

St. Mary's Catholic Church

The Baptism of the Lord

January 10, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

During the past few weeks we have been remembering and commemorating the joyous events/feasts of the Christmas season. We celebrated the Nativity- Jesus' birth, the Feast of the Holy Family, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, and the Feast of Epiphany of Our Lord. With today's celebration of the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord, we bring the Christmas season to a conclusion. Today's feast serves as a bridge between the Child Jesus' life and His adult life. With today's celebration we can now turn our attention to the deeper meaning of the mystery of the Incarnation- "the Word becoming flesh." Today's feast manifests Jesus' true **identity** as God's "**Beloved Son**" and it places Jesus on the road of His **mission**: boldly revealing, proclaiming and witnessing to the presence of God's kingdom. Also, today's feast reminds **us** of the importance of **our** baptismal call in carrying out Jesus's **mission** and **ministry** within our community.



All four Gospel writers acknowledge that John the Baptist was an important person in Jesus' life. John stands as a bridge between Jesus' childhood/adolescence and His adult public life of ministry. Before encountering John at the Jordan River, Jesus was merely known as the "carpenter's son from Nazareth." After His baptism, Jesus begins His public ministry of preaching, healing, and teaching. Jesus will then become widely known as an itinerant prophet proclaiming God's love for all. While in John's presence, Jesus underwent a change that put His life in a new direction.

In all four Gospels there is a consciously strong emphasis on John the Baptist as being subservient to Jesus. The four Gospels very clearly present Jesus as God's divine revelation and John as His precursor. John the Baptist is less powerful and far less important than Jesus. John admits that Jesus is far mightier and superior to him and John insists that he is not worthy to untie Jesus' sandals. John acknowledges that the Jewish baptism that he administered was merely symbolic; preparing one for the world's final days. John then testifies that the baptism that Jesus would administer would be of the Holy Spirit and fire and Jesus' baptism would be for the forgiveness of sins.

Today's Gospel account of Jesus' baptism is from St. Mark. For the evangelist Mark, Jesus' baptism is part of the prologue to the whole story of Jesus. Scripture scholars wrestle with the question of Jesus' motivation for being baptized by John but Mark presents this as a way to reveal Jesus's identity as "**God's beloved Son.**" At the moment of Jesus' baptism, divine revelation unfolds in a dramatic fashion. This is referred to as a theophany, a manifestation of God. *Continued...*

Weekend Masses

Sat Jan 9	4:00 p.m	Intentions of the Schroeder Family
Sun Jan 10	8:00 a.m.	Living and deceased members of Eric + Marla Santomieri Family
Sun Jan 10	10:00 a.m	Urban Selhorst
Sat Jan 16	4:00 p.m	Mel Schroeder
Sun Jan 17	8:00 a.m.	Bernie + Nancy Brodman
Sun Jan 17	10:00 a.m	Charley + Mim Shepler

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$3,210.00	Loose \$2,077.00
	Total	\$5,287.00

34 envelopes returned = 16%

Christmas Collection to date: \$9,170.00

*Thank you for your generosity!
Thank you also to those who give electronically!!*

Assignments for January 16 & 17, 2021

Money Counters: Janet Begg, Courtney Gerten
4:00 p.m.

Cantor: Steve McCullough
Ushers: John Parinello and Bob Minto
Lector: Amy Tabler
E.M.: Jennifer Tschuor
Servers: Shylee and Ronald Kaufman

8:00 a.m.

Cantor: Steve McCullough
Ushers: *Volunteer*
Lector: *Volunteer*
E.M.: *Volunteer*
Server: *Volunteer*

10:00 a.m.

Cantor: Steve McCullough
Ushers: Greg and Gabe Denecker
Lectors: Chris Denecker
E.M.: Betty Gerten
Servers: Conner Gerten

Readings for January 17, 2021 **2nd Ordinary Sunday**

1st Reading: 1 Samuel 3:3 – 10, 19
2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:13 – 15, 17 – 20
Gospel Reading: John 1:35 – 42

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... The Holy Spirit in the form of a dove descends from the heavens and lands on Jesus. This is Jesus' official anointing by the Holy Spirit to prepare Him for His **mission** and **ministry**. The dove-Spirit is accompanied by a divine voice from heaven clearly identifying who Jesus is. The voice identifies Jesus as "God's beloved Son with whom God is well pleased."

At **our** baptism we were embraced in the Spirit of life and love that is of our God. We were imbued with the Holy Spirit and we were identified as God's **'beloved sons and daughters.'** Our baptism empowered us to take on the **mission** of revealing and witnessing God's love in our world. Today's celebration of Jesus' baptism reminds us that we are called to recommit ourselves to our baptismal promises: to bring hope to imprisoned lives, to give voice to love that struggles to be heard, and to mend broken hearts and spirits so that God can be found within. As we journey thru 2021 may the Holy Spirit that anointed us at our baptism renew us so that we can continue carrying out Jesus' **mission** and **ministry** within our community. Have a blessed week.

Love & prayers,
Fr. John

New Parish Office Hours:

The office will be closed on Mondays
Tuesday – Friday 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Daily Mass will be celebrated at St. Mary's on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 9 a.m.



YouTube Page To watch our Sunday Mass online, please go to our YouTube page at: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqK-4_hQ9QbgP7sH4EhD9YA Be sure to click the "Subscribe" button while you are on our page so you don't miss out on any of our uploads!

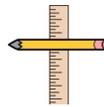
Thank you to Logan and Lisa Welch, Jeff Goldenetz, Dennis and Shar Dunlap, Tom Schulte, John Schulte, Deb Hohenbrink, and Beth Yarger for their help in tearing down our Christmas decorations. Your constant help and dedication to our parish is greatly appreciated!

Thank you to everyone who donated to this year's Giving Tree. We were able to help three local families, Heartbeat of Lima, and families in the Appalachia area. The amazing generosity of this parish is truly special and very much appreciated, especially during this difficult year.



Offertory Envelopes are ready to be picked up in the main entrance. Please be **very** attentive of the name on your box! Some numbers have changed this year. If you cannot find yours, please ask the office before taking any. If you have not gotten them in the past and would like to receive a box, please put your name on the orange sheet.

Contribution Statements are ready for parishioners to pick up in the main entrance. If you do not see yours and would like to request a statement, please contact the office! Thank you all for your constant generosity!



Preschool Registration is now OPEN to all parishioners. There will be an open house on January 18th 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.

Fr. John and the St. Mary's Faith Community stand with Archbishop José H. Gomez, President of the USCCB, who issued the following statement: *"I join people of good will in condemning the violence (Wednesday) at the United States Capitol. This is not who we are as Americans...The peaceful transition of power is one of the hallmarks of this great nation. In this troubling moment, we must recommit ourselves to the values and principles of our democracy and come together as one nation under God. I entrust all of us to the heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary. May she guide us in the ways of peace, and obtain for us wisdom and the grace of a true patriotism and love of country."*

P.R.E.P

K-5: Class will meet this Wednesday, Jan.13 for grades 2,3 and 4 from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

6th Grade: Class will meet January 17 from 11 – 12:45

Jr High: Class will meet January 17 from 11 – 12:45



God Squad--High School Youth Group



God Squad High School Youth will meet January 17 from 11 – 12:45