**CARE OF THE SICK**

Visits made regularly to hospitalized and homebound. Contact the Parish Office for Anointing of the Sick or to receive Holy Communion.

**BAPTISM**

Seminar required. Please visit the website or call the Parish Office for information.


**FUNERAL PLANNING**

Please call the Parish Office prior to scheduling with the funeral home.



We love having you as  
*a part of our Flock!*  
Keep in touch with us via  
email and text!

TEXT SHBR to 84576 or  
CONNECT ONLINE at  
[sacredheartbr.flocknote.com](http://sacredheartbr.flocknote.com)



Text STOP to 84576 to stop text notifications at any time. Text HELP for help.  
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