



# St. Mary's Catholic Church



## THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

This is what John the Baptist proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." - Mk 1:7-8

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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Fr. Felix Nayak- Pastor

## Mass Schedule and Intentions

**1/11: Malta - To Be Announced**

**1/12: Malta - 5:30 PM:** Poor Souls <sup>r/</sup><sub>b</sub> Lana Fortin

**1/13: Malta - 8:30 AM: Repose** Dave Broadbrooks <sup>r/</sup><sub>b</sub> Bruce & Darlene Cummings

**1/14: Malta - 8:30 AM:** Special Intentions <sup>r/</sup><sub>b</sub> Lana Fortin

**1/15: Malta - 8:30 AM:** Repose of Roger & Allie Ereaux <sup>r/</sup><sub>b</sub> Helen DePuydt

**1/16: Malta - 4:00 PM:** Repose Mike DePuydt <sup>r/</sup><sub>b</sub> Helen DePuydt

**1/17: Saco - 8:30 AM:** Repose of Dave Broadbrooks <sup>r/</sup><sub>b</sub> Julie & Gary Howell

**Malta - 10:30 AM:** For all Parishioners;

**Dodson—12:30 PM:** Repose Robert Scriver <sup>r/</sup><sub>b</sub> Helen DePuydt

## Confession Schedule

Fr. Felix will be in the Confessional at St. Mary's Church **Friday's 9:00-10:00,**  
**Saturday from 11:00 A.M.—Noon;** and by appointment.

## Weekly Eucharistic Adoration

**Every Friday from 9 to 10 AM** after Daily Mass.



**Contact Fr. Felix for Home Visits, Distribution of the Sacraments, Home Blessings and Counseling of any type.**



Knights of Columbus  
Council 2124

Parish Council of Catholic  
Women

Meets **First Tuesday** of the month

Meets **Second Sunday** of the month

## Daily Scripture Readings

**1/10: The Baptism of the Lord;** Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7; Psalms 29:1-4, 9-10; Acts 10:34-38; Mark 1:7-11 or Isaiah 55:1-11; Isaiah 12:2-6; 1 John 5:1-9; Mark 1:7-11

**1/11: Monday in the first week of Ordinary Time;** Hebrews 1:1-6; Psalms 97:1, 2, 6 - 7, 9; Mark 1:14-20

**1/12: Tuesday in the first week of Ordinary Time;** Hebrews 2:5-12; Psalms 8:2, 5-9; Mark 1:21-28

**1/13: St. Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church;** Hebrews 2:14-18; Psalms 105:1-9; Mark 1:29-39

**1/14: Thursday in the first week of Ordinary Time;** Hebrews 3:7-14; Psalms 95:6-11; Mark 1:40-45

**1/15: Friday in the first week of Ordinary Time;** Hebrews 4:1-5, 11; Psalms 78:3, 4, 6-8; Mark 2:1-12

**1/16: Saturday in the first week of Ordinary Time;** Heb 4:12-16/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15 [cf. Jn 6:63c]/Mk 2:13-17

**1/17: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time;** 1 Samuel 3:3-10, 19; Psalms 40:2, 4, 7-10; 1 Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20; John 1:35-42

### **NOTICE: MASS TIME CHANGES—STARTING JANUARY 3RD 2021**

**Saturday Evening 4:00 p.m. No Change**

**Sunday—Saco—8:30 a.m.**

**Malta - 10:30 a.m.**

**Dodson—12:30 p.m.**

## New to the Parish?

Welcome! We're glad you will be joining us. If you would like to register with the parish, please fill out this form and drop it in the collection basket. You may bring it by the parish office or send it to us.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

You may also use this form for a change of address. Thanks!

## Sacraments

**Confessions:** See page 2 of this week's bulletin for schedule or by appointment.

**Baptism:** Normally celebrated at weekend Masses. Parental sessions are required.

**Anointing of the Sick:** Please contact Fr. Felix as soon as possible for anointing.

**Marriages:** Six month couple preparation period required. Please meet with Fr. Felix before scheduling marriage date.

## Please Pray For

Corrine Hould, Ann Clouse, Chayten Pippin, Jim Nieber, Hi-Line Retirement Center, Terry Idler, Marshal Kline, Paul LaBrie, Jacob LaBrie, and those from our area serving in the military.

For the repose of the souls of Dale Bruckner, David Broadbrooks, Jack Lind, the Poor Souls in Purgatory, and comfort and peace for their families.

Anyone who needs to have prayers said for someone can call Jean Niebur at 654-2822 or Dianne Salsbery 654-4675. Names will be listed in the bulletin for one month unless specified.

**Thank you St. Jude for answering my prayers. CM**

# Everyday Stewardship

## When God Whispers

“You don’t need to shout. My hearing works just fine.”

Are you a parent that has used that one on your kids? I’m not sure at what age they realize that the volume of their voice doesn’t correlate to the likelihood of receiving a favorable reply — it might be sometime in the teenage years, when the talking slows down altogether.

