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My dear parishioners:

Today the Church celebrates the Baptism of the Lord. Just a little over two weeks ago we celebrated the Nativity of Christ and now Jesus is already an adult and about to begin his three-year public ministry leading to his death, resurrection and ascension. The feast of the Baptism of the Lord concludes the Season of Christmas and begins the weeks of Ordinary Time. As you will no doubt recall, the Sunday Mass readings are on a three-year cycle. This year during the weeks of Ordinary Time we will listen to passages of the Gospel According to St. Luke. In early December of last year, I gave a brief introduction to the Gospel of Luke. I would like to add a bit to that as we will be listening to Luke gospel on most Sundays for the rest of the year.

With 1,149 verses, Luke's gospel is the longest of the four. Yet it is only half of the Lucan writing, for the gospel was originally joined to the Acts of the Apostles as part of a two-volume work that in length constitutes over one quarter of the entire New Testament. Combining these two works provides a wonderful narrative of the: "a real person or all persons of faith?". The "we passages" in Acts (16:10-17, 20:5-15, 21:1-18, 27:1-28) let us know that the author travelled with St. Paul on his second and third missionary journeys. With this knowledge, the only person who could be the author of these two works would be Luke, the physician, mentioned in Paul's Letter to the Colossians (4:14).

About 350 verses that are found in the Gospel of St. Luke are also found in the Gospel of St. Mark. Since Mark is the earliest written of the four gospels, we know that Luke borrowed from Mark. Since Luke was writing to gentile Christians (whereas Mark was writing to Jewish converts to Christianity), he omitted a number of elements of Mark's gospel that dealt with Jewish customs/traditions or ones which required some deeper knowledge of Jewish theology or law. Another 235 verses of Luke's gospel come from a source Luke and Matthew shared, called the "Q source" (derived from the German word 'quelle' meaning "source"). The original of this source no longer exists but it appears to have been a collection of sayings and stories of Jesus. About one-half of the writings of Luke occur only in his gospel. Luke wrote his gospel around 75 AD.

As a companion of St. Paul, the "apostle to the gentiles", Luke would have naturally been writing to a primarily Christian community of gentile origin. His audience was primarily poor city dwellers of the Roman world. They would have been considered "outsiders" as they were economically poor, of low social status and had no share in the richness of the religious traditions and heritage of Judaism. Luke's "good news" to these outsiders was that they were special recipients of the "kingdom", the community of the faithful under the rule of God brought forth by the Messiah (Jesus the Christ). So even though the secular society may have shunned them, they have found special favor with God and have a blessed place in the Kingdom of God.

A major theme of Luke's gospel is that the Kingdom of God reverses the world's judgment on the powerful versus the powerless and wealth versus poverty. The rich and powerful are not those with material possessions but those with the spiritual gift of faith. Luke has 21 references to riches in his gospel, whereas Mark has only 5 and Matthew only 1. Luke has 8 references to poverty, whereas Matthew has 5 and Mark 4. Only Luke records the parable of the "rich fool" and the rich man and Lazarus. Throughout the gospel the true rich are those who have faith.

A second major theme of Luke's gospel is Jesus' direct intention to include non-Jewish people in the Kingdom. Parables, like the good

January 12, 2019 - January 20, 2019
Readings and Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 12 4:30pm—Mass
6:30pm—Spanish Mass
 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b [cf. 4a]/Jn 3:22-30
Mass Intention for Ed Sanderson

Sunday, January 13 9:00am—Mass
 Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 [1]/
 Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22
Mass Intention for the People of the Parish

Monday, January 14 4:30pm—Mass
 Heb 1:1-6/Ps 97:1 and 2b, 6 and 7c, 9 [cf. 7c]/Mk 1:14-20
Mass Intention for Lloyd & Ron Chance

Tuesday, January 15 No Mass
 Heb 2:5-12/Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9 [cf. 7]/Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday, January 16 4:30pm—Mass
 Heb 2:14-18/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9 [8a]/Mk 1:29-39
Mass Intention for Lloyd & Ron Chance

Thursday, January 17 8:30am—Mass
 Heb 3:7-14/Ps 95:6-7c, 8-9, 10-11 [8]/Mk 1:40-45

Friday, January 18 9:30am—Communion Service
 Heb 4:1-5, 11/Ps 78:3 and 4bc, 6c-7, 8 [cf. 7b]/Mk 2:1-12

Saturday, January 19 4:30pm—Mass
6:30pm—Spanish Mass
 Heb 4:12-16/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15 [cf. Jn 6:63c]/Mk 2:13-17

Sunday, January 20 9:00am—Mass
 Is 62:1-5/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10 [3]/1 Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-11
Mass Intention for the People of the Parish

O bless the Lord, my soul. (Ps 104)

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for: Bobbie Broussard, Bennie Mahaffey, Don Watt; Pam Beadle, Christi Gray, Jane Selman

Repose of the soul: Dorothy Gilder; Fr. Earl Mudd, Brother Bernard Palmeri CSC, Mary Strother

Names will remain on the prayer list for two weeks. You may list names in the Prayer book in the vestibule of the Church and your intention will be offered at daily Mass.

