

AFTER JESUS WAS BAPTIZED,
HE CAME UP FROM THE WATER AND BEHOLD,
THE HEAVENS WERE OPENED FOR HIM,
AND HE SAW THE SPIRIT OF GOD
DESCENDING LIKE A DOVE
AND COMING UPON HIM.

MATTHEW 3:16



THE JANUARY 12, 2020
BAPTISM
OF THE LORD

© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc. Excerpts from the *Lectionary for Mass* © 2008, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970, C.C.D. All rights reserved.
Photo: Mosaic, the Baptism of the Lord, Via Domini, Medjugerie, Bosnia and Herzegovina; Adam Jan Figel/Adobe Stock, Christmas star art: Tony Ward for J. S. Paluch Co., Inc., 2019

St. Bridget Catholic Church

100 Highway 311 - Office 2076 W Main St - Schriever, LA

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Isaiah speaks of the Servant whom the LORD upholds; he shall bring forth justice to the nations (Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7).

Psalms — The Lord will bless his people with peace (Psalm 29).

Second Reading — Jesus was anointed by God with the Holy Spirit; he went out healing and doing good (Acts 10:34-38).

Gospel — A voice comes from heaven proclaiming Jesus as the beloved Son, with whom God is well pleased (Matthew 3:13-17).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Very Rev. Simon Peter Engurait, VG

Pastor

Stephen Brunet

Deacon

Contact Information

Church Office : 446-6801—2076 W Main St.

Fax Line: 448-2764

Youth Formation Office: 446-1985

E-mail address: stbridgetchurch@htdiocese.org

Facebook: [facebook.com/StBridget](https://www.facebook.com/StBridget)

www.stbridget-htdiocese.org

Mass Schedules

Daily Masses:

Monday— Friday: 8:00 am

Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00 pm

Sunday Masses: 8:30 am & 10:30 am

Confessions:

Saturday: 3:00-3:50 pm

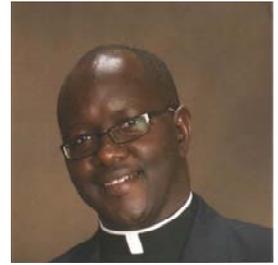
Sunday: 7:30-8:25 am & 10:00-10:25 am

*For Adoration Chapel information call 985-446-6801

*To report suspected abuse, call 1-855-452-5437

My Dear People of God,

Today we celebrate the Baptism of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I suspect that most of the households in our community have taken down their Christmas decorations and all is packed away waiting for the next Christmas. Many may therefore be wondering why our Church and grounds still look the way they do today with all the Christmas decorations; the flowers, wreaths, lights and nativity scenes.



There is a very simple explanation; our society begins to celebrate Christmas immediately after Thanksgiving, the Church on the other hand, begins celebrating the birth of Jesus on the eve of Christmas and ends it with the celebration of His Baptism. In fact, the Baptism of the Lord that we celebrate today is traditionally part of the feast of Epiphany (which we celebrated last Sunday).

The word Epiphany simply refers to the revelation by God of Jesus as His Son and the Savior of the world. There are many events in the life of Jesus that reveal or show Jesus as the Son of God and Savior of the world. Three of them are very important: first is the coming of the Magi who were led by a star; the second is the Baptism of Jesus where the Holy Spirit came down upon Him and God's voice was heard proclaiming Jesus as God's beloved Son; the third event is when Jesus turned water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana (which John records as the first sign from Jesus). Today therefore, we focus on the second of these events, the Baptism of Jesus. In celebrating the baptism of Jesus, we are reminded of our own baptism, the grace of God we received and are invited to renew that grace.

In our first reading today from the Prophet Isaiah, we have the passage that is called the first of the four Servant Songs of Second Isaiah. Though the identity of the servant remains a mystery, right from the early Church, this passage was seen as a prophecy that was fulfilled in Jesus Christ. This reading is therefore presented to us today because the words spoken by the heavenly voice at the Baptism of Jesus as we read in the Gospel reading are taken almost verbatim from the first reading (Isaiah 42:1).

