

I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” Lk3:16bc

STEWARDSHIP OF PRAYER

SATURDAY, 1/12 - VIGIL OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

4:00pm † Cornelia Bina
Rosary at 3:15pm

SUNDAY, 1/13 - THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

9:00am † Jeffry Spyhalski
Rosary at 8:15am

SATURDAY, 1/19 - VIGIL OF 2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Is 62:1-5/1 Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-11

4:00pm † Carl Schuh
Rosary at 3:15pm

SUNDAY, 1/20 - 2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Is 62:1-5/1 Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-11

9:00am † Michele Diatta
Rosary at 8:15am

Would you like to put your faith into action and practice the Corporal Works of Mercy? Join members of both Blessed Savior and St. Margaret Mary for our next dual parish community service day on Saturday, January 19 from 10:30AM-2:30PM. We will be helping and visiting with elderly residents of St. Anne's. Activities will include helping take down Christmas decorations, visiting, and playing bingo. Contact Faith Formation Director Dave Liccione at 414-573-9292 dliccione@stmmp.org to learn more.

2018 Statement Distribution

In order to eliminate some of the postage costs, the Finance Council and Pastoral Council will be handing out the 2018 Contribution Statements after all the Masses on the weekends of **January 19 & 20 and 26 & 27**. Please pick them up in the main hallway on Villard Ave. Because of the sensitivity of this information, you cannot pick up any other person's statement. If you have any questions or concerns, you can call me @ 464-5033 ext. 20. Thank you for your cooperation, *John Henry, Finance Director*



Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Baptism of Our Lord. This brings to an end the season of Christmas. The Church recalls Our Lord's second manifestation or epiphany which occurred on the occasion of His baptism in the Jordan. Jesus descended into the River to sanctify its waters and to give them the power to beget sons of God. The event takes on the importance of a second creation in which the entire Trinity intervenes. Many of the incidents which accompanied Christ's baptism are symbolical of what happened at our Baptism. At Christ's baptism the Holy Spirit descended upon Him; at our Baptism the Trinity took its abode in our soul. At His baptism Christ was proclaimed the "Beloved Son" of the Father; at our Baptism we become the adopted sons of God. At Christ's baptism the heavens were opened; at our Baptism heaven was opened to us. At His baptism Jesus prayed; after our Baptism we must pray to avoid actual sin. *Excerpted from Msgr. Rudolph G. Badas*

GOSPEL MEDITATION Think of what it's like to wait a long time. Can you imagine what it would be like to wait for centuries? No one person lives that long, of course. But for the Israelites, they had heard the stories from generation to generation. They had been conquered time and time again, and now "the people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ."

They had been waiting for a Messiah, one who did miraculous deeds and said profound things; someone aglow with the glory of God. We all know what it's like to hope and be disappointed. But what if your hopes were fulfilled?

That day at the Jordan River, an audience had gathered. Among the crowd for baptism was an unknown man. Perhaps he was dirty from weeks in the desert. His hands had the calloused palms of a tradesman, a carpenter. He and John the Baptist may have embraced with the familiarity of the cousins they were. This man wades into the Jordan for a good, solid dunking. As he rises from the water, the One who breathed life into Adam gasps for air like any other man.

But then "heaven was opened." The clouds in the sky part miles above. "And the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove." An apparition with substance sails through the sky. It exudes gentleness and power all at once. "And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.'" Can you imagine the sight? For the crowd, there is no doubting what they have seen, who they have seen. Can you imagine this encounter with our God who keeps His promises? What are you waiting for?

Liturgical Publications

January 18-25—Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Unity. What does "unity" mean? For those of us who claim Christ as our model of living and savior of humanity, it means we are one. This year the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity has as its theme the Scripture citation 2 Corinthians 5:14-20. The first line contains our mission statement... "For the love of Christ impels us, once we have come to the conviction that one died for all; therefore all have died." If that is not a mandate for unity, then there is none. We are one in the death of Christ and therefore live in unity with all other Christians. God, who are unity in three holy persons--Father, Son, and Holy Spirit you have called us to live in peace with all people.

You have also called us to work toward unity in purpose to spread the Gospel to all nations.

Graciously give us the courage and strength to work toward unity, and act toward each other as brothers and sisters. We ask this in the unity of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Stewardship Pledge – Growing Our Faith Through Generosity —Thank you to everyone who has returned your pledge commitments. We have received only 112 out of 491 that were sent out. Please return yours if you have not already done so. This information is very valuable when the Finance Council starts planning the budget for the next fiscal year.

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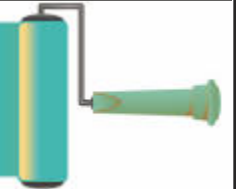
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