

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

January 12, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

He shall bring forth justice to the nations. (Isaiah 42:1)



Today marks the end of the Christmas season. The stories of Jesus' birth are over. Baptized by John and filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus is now ready to proclaim the good news. So let's take a quick look back at some of the events that have brought us to this point.

We began Advent reading about how all the nations will stream to God's holy mountain (Isaiah 2:1-5). But after that, we read mostly about humble, everyday people: the elderly priest Zechariah; Joseph, a prayerful carpenter and his young wife, Mary; shepherds on a hillside. There's a short journey to Bethlehem, a simple birth, and a child in swaddling clothes. About the most glamorous event was a visit from some mysterious figures from the East.

So where are the "nations" that Isaiah prophesied?

Today's feast offers an answer. Jesus isn't waiting for the world to come to him; he is going out to it. He will accept baptism and then go out and "bring forth justice to the nations" (Isaiah 42:1). Filled with the Holy Spirit, he will travel all over Palestine and "open the eyes of the blind, . . . bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness" (42:7).

Ever since the day of his baptism, Jesus has been going out into the world. First he did it himself. Then he sent out Peter and Paul and the other apostles. And now he is sending you.

But don't worry; he's not sending you out alone. You are part of the "world" that Jesus is going out to minister to. Today and every day, he comes to fill you with the same Spirit that filled him at his baptism. So place yourself in today's readings. You are God's child, and he is pleased with you. He is asking you to "bring forth justice" to the little corner of "the nations" where you live—and he is with you to help you do it.

"Here I am, Lord! Send me out to share your good news."

Deacon Mark Race, Administrator

Men, Mark Your Calendars

Transfiguration Annual Retreat for men will be held at Mater Dolorosa Retreat Center on the weekend of January 24, 25, and 26 2020. Join your fellow parishioners for this weekend of spiritual enrichment and growth. The Passionist retreat team offer inspirational talks on the theme, as well as time for quiet prayer, Mass, and Confession and Stations of the Cross. You may arrive as early as 3:00 PM Friday. Our retreat opens at 5:45 PM with a buffet supper and closes Sunday after lunch about 12:30 PM. A **\$50.00 non-refundable deposit is required to reserve your weekend Retreat, this is reserved for you**. This year's Retreat theme: "**God is doing something New In Us... Exploring paths of deepening Faith**". For more information or to make your reservation please call Greg Warner your parish retreat Captain at 323.974.7405 or 310.538.2214.

You may register online at: materdolorosa.org/event/mens-weekend-retreat-jan-24-26-2020

Daily Scripture Readings

WHEN GOD COMES

My God, what joy is when you come to us in daily visitation; what peace is ours when by your coming we find life anew.

Come, O come to live with us and reign within, now and forever. Amen.

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| Sunday | Is 42:1-7, Ps 29:1-10, Mt 3:13-17 |
| Monday | 1 Sm 1:1-8, Mk 1:14-20 |
| Tuesday | 1 Sm 1:9-20, Mk 1:21-28 |
| Wednesday | 1Sm 3:1-20, Mk 1:29-39 |
| Thursday | 1 Sm 4:1-11, Mk 1:40-45 |
| Friday | 1 Sm 8:4-22a, Mk 2:1-12 |
| Saturday | 1Sm 9:1-10:1, Mk 2:13-17 |
| Sunday | Is 49: 3-6, Ps 40: 2-10, Jn 1:29-34 |

Mass Intentions

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| Saturday | January 11 |
| 5:15 PM | Intention of all Parishioners |
| Sunday | January 12 |
| 8:00 AM | Soul of Dorothy Jones |
| 10:00 AM | Soul of Sam Richardson |
| 12:15 PM | Soul of Barbara Starks |

Weekly Offering for January 5, 2020

\$7584.00 Tithes and Offering
1030.00 Building Fund
11.00 "We Care"

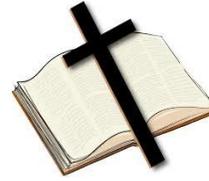
Did You Know?

Scope out your local playground

Children love playgrounds — so much space to explore and play — and so do parents — a great way to burn off energy! But before you send your children on their way, consider a few safety tips. Watch out for drawstrings and loose-fitting clothing. They can get caught and snagged in cracks or crevices on play equipment. Go over playground rules, both the posted ones and the ones for your own family. When you get there, check the equipment for any breaks or cracks that could be hazardous. Make sure you know the age recommendations for equipment. For more safety tips, get a copy of the VIRTUS® article "Playground Safety Considerations" at <http://www.la-archdiocese.org/org/protecting/Pages/VIRTUS-Current-Online-Articles.aspx>.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

TRANSFIGURATION LENTEN REVIVAL



Sr. / Dr. Oralisa Martin, O.R.A.
Sunday, Monday, & Tuesday Nights at 7PM
March 15, 16, & 17, 2020 and
Sunday March 15th at 10AM Mass
Spread the Word!

Christmas Flower Offering

We are asking that you be as generous as possible with your giving. Envelopes are at the church exit. We will place the envelopes on the altar for prayer in Memory of, or in Honor of, your love ones.

Stewardship Thought

And a voice came from the heavens, saying,

"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." MATTHEW 3:17

Two thoughts come to mind when reading this. First, God, Our Father, is so generous, that he gave his only son, whom he really loves, to us so that we can have eternal life with him in heaven. God, Our Creator, really loves us, too! Second, Jesus was obedient to his Father's will, even to the point of death. This is a reminder that our own lives are pure gifts from God and meant to serve God and others.

Memorial Service for Howlett Smith

The **memorial service** for Howlett Smith also known as "Smitty", former 8AM Cantor for Transfiguration, will take place on Saturday, February 1, 2020 at 10AM.

2020 Calendars are available in the church sacristy for a donation of \$2. Thank you for your support.

Pray for the Sick

LaVerne Agnew, Cyd Michelle Anderson, Brian Argusta, Percenia Beasley, Fr. Emile Belletty, Glenda Brown, Vivian Burgess, Barbara Butler, Brownie Cain, Sister Cecilia Calva, Alberto Casanova, Christopher Chestnut, Sister Ann Paul Clare, Katherine Clark, Agnes Cooper, Edward Cousin, Juanita Davis, Beverly Colvin-Dorsey, Jayden Dunn, Nigel Dunn, Alton Duhon, Cynthia Fortier, Teresa Franklin, Judy Felton-Gardner, Michael Frierson, Avis Gibbs, Barbara Harris, Darren Harris, Jacqueline Holman, Janie Jackson, Robert Johns, Aaron Katz, Briana Katz, Barbara Lagarde, Irwin Lagarde, Jeanne LeBlanc, Mercedes LeBlanc, Barbara Lindsey, Connie Louie, Joe McZeal, Vylfred Manor, Sister Marianna, Dorothy Okoye, Aliyah Patterson, Sally Price, Wiley R. Pugh, Vickie Race, Andrea Raggette, Doris Rogers, Dana Semien, Dudley Semien, Chris Simon, Joan Spencer, Annie Starks, Sandra Sterling, Leila Thomas, Iris Turner, Mabel Walton, Johnnye Washington, and Alice Williams.