The gospel reading presents us with the account by St Mathew the Evangelist of the Baptism of Jesus. It is an epiphany story: Jesus is revealed as the Father's beloved Son, and given power for the mission He was about to begin. The Baptism done by John, was for repentance and the forgiveness of sins (Mark 1:4). The fact that Jesus should undergo such a baptism was a source of confusion for the early Christians as they asked the question; why did He have to be baptized? The answer is simple; to give an example in humility, to show solidarity with sinners and to inaugurate His mission to sinners by 'taking on their sin'.

The Baptism of Jesus is a reminder to us of our own baptism, when we became children of God. Just God spoke to Jesus, He spoke to each one of us: '**You are my beloved son**', or '**You are my beloved daughter**.' And just as the spirit of God descended upon Jesus when He was baptized, the Holy Spirit was bestowed upon us too. The Spirit was bestowed upon us to enable us to live the life of a Christian and to participate in the work and mission of Jesus. This is what makes baptism a very important sacrament.

Pope St Pius VI was once asked what was the greatest day in his life. Everyone expected him to say, "It was the day I became pope." But without a moments hesitation, he replied, 'It was the day I was baptized!' Indeed, he rightly put Baptism above ordination to the priesthood and the elevation to the papacy. Unfortunately, over the years the primacy of Baptism has been obscured. Many today don't even know or remember when they were baptized or they consider other Sacramental dates (eg Ordination, Matrimony etc) as more important. In reality, all other sacraments are founded and built on baptism.

As we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, I would like to invite each one of us to revisit and cherish our own baptism. I would like to invite each one to find out their date of baptism and to celebrate it in some way.

Thanks and God bless,

Fr Simon Peter

REMEMBER YOUR BAPTISM, *Fr Ed Broom, OMC*



© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

The Liturgical celebration of the Baptism of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ should prompt us and motivate us to review our own Baptism, its meaning as well as its obligation for us. We would like to offer five short but very practical suggestions on how we can renew our own Baptismal commitment as we contemplate Jesus being baptized by St. John the Baptist in the Jordan River. In His Baptism the sublime mystery of the Blessed Trinity is revealed—“A Trinitarian theophany”. The Father’s voice is heard; the Son (Jesus) descends into the waters of the Jordan; the Holy Spirit descends on Jesus in the form of a dove.” (Mt. 3:13-17)

1. *Sign of the Cross.* One of the most noteworthy signs of belonging to the Catholic faith is the Sign of the Cross. Every time we make the sign of the cross we profess our belief in the Mystery of the Blessed Trinity—One God in three separate and distinct Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This should be a brief moment when we call to mind our own Baptism and the dignity that flows from that sacred moment. As the Baptismal waters trickled off our forehead and the words of Baptism were pronounced by the priest or deacon, gifts in abundance descended into our souls. We became a son of God, brother to Jesus Christ and friend to the Holy Spirit. For this reason Pope St. Leo the Great exhorts us: “Christians recognize your dignity.” It all started at the moment of Baptism!
2. *Your Baptism Date.* If you do not know the specific date of your Baptism or the dates of the Baptisms of your children, why not look it up this week. Celebrate! As human persons we are called to celebrate! Wedding anniversaries, birthdays, Holidays—all are moments to celebrate. Why not add a new category? Baptism dates! As a catechetical tool parents can surely catechize their children by calling to mind their child’s baptism in the context of a celebration. Why not buy a cake and candles. However, go beyond the eating and singing. Explain to the child the “why” of this celebration. This was your second birthday. You were born of water and the spirit on the day of your baptism. You became a child of God; you entered into a new family, the Church, the People of God!
3. *Holy Water.* Use holy water often! Upon entering the church it is a good habit to sign yourself with holy water. At home before retiring every night it is a good habit for parents to bless their children in the name of the Blessed Trinity with holy water. Once again call to mind your own baptism every time holy water is sprinkled! St. Teresa of Avila states that the use of holy water is a powerful means to expel the devil from your presence! In our Baptism the priest/deacon carried out a minor exorcism! Our Baptismal grace far exceeds the power of the devil!
4. *Attend Baptisms.* Every time you attend the Sacrament of Baptism call to mind your own Baptism. Baptism calls us to renounce the devil, as well as sin as our mortal enemy number one! If you are called to be a Sponsor, even more should the renewal of our baptismal promises be reinforced. Both parents and godparents are called to live out the symbol of the Paschal candle and the smaller candle. That means that Jesus is the principal LIGHT, but we are called to take from His light and share this light to the whole world especially the godchildren that God has entrusted to us! Once again allow the words of St. Leo the Great to echo in the depths of your heart: “Christians recognize your dignity.”
5. *Missionary Call.* Before ascending into heaven Jesus gave to the Apostles as well as to us our marching orders, our mission, our task to carry out. Read slowly and meditate on Jesus’ last words: “*All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you. And behold I am with you always, until the end of the age.*” (Mt. 28:18-20). The message! It could not be clearer! Jesus summons all the baptized to bring the grace of their own baptism to the entire world. The grace of God, the presence of the Trinity is not meant to be hidden under the bushel-basket but to shine and to be shared with the entire world!

