

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Feast of the Baptism of Jesus

January 12, 2020

Dear Parishioners:

Over the past few weeks we have been commemorating the amazing and joyous events of the Christmas season. We celebrated Jesus' birth, the feast of the Holy Family, the solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, and the feast of the Epiphany. With today's feast of the Baptism of our Lord we conclude the Christmas season. For some of us the end of the Christmas season carries a touch of sadness and despair. Christmas joy, enthusiasm and happiness give way to the ugly "winter blues." However, today's celebration of the Baptism of Jesus serves as a bridge between the life of the child Jesus to His adult life. We now turn our attention to the deeper meaning of Jesus' Incarnation. Today's feast manifests Jesus' true **identity** as God's "beloved Son" and it also reveals His **mission**: witnessing to and boldly proclaiming the presence of God's kingdom. Today's feast also reminds us of the importance of **our** baptism and our call to continue carrying out Jesus' **mission** and ministry within our communities.

All four Gospel writers agree that John the Baptist was an important person in Jesus' life. John stands between Jesus' hidden life (childhood and adolescence) and Jesus' adult public life of ministry. Before encountering John, Jesus was merely known as the "son of a carpenter" residing in a relatively obscure village of Nazareth. After his encounter with John the Baptist, Jesus begins His ministry of preaching, teaching and healing. Jesus will become widely known as an itinerant prophet proclaiming the unique and special message of God's love for all of humanity. Clearly, something happened to Jesus while in John's presence as He underwent a change that placed His life in a new direction.

Today's Gospel passage is St. Matthew's version and perspective of Jesus' baptism. Matthew's focus is to affirm that Jesus is God's beloved Son. As soon as Jesus emerges from the Jordan waters His **identity** as God's beloved Son is confirmed by the Holy Spirit and proclaimed by God the Father's voice. This activity can be seen as inaugurating Jesus into ministry that begins immediately. This confirmation of Jesus' divine ministry fulfills the Old Testament hints that Matthew likes to see as pointing to Jesus (Isaiah 42:2; Psalm 2:7; Genesis 2:2). The next step for Jesus will be His confrontation with the devil in the wilderness and there He will be challenged to prove His **identity**.

At Jesus' baptism, the Holy Spirit descended upon Him and the Father **identified** Him as His beloved Son. The same exact thing happened to all of us at our baptism. We were imbued with the Holy Spirit and we were **identified** as God's "beloved sons and daughters." The Church clearly states that our baptism makes us: "Christians now and that Christ welcomes us into His holy people. "The question we must ask ourselves is: "Are we living up to this awesome **identity**?"

May the choices we make, and our attitudes and actions always give glory and praise to God. May we always be true to our baptismal promises by carrying on Christ's **mission** and ministry within our communities.

Love and Prayers,
Fr. John

Weekend Masses

Sat Jan 11	4:00 p.m.	Jim and Ruth Baderstcher
Sun Jan 12	10:00 a.m.	Dennis Warren
Sat Jan 18	4:00 p.m.	In Thanksgiving, Mel Schroeder
Sun Jan 19	10:00 a.m.	Mary Zaleskie

Communion Service

Fri Jan 17 8:00 a.m. St. Mary's

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$3,429.00	Loose \$762.00
Children	\$16.00	Total \$4,207.00

69 envelopes returned = 33%



Christmas Collection to Date: \$9,108.75

Thank you for your generosity!

Thank you also to those who give electronically!!

Assignments for January 18 & 19, 2020

Money Counters: Tonya Meyer and Courtney Gerten

4:00 p.m. – *please sign the sheet in the main entrance*

Greeters: _____

Cantor: Dave Roby

Ushers: _____

Lector: Jim Kinn

E.M.: Amy Marcum, Basil Meyer, Diana Bucher

Servers: _____, _____

10:00 a.m.

Greeters:

Cantor: Choir

Ushers: Mike and Rhonda Maag

Lectors: Chris Denecker

E.M.: Kim Garmatter, Luke Denecker, Larry Hoffman, _____, _____

Servers: Aubrey Sunderhaus, Elizabeth Honse, Ethan Hoffman

Readings for January 19, 2019 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Isaiah 49:3, 5 – 6

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1 – 3

Gospel Reading: John 1:29 – 34

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THANK YOU I want to thank all of our wonderful parishioners for remembering me this Christmas season with your prayers, cards, goodies and gifts. I also want to thank all who helped make our Christmas liturgies so beautiful, inspiring and uplifting. Thank you to our Decorating community (Lisa Welch and crew), musicians (Sheila, Tammy, Cantors and Choir members) and our Children's Choir (under the leadership of Katie) and our PREP children (under the leadership of Kelly) who acted out the Christmas story. I am truly blessed to have so many wonderful parishioners and I look forward to ministering to and with you in 2020. May God bless us all. **Love & prayers, Fr. John**



Thank you to Lisa and Logan Welch, Tom and John Schulte, Keith and Landon Sunderhaus, the Rieman family, Joe Herrmann, Basil Meyer, Cathy and Caitlyn Couch, Jennifer Tschuor, Shar Dunlap, Dan and Linda Garrett, and Deb Hohenbrink, for their help in tearing down our Christmas decorations. Your constant help and dedication to our parish is greatly appreciated!



Offertory Envelopes If you have not gotten envelopes in the past and would like to receive a box, put your name on the sheet and *they will be ready for you next weekend.*



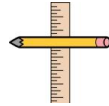
Online Giving If you would like to give online, please visit our website and click on "E-Giving" under the "Home" tab. Create your profile and set up the amount and rate at which you'd like to give.

Volunteer Appreciation Supper

Next Sunday, the 19th, at 6:00 p.m., we will gather to celebrate our many volunteers who work together to make St. Mary's the wonderful parish that it is. This year our theme is "Taste and See the Goodness of the Lord". Don't forget to sign up!! The sign-up sheet is on the shelf in the main entrance.



Council Meetings The Finance Council will meet on Tuesday, January 21st



Preschool Registration is now OPEN to all parishioners. There will be an open house on January 16th from 6 – 7 p.m. Children ages 3-5 that are fully potty trained by August 1 are eligible to register, with a \$35 non-refundable fee required. If you have any questions, please contact Katie Hohenbrink or Amanda Stechschulte.

You give your heart and soul to everything you do, between your work and your family. Are you giving your heart and soul to your marriage? Retrouvaille is a marriage program designed to bring couples closer together. The next weekend in our area is January 24 – 26, 2020. For more information, contact: Joe and Arlene @ 419-481-1116 or visit our website: **HelpOurMarriage.com**

The Diocese of Toledo Safe Environment Program is in Full Compliance with USCCB Norms. The Diocese of Toledo remains committed to ensuring the protection of children and providing a safe environment for all young people. If you have any knowledge of abuse that has been committed by a cleric, or any employee or volunteer of the Catholic Church, please report the abuse to your local police department, Child Protection Services, and Mr. Frank DiLallo, Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator. Mr. DiLallo can be reached at (419) 214-4880 or by mail at 1933 Spielbusch Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43604.

P.R.E.P

Children's Liturgy of the Word is during the 10 a.m. Mass

K-6: Class is this Wednesday, January 15th from 6:30 – 7:30

Jr High: Class is January 19th, from 11 - 1



God Squad--High School Youth Group



God Squad High School Youth will meet for class January 19th! **Third Thursday** is January 16th