Samaritan (10:25) and stories like the 10 cured lepers with only the one gentile returning to give thanks to Jesus (17:11) demonstrate the favored role that gentiles had in receiving the offer of salvation from Christ.

A third major theme is that of repentance. Only in Luke does Peter begin his relationship with Jesus by confessing he is a sinful man (5:8). Only in Luke is the woman who wipes Jesus' feet with her hair a repentant sinner (7:36). And Luke is the only gospel to recount the parable of the prodigal son (15:11). Luke will clearly articulate that Jesus' mission was to bring redemption to all people through the forgiveness of sin. To receive this gift requires conversion and repentance.

As we read the Gospel According to St. Luke this year, let us be drawn into the saving mystery it announces. Through Luke, Jesus is calling us to live as fully as possible in the Kingdom of God here on earth as we await its fulfillment in heaven.

Sincerely in Christ,

 Msgr. Frank H. Rossi
 Pastor

Sun. Jan 13 <i>The Baptism of the Lord</i> 9:00am—Mass 10:00am— <i>Christmas Party, Family Center</i>	Mon. Jan 14 4:30 pm—Mass	Tues. Jan 15 6:30pm—RCIA	Wed. Jan 16 4:00pm—Rosary 4:30pm—Mass 5:00pm—Choir Practice 6:00pm—CCE	Thurs. Jan 17 8:30am—Mass 9:00am—Divine <i>Mercy Chaplet</i>	Fri. Jan 18 9:30am—Communion Service	Sat. Jan 19 3:45-4:15pm: Confessions 4:30pm—Mass 6:30pm—Spanish Mass
Sun. Jan 20 <i>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> 9:00am—Mass 10:00am-1:00pm— <i>Blood Drive Family Center</i>	Mon. Jan 21 4:30 pm—Mass	Tues. Jan 22 6:30pm—RCIA	Wed. Jan 23 4:00pm—Rosary 4:30pm—Communion Service 5:00pm—Choir Practice 6:00pm—CCE	Thurs. Jan 24 8:30am—Communion Service 9:00am—Divine <i>Mercy Chaplet</i>	Fri. Jan 25 9:30am—Communion Service	Sat. Jan 26 3:45-4:15pm: Confessions 4:30pm—Mass 6:30pm—Spanish Mass

Blood Drive
 SUNDAY, JANUARY 20, 2019
 IN THE FAMILY CENTER
 10:00AM-1:00PM

Sign up sheet in foyer of Church

Give the gift of life
Donate blood



2019 Envelopes

There has been an issue with the printing of the 2019 Donation Envelopes. The envelopes will not be here in time for the first and second weekends of January.

So that correct records may be kept, if donating by check, put your envelope number on the memo line. If donating by cash place your donation in a plain envelope with your envelope number on the front.

Thank you.
 We hope the issue will be resolved quickly.

Weekly Stewardship

January 6 & 7 Weekly Offering	\$ 5,222.00
Average Weekly Cost	\$ 3,152.00
Excess/Deficit	\$ 2,070.00

Thank you for your generosity.

*Start the New Year
 with a New Vision.*

Learn how all of us are called to be Witnesses for Jesus Christ during our upcoming
Called, Formed, & Sent Day 2019.

English and Spanish sessions will be offered. There will be tracks including the RCIA, adult faith formation, the elementary grades, and middle school and high school. It is open to all those working in Evangelization and Catechesis, especially catechists, parish catechetical leaders, parents, youth ministers and their teams, RCIA teams, adult faith formation teams and anyone looking to grow in their faith. Come join us on the mission...

Saturday – January 26, 2019
9:00 am to 5:00 pm (including Mass at 4 pm)
Saint Mary, Fannett

*Featured speakers include: Vanessa White
 and Gustavo Rodriguez*

Contact Diane Sanderson, 409-489-3394, to register.
 There is no fee for this event and lunch is provided.

Upcoming Events

January 20: Blood Drive, 10:00-1:00, Family Center
 January 20: Southeast Texas Rally for Life, 2:00pm
 St. Anne, Beaumont, TX
 January 26: Called Formed and Sent Day, 9:00am
 St. Mary, Fannett, TX
 January 26: Gumbo Dinner, 12:00-6:00pm, St. Pius X,
 Beaumont, TX