Let us conclude by listening to the consoling words of Pope Benedict XVI: “*Through Baptism each child is inserted into a gathering of friends who never abandon him in life or in death... This group of friends, this family of God, into which the child is now admitted, will always accompany him, even on days of suffering and in life’s dark nights; it will give him consolation, comfort and light.*” (Pope Benedict XVI, January 8, 2006—taken from the “YOU-CAT # 193)

With these words from the Holy Father and practical advice, let us strive to live out our Baptism to the fullest extent possible—to become shining stars of holiness, reflecting the Light of Christ!



The Sanctuary Light burns in memory of:

January 12-18

Tristan Ables by Ma Maw & family
Brandon Filardo (B) by Mom & Dad
Marion Knight (DA) by Godfrey Knight
Alvin Pontiff (DA) & Helen Olivier (DA) by Janice and family

January 19-25

Parishioners of St. Bridget

DA=Death Anniv.

B= Birthday

WA=Wedding Anniv.



January 11 4:00 pm

Leonard Pollet (DA) by Sharon, Rachel, Tanya, Owen, Maggie & Max

January 12 8:30 am

Brandon Filardo (B) by Mom and Dad
Marion Knight (DA) by Godfrey Knight
Clarence Legendre (B) by Betty and family
Bessie P. Use' (DA) by Betty and family

January 12 10:30 am

Parishioners of St. Bridget

January 14 8 am

Robert Domangue
Donors to the Haiti Mission

January 15

Tristan Ables (DA) by Ma Maw and family

Januray 17 8am

Hattie Thomas by Ronnie & Betty Thomas & fly
Laurie Hebert (DA) by Mom and Dad

Januaray 18 4:00 pm

Jimmie Usey; Leonard Pollet (DA) and Cilonie Schexnaydre (DA) by Delsie & Louis Stevens & family; Deceased members of the Catholic Daughters- Beverly Baudoin, Mary Chauvin, Marion Knight, Carrie LeBoeuf, Doris LeBoeuf, Betty Mabile, Ida Mae Rivero, Doris Schexnaydre, and Evelyn Stevens

January 19 8:30 am

Fred LeBouef by Emily and family
Marion Knight by Godfrey Knight
Terry Giroir by Lionel and Betty
Deceased members of he Catholic Daughters- Beverly Baudoin, Mary Chauvin, Marion Knight, Carrie LeBoeuf, Doris LeBoeuf, Betty Mabile, Ida Mae Rivero, Doris Schexnaydre, and Evelyn Stevens

January 19 10:30 am

Louis Trosclair Jr. by family
Deceased members of the Catholic Daughters- Beverly Baudoin, Mary Chauvin, Marion Knight, Carrie LeBoeuf, Doris LeBoeuf, Betty Mabile, Ida Mae Rivero, Doris Schexnaydre, and Evelyn Stevens

The Mass Intention book is open for the year 2020. The suggested donation for Mass is \$5 per Mass. The suggested donation for the Sanctuary Light which burns on the altar for a week from Sunday thru Saturday is \$10. For more information call the office at 446-6801.



EVERY 40 SECONDS, SOMEONE IN THE U.S. IS HAVING A STROKE!

Stroke Scan Plus will be at **St. Bridget on Tuesday, January 28, 2020** to provide life-saving, wellness ultrasound screenings. It is important to perform preventive maintenance for ourselves yearly. Do you have **high blood pressure** or **high cholesterol, diabetes**, or a family history of **heart disease, stroke, abdominal aneurysm** or **internal cancers**? If so, do not miss this opportunity for early detection of a possibly serious disease. These screenings are typically NOT performed at your annual check-up, and insurance companies may not pay for them unless you are symptomatic. Diagnostic versions of these screenings cost thousands of dollars in a hospital. **Stroke Scan Plus** will be offering them to you for **\$149** for all 7 combined ultrasound screenings (Stroke, AAA, AFIB & organs). Insurance is NOT necessary and appointments are limited. Stroke Scan will be available at the church for you to register on **January 18 & 19, 2020**, or please call 832-437-7355 or toll free 1-866-935-7226 to schedule an appointment today for you or a loved one. The screenings will take place in/at the Annex Building. Prevention is your key to quality health! www.strokescan.com.

December 29, 2019 Weekly Offering



© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

Envelopes \$ 2601.00

Loose 607.00

\$ 3208.00

Attendance 307

Thank you for your generosity.

**The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord
January 12, 2020**

Catholic Social Teaching: Rights and Responsibilities

The Catholic tradition teaches that human dignity can be protected and a healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met. Therefore, every person has a fundamental right to life and a right to those things required for human decency. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities—to one another, to our families, and to the larger society

Jesus is baptized by John. The Spirit descends upon Jesus. The voice calls Jesus “beloved.” As the voice of God proclaims Jesus to be the “beloved,” we can hear God affirming that same wonderful reality to all of us human creatures. There is a wonderful dignity in the life of every human person. This human dignity is at the heart of Catholic Social Teaching. We are called to transmit this faith and affirm the dignity of every human person.

This Spirit which descends upon Jesus is not just about Jesus, just as our baptism is not just about our personal relationship with God. We are baptized into a community. We are called to transmit the faith, which affirms the dignity of every human person.

The Spirit which Isaiah proclaimed is a Spirit that will “bring justice to the nations” – a Spirit that will bring social and political healing to the people of the world. Catholic Social Teaching reminds us that the Spirit which we receive is not just an interior gift or feeling, but a gift that strives to bring healing between diverse peoples – nations, races, ethnic groups, etc. etc. The Spirit of Baptism is a spirit that transforms the community and calls us to go out to the world.

Isaiah makes it clear that the light of this spirit is “for all the nations.” Peter’s experience in Acts affirms this same truth. The justice and healing are for all the nations. The challenge of the scriptures is to make real today the promises of Isaiah and the commitment of Jesus. We are called to a deep commitment to certain values and ways of living.

As Isaiah prophesizes, this Spirit of Jesus is about opening the eyes of the blind and releasing people from the dungeon. It is about service to those in need, care for those who are poor, and political and economic justice. As Isaiah prophesizes, this Spirit of Jesus is a spirit of nonviolence – not even “breaking a bruised reed.” We see in the baptism of Jesus a challenge to review our values and ways of living and to recommit ourselves to the nonviolent, radical love of Jesus. “I have called you for the victory of justice ... a light for the nations.”

**PILGRIMAGE TO
THE HOLY LAND**

In the Foot Steps of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Fr Simon Peter has planned a **10 Day Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, August 17-26, 2020** for St Bridget Parish. The full package price including airfare from New Orleans is **\$ 3,695** (double occupancy). The Enrollment deadline is Jan. 31, 2020 and Final Payment Deadline is April 30, 2020.

To enroll online, please go to:

www.petersway.com/9700.html **OR**
pick up enrollment forms from the parish office.

BAPTISM

Prior to baptizing a child, the parents and Godparents must attend a baptismal seminar. Those seeking to baptize a child must complete a registration form. Forms can be found on line or at the Church office.



Qualifications for sponsors of a baptism.* Must be confirmed * Must be a practicing Catholic * Must be at least 16 years old * If married, it must be a Catholic marriage

Adult Formation news

St. Bridget Small group Faith communities is here. Please pray about your participation in a small group. Send your name to St. Bridget office and our Adult formation team will contact you with details. We have small group facilitators and host families that will open their home to our adults. Please pray for our adults in formation. Meetings to begin the week of Jan. 12th.

January Special Collections

Jan. 12— Maintenance

Jan. 26— Church in Latin America— includes, evangelization, formation of laity, religious and seminarians, and youth ministry in Latin America.

Prayer Line

If you or someone needs to be added to the prayer line, call Nina Richard at 446-1206 or the rectory at 446-6801. In the charity of your prayers, please pray for the sick, elderly, and homebound. Please pray for: Elaine Ables, Susan Arceneaux, Heidi Ardoin, Jacob Aucoin, Sara Aucoin, Elvin Babin, Tommy Badeaux, Donald Banowetz, Chad Barrileaux, Ronnie Bednarz, Chuck Beebe, Gertrude Benoit, Judith Benoit, Fr. Paul Bergeron, Rosemary Besson, Mitzy Bettridge, Gretchen Bilello, Pat Billiot, Preston Billiot, Alvin & Gail Blanchard, Dennis Blanchard, Ronald Blanchard, Cody Bourgeois, Emile "Jay" Bourgeois, Patricia Bourgeois, Troy & Joan Bourgeois, Wade Bourgeois, Connie Bouterie, Beau Brassette, Dustin Brassette, Mark Brassette, Emma Del Broussard, Richard Broussard, Susan Caillouet, Randy Chiasson, Brad Clement, Bryce Comeaux, Jay & Tiffany Conner, Huey Cortez Sr., Martha Cortez, Randy Davis, Cary Davis, Jr., Barbara & Ronni Duhon, Alan Dunbar, Linda Ekiss, Avery "Brother" and Sonja Fonseca, Darin Fonz, Robin Ford, Marie Fournier, Alisa Frederick, Dante Galliano, Toby Gambarella, Leigh Ann Gardner, Carrie Gibbens Belinda Gil, Brandon Gil, George Gil, The Gil Family, Carrie Mae Givens, Austin Gros, Chad Gros, George Gros, Rosebella Gros, Vergie Gros, Kendra Guillot, Elaine Chauvin Hebert, Joy Hebert, Katie Hebert, Jerrell Hebert, Sr., Jessie Hoffpauir, Samara Holland, Kristen Koppel, Jackson LaFleur, Mona Lambert, Elmay Landry, Judie Landry, Joyce Landry, Craig Landry, Mark Landry, Barbara Nell Lapeyrouse, Allie LeBlanc, Chester Lecompte, Evelyn Leger, Tammy Babin Loney, Tim Long, Payton Martin, Rick Melancon, Asher Miller, Savannah Miller, Emma Mire, Bethany Moore, Meghan Naquin, Misty Naquin, Shannon Naquin, Annie Ordoyne, Kara Pellegrin, Sherry Pennison, Lisa Pennison, Kenneth Pitre, James Pierce, Kip Pierce, Sharon Prejean, Ed Raidl, Kerri Reynolds, Bryce Richard, Ella Richard, Gladys Richard, Lorita Rodrigue, Susan Rodrigue, Cynthia Rogers, Danielle Samanie, Chester Sanchez, Karla Saunier, Kathy Savoie, Earline Simmoneaux, Penny Simmons, Brenda Sonier, Deacon Ryan Stawaizz, Louis Stevens, Melissa Tardiff, Trish Templet, Cammie Thibodaux, Lacey Thibodeaux, Thibodaux Family, Ronnie Thomas, Chris Troups, Joyce Troups, Ricky Turner, Sara Day Vignes, Allison Walters, and Anna Wooten. *Please notify the office when name can be removed.*

Diocesan Outreach Line/Victims Assistance Coordinator

(985) 873-0026 or (985) 850-3172

For more info. visit www.htdiocese.org/safe-environment

The Poor Box The St. Vincent de Paul Society uses donations from the poor box to help those from our community who are in need. All donations go to the needy. There are poor boxes near the main entrance and the front side entrance to the church. Thanks for donating.

Catholic Daughters of the Americas

Congratulations to The Court St. Bridget of Sweden Catholic Daughters on their 21st Anniversary



CDA dues are now due – dues are \$25 per year and can be mailed to Mary Louviere, Financial Secretary or paid at the next meeting. CDA meets the 2nd Thursday of each month – all Catholic women are encouraged to join the group.

The **St. Vincent de Paul TriParish Community Pharmacy** has relocated to 201 Canal Street, Houma, LA 70360.

The mission of the St. Vincent Pharmacy is to serve the less fortunate of the area of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux by providing them with maintenance medicine they otherwise cannot afford and do not receive through assistance from government aid, Veteran's benefits, or insurance. The pharmacy is still in need of volunteer pharmacists and pharmacy techs.

For more information about the services of the pharmacy or to volunteer, please contact the pharmacy at 985-872-2253.

Knights of Columbus



The KCS are the fraternal organization of men serving the church parish with physical and spiritual needs. The KC's meet on the 4th Wednesday of the month in the Community Life Annex.

The organization is open to Catholic men aged 18 and above.

Contact Ricky Billiot at 985-856-6868 for more information.

**For Church Support Envelopes
Call 985 446-6801**

9:00 am to 12:00 noon

Youth Formation News

Thanks to all who volunteered to help with the special Youth Formation events in December. The fellowship and meal were enjoyed by all.

Youth Formation for January includes:

January 6 Grades K - 6 meet;
Mentors Meet
January 13 Grades 7 - 11 meet
January 27 Grades K - 6 meet;
Mentors Meet

THIS IS MY BELOVED SON

This Sunday's celebration of the Baptism of the Lord closes the Christmas season. In the scriptures we see one more epiphany, or manifestation, of the Spirit of God in Jesus—but this time it is as an adult, rather than as a child. Jesus' baptism also serves as the inauguration of his prophetic mission and the messianic age.

Today's reading from Isaiah describes God's chosen Messiah, upon whom God's spirit rests. In the Acts of the Apostles Peter says that "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power" (Acts 10:38). Finally, in the proclamation from Matthew's Gospel Jesus' baptism in water goes almost unnoticed. The crucial moment comes when the Spirit of God comes upon Jesus and a voice from heaven echoes the words of Isaiah: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17).

Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Prayer Request

Please pray for the success of the Youth Formation Program; for the students; parents; mentors, teachers, and helpers. Please pray that our youth are open to the call of God and that our volunteers are successful in spreading the word. God is good!

Please Drive Safely



Please be extra careful when entering and exiting church property on Monday evenings. Youth Formation (formerly CCD) is in session. Drivers are to enter the property from Hwy 311 and exit onto Hwy 24. The safety of our youth and volunteers is of utmost importance. Persons having meetings or appointments on Monday evening are NOT to park adjacent to the annex. Parking in front of the annex is reserved for adult volunteers. Thanks to the volunteers who help in the parking lot on Monday evenings. These men and women give their time and talent to help keep our children safe. Please keep them in your prayers.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Sm 1:1-8; Ps 116:12-19; Mk 1:14-20

Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd;

Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Ps 40:2, 5, 7-10;

Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11; Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25;

Mk 1:40-45

Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Ps 89:16-19; Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a; Ps 21:2-7;

Mk 2:13-17

Sunday: Is 49:3, 5-6; Ps 40:2, 4, 7-10; 1 Cor 1:1-3;

Jn 1:29-34

Attention Catholic School Parents

Catholic School students in 2nd, 10th, and 11th grade interested in receiving the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Eucharist, and Confirmation **MUST** be registered with their parish Youth Formation for classes and sacramental preparation. Registration can be submitted online from the Youth page of the St. Bridget website www.stbridget-htdiocese.org.

Contact the Youth Formation Office at 985-446-1985 for more information.

SAINT HILARY (c. 315-367)

January 13

Born in Poitiers, France, whose populace would later elect him bishop, Hilary, married and a father, was converted from paganism to Christianity through his reading of scripture. The focus of his prayerful study was the Prologue to the Gospel according to John, which portrays Jesus as the divine Logos, eternally begotten of the Father. As a result, Hilary became in the words of the biblical scholar Jerome, "the Latin Trumpet against the Arians," heretics who believed Jesus to be merely human, not divine. In defense of Christ's divinity, Hilary was not only eloquent in debate but utterly fearless in the face of relentless persecution and even exile. Thus by the witness of his own discipleship, Hilary taught that faith in Jesus as the divine Son of God has consequences. Reflecting on Jesus' challenge to his disciples, "You are the salt of the earth" (Matthew 5:13), Hilary notes that, as salt both preserves from corruption and adds savor to food, so must the faithful disciple bear a witness that, by word and example, leads others to immortality and virtuous living.

—Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.