

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEKEND

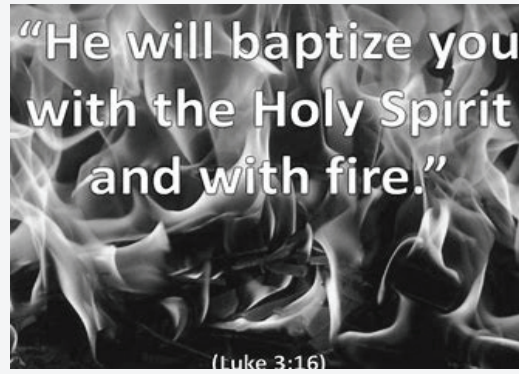
SAT 5:00 pm	1/18	All Holy Spirit Parishioners and Families, J.Hayes, Special Intentions, Poor Souls & Unborn Children, Deceased Members
SUN 10:00 am	1/19	All Holy Spirit Parishioners and Families, Joseph Loi Tran, Ngo & Nguyen Family Living and Deceased, Viola Smith Riley, Special Intentions

MASS INTENTIONS NEXT WEEKEND

SAT 5:00 pm	1/25	All Holy Spirit Parishioners and Families, All Souls, Conversion of Sinner, Thanksgiving, Goldman Family
SUN 10:00 am	1/26	All Holy Spirit Parishioners and Families, Joseph Loi Tran, Ngo & Nguyen Family Living and Deceased, Viola Smith Riley, Goldman Family

WEEKDAYS

MON 1/20	Peace in Family
TUE 1/21	Anna Just Deceased
WED 1/22	Burbank Franklin Family & Friends Living & Deceased
THU 1/23	All Souls
FRI 1/24	Thanksgiving



Reading I Is 49:3, 5-6 - The LORD said to me: **You are my servant, Israel, through whom I show my glory. Now the LORD has spoken who formed me as his servant from the womb, that Jacob may be brought back to him and Israel gathered to him; and I am made glorious in the sight of the LORD, and my God is now my strength!**

Reading II 1 Cor 1:1-3 - Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother, to the church of God that is in Corinth, to **you who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be holy**, with all those everywhere who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours. **Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.**

Gospel Jn 1:29-34 - John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world."

He is the one of whom I said, 'A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.' I did not know him, but the reason why I came baptizing with water was that he might be made known to Israel."

John testified further, saying, "I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from heaven and remain upon him. I did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain, he is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God."

Fr. Bach whispering into your ears of the heart:

**PLEASE FALL IN LOVE WITH THE WORD OF GOD
BY READING THE WORD OF GOD EVERYDAY!**



Allow the Holy Spirit to Make Us Holy



My sisters and brothers in Christ,

So often we think of baptism as simply a ceremony by which water is poured over someone or someone is immersed in water, and prayers are said and the person becomes a Christian. When we begin to hear about baptism with the Holy Spirit, we need to start thinking about something a little more radical, something much stronger.

Baptism with the Holy Spirit is a transformation of a person and yet most of us rarely feel transformed. Sure, there are Christians who seem to be totally changed by their conversion and who become almost fanatical about following Jesus Christ. But most Christians today don't seem to be that type.

Perhaps today we Christians are far too tame! We talk about following Christ but we don't want to be asked to do anything very strong or very difficult. Perhaps lots of us are uneasy with the Christians who go and make stands at abortion clinics, those who protest government policies publicly and go to jail, those who lie down in the streets to protest at World Trade Organization gatherings, and all those types of Christians.

We have to ask ourselves, though, what the Scriptures are teaching us? What do the Scriptures tell us about God and the demands of God on our life? Do we believe that God really demands anything of us today? Or is God simply a nice presence that we think about now and then?

Certainly the author of the section of the Prophet Isaiah that we heard read today does not think of God as simply a nice presence without any demands on us! God asks of Israel and asks of the Prophet and asks of us: Be light for the world! And it is not our own light that we are called to be, but the light of God. In order to become God's light, we must be transformed. This is a strong link with the understanding of baptism in our Scriptures.

This transformation, understood in the context of the Prophet Isaiah, can only come about by the action of God. But we must accept that action, we must pray for that action. We must give our lives over to God's will and strive to do only what God wants in our lives.

The moral teachings of the Jewish and Christian scriptures are quite clear and have been clear for a long time. We must learn how to follow those moral teachings. But that is never enough. Following the moral teachings that God gives to us in the Scriptures is never enough. We must give every aspect of our lives over to God.

That is why the First Letter to the Corinthians is so insistent that we have been sanctified (by baptism) and are called to be holy. This is not some notion again of a saint who is sweet and prays all the time. No, God's holiness is a demand to be totally given over to God in every aspect of our life.

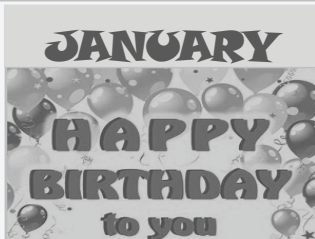
And so we come back to today's Gospel from Saint John. May the Holy Spirit come down upon us as we begin Ordinary Time once again.

May that Holy Spirit claim every aspect of our lives. May we grow in our daily prayer and our desire to let God take possession of every aspect of our lives. We praise our Lord Jesus for saving us. Let us now live that salvation, that sanctification, and allow the Holy Spirit to make us holy. Amen.

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Anna Massey, Beatrice M. McMillon, Brenda Thompson, Brandon, Bobbie Henry, Cameron Nedd, Chloe Pomes, Catherine Hernandez, Dawson Macera, Denise Wiltz, Elinor McKeon, Elizabeth Gale Hardy, Erena Hardy, Jr., Gary LeRouge, Geneva C. Jones, Glynn Boyd, Jerod Boyd, Jeanne & Dan Schmitt, James Casby, Jason Boyd, J.W. Prejean, Kim D. Davis, K. Franklin & Family, Kayla Guiterrez, Lula Ward, Leslie Eiswerth, Matthew Prejean, Major Deloche, Minnie Linyear, Martha Davis, Mary Landreneau, Pam Kamphuis, Roderick Boyd, Richard. R. Vernotzy, Sr., Sliman Family, Tom Thomas, Trudy Morris, Tyrone Wiltz, Vernotzy & Eidt Families, Viney Miller, Wadlington Family, Wayne Belaire



Father Bach 1/15, Michael Nedd 1/18, Shirley Schwartz 1/9, Suzanne Matthews 1/8, Robert Eisworth 1/4, Rose Demers 1/1, Audrey Steward 1/5, Dana Schmitt 1/28, Joachim Rochon 1/22, Pat Bowes 1/7, Gary LeRouge 1/18, Barbie LeRouge 1/26, Eucharía Agwaramgbo 1/28, Elizabeth McKeon 1/20, Carlos Gimenez 1/24, Matthew Busby 1/6, Richard Vernotzy, Jr. 1/11, Chance Meyers 1/1, Ebube Agwaramgbo 1/5, Otis Rideaux 1/18, Eddie Lewis 1/3, Richard Lewis 1/2, Estelle Gordon 1/21, Julia Rodriguez 1/12, Anna Chiasson 1/22