But I’ve got to admit, it would be nice if God always gave us a loud and dramatic sign when He wanted something — the booming voice and the torn-open heavens (“This is my beloved Son!”) really get the message across. Sometimes I find myself envious of the Apostles, who were able to witness such things in person.

The fact of the matter is, in the year 2021, God is more likely to speak in a whisper than in a shout. The prophet Isaiah forewarns that Christ himself will not be a noisemaker — for all his

preaching, he will not cry out or shout to bring forth justice to the nations. His way is altogether different than that.

We are not the Apostles, and we do not have the privilege of seeing the Holy Spirit descend on Christ like a dove. But here’s the good news: God doesn’t need to shout. Our spiritual hearing works just fine. We just have to be listening.

Let’s wake up each morning ready to hear God’s whispers throughout the day. Let’s make a conscious effort to invite those whispers into our hearts, where they can become a catalyst for grace in this world.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

**Thank you for all your prayers and financial support! Although we’re not “passing the basket”, we still need your generous donations. You can drop off your donations at the baskets in the front of the church, mail them to Box 70, Malta, MT 59538.**

**\*There is no longer online giving. Direct deposits from your account into your parishes account is available. Please contact Mariah for routing numbers\***

## Pope Francis’ Intention

### For a Life of Prayer

We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

Fr. Felix

## BAPTISM OF OUR LORD: Is 55:1-11; 1Jn 5:1-9; Mk 1:7-11

Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ, baptism had been practiced for centuries among the Jews as a ritual equivalent to our Confession. It was common for Jewish people to use a special pool, "collection of water" – as a means of spiritual cleansing, to remove spiritual impurity and sin. Men took this bath weekly on the eve of the Sabbath, women, monthly. John preached that such a bath was a necessary preparation for the coming of the Messiah. Jesus transformed this continuing ritual into the one single act by which we begin our life of faith. He attached His Divine Essence with the water and the ceremony.

The Baptism of our Lord is the first public revelation of all the Three Persons in the Holy Trinity, and the official revelation of Jesus as the Son of God to the world by God the Father. First, it was a moment of identification with us sinners. Sinless, Jesus received the baptism of repentance to identify himself with his people who realized for the first time that they were sinners. Second, it was a moment of conviction about his identity and mission: that He is the Son of God and His mission was to preach the Good News of God's love and salvation and to atone for our sins by becoming the "suffering servant." God the Father's words, "This is my beloved Son," Ps 2:17, gave Jesus the identity of God's Son, and the words "with whom I am well pleased," (Is 42:1), referring to the "suffering servant", pointed to Jesus' mission of atoning for the sins of the world by His suffering and death on the cross. Third, it was a moment of equipment. The Holy Spirit equipped Jesus by descending on him in the form of a dove, giving him the power of preaching and healing. Fourth, it was a moment of decision to begin public ministry at the most opportune time after receiving the approval of his Heavenly Father as His beloved Son.

Many Fathers of the Church explain that Jesus received baptism to identify himself with his people, who, as a result of John's preaching, for the first time in Jewish history became aware of their sins and of their need for repentance. The Jews had the traditional belief that only the Gentiles who embraced Jewish religion needed the baptism of repentance, for, as God's chosen people, the Jewish race was holy. Jesus might have been waiting

for this most opportune moment to begin his public ministry.

Jesus' baptism by John was a mystical experience that Jesus felt deep within his soul at the crucial turning point of his life. The opening of the Heavens with Holy Spirit, descending as a dove upon Jesus, and the Voice declaring of Him, "This is My beloved Son with Whom I am well pleased," are God's revelation to mankind the Mystery that He is Triune. The presence of the Triune God at this baptism reveals Jesus' true identity and mission. The Heavens' opening also indicates that this was a moment of God's powerful intervention in human history and in the life of His Son. Jesus might have been waiting for a signal of approval from his Heavenly Father, and during his baptism Jesus got this approval of Himself as the Father's "beloved Son.

The baptism of Jesus reminds us of our identity and mission. First, it reminds us of who we are and whose we are. By Baptism we become the adoptive sons and daughters of God, brothers and sisters of Jesus, members of his Church, heirs of Heaven and temples of the Holy Spirit. We become incorporated into the Church, the Body of Christ, and made sharers in the priesthood of Christ [CCC 1279]. Second, Jesus' baptism reminds us of our mission: a) to experience the presence of God within us, to acknowledge our own dignity as God's children, and to appreciate the Divine Presence in others by honoring them, loving them and serving them in all humility; b) to live as the children of God in thought, word and action so that our Heavenly Father may say to each one of us what He said to Jesus: "You are My beloved son/daughter with whom I am well pleased." Finally, it reminds us that It is a day to thank God for the graces we have received in Baptism, to renew our Baptismal promises and to preach Christ's "Good News" by our transparent Christian lives of love, mercy, service and forgiveness. Amen.

Mary LaFond is willing to offer a bible study Walking Toward Eternity - Engaging the Struggles of your Heart. Many of us participated in Walking to Eternity - Daring to Walk the Walk by the same authors Jeff & Emily Cavins earlier this year and can attest, it is good and Mary is the best leader!

The course is 8 weeks and the cost of each book is \$17. If you would like to participate - please let either Mary or Anne know ASAP (you can respond here also) She will offer it twice a week - please let us know which one is best for you and we will confirm.

A: Mondays at 9:30AM

B: Thursdays at 9:30AM

C: Tuesday evenings at 6:30PM

Thank you - please respond ASAP - this is open to any parish or community member. Consider a "date night" or inviting someone who might like to rekindle their faith.

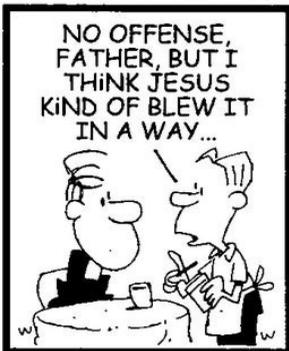
You can learn more about the bible study here - <https://ascensionpress.com/collections/walking-toward-eternity-the-struggles-of-your-heart>

## Live the Liturgy

We carry a greater depth of self—confidence and chance of succeeding when we have affirmation, a sense of direction and clear purpose in life. Each of these serve to provide our lives with meaning, allowing us to clearly establish priorities and goals. They also are necessary for integrity, which is the conviction and single mindedness that keeps us grounded in the truth of who we are. “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.” Jesus’ baptism provides him with exactly what he

needs to get about the business of his mission as the Son of God, He is given what he needs to be successful in fulfilling the purpose for which he was sent. Our baptism give us these same gifts. We receive the affirmation we need from God, knowing that we are one of his beloved daughters and sons. We are gifted with the direction and clear purpose we need in order to be productive stewards and faithful Christians. Are we ready and will to answer the call?

### BAPTISM OF THE LORD



# Gospel Meditation

## The Baptism of the Lord

We need history. We need it in order to understand ourselves, personally and collectively. The pieces of our histories may not have always been the most positive, honest, exemplary, dignified, proud and best moments of our lives, but they are ours. We have to acknowledge, remember, accept, and often heal them. We cannot forget them or pretend that they never existed. As horrible as the atrocities of events like Auschwitz, brutal injustices committed throughout the human journey, or personal painful experiences in our own stories, we need to remember. These times when humanity in general or people in particular have lost their way are times that need to be reconciled and redeemed.

If we lose the memories, we will make the same mistakes again. The human soul needs a strong sense of affirmation, direction, and clear purpose. Without these essentials, we will easily run amuck and repeat the sins of our past. God's voice throughout history has spoken precisely about this! We are reminded through the voices and example of many prophets and witnesses not to make the same mistakes again, come back to center, discover the purpose given to us by God, maintain a sense of proper direction, seek healing for wounds and be reconciled to our Creator.

Baptism is so incredibly important for the salvation of humankind, not only eternally but here and now. Our existence depends upon it. It gives us the affirmation we need from God by gifting us with the same intimate relationship Jesus had with the Father. We are blessed with the direction and clear purpose we need in order to be productive stewards and faithful Christians. Baptism calls us to remember, accept, and deal with the sins and inequities of our past regardless of how hurtful and serious. We consciously choose to turn away from them and put on the new life of Christ. To do this well, we must look hard and long at our sins and failings, listen to what they are saying and learn from them. If we ignore the past, collectively or personally, or pretend that it never happened, we will never grow. We will surely die.

People need to hear the message, lived and spoken, delivered by the baptized members of the Body of Christ. It is an essential message of hope that is layered with visions of justice, peace, reconciliation, redemption, blessing, and healing. It is a message that helps us remember what has gone before, the graces and the sins, and bring ourselves by God's help where we need to be. We are called to do much more than sit home behind our closed doors. We have a message to deliver. Are we ready to do so?LPi

**Join us in praying the Rosary before Mass.**

**Tuesdays at 5:10 p.m.**

**Wednesday—Friday at 8:10 a.m.**

**Saturday—3:40 p.m. K of C**

**Sunday— 10:10 a.m. Volunteers**

## Dates to Remember

**January 24th:** Youth Mass

**January 12th:** Worship & Liturgy Meeting  
(see bulletin announcement)

**February 17th:** Ash Wednesday

## Mass Intentions

As Catholics, we have a long tradition of having Masses celebrated for those we offer up in prayer. The Mass is the ultimate form of prayer, and each Mass is celebrated for an intention. We ask \$10.00 per mass intention.

and anniversaries, as well as those who are in need of prayers. Masses are also encouraged in memory of those loved ones who have died, especially on the anniversaries of their deaths. Please contact Fr. Felix for more information.

Please consider having Masses celebrated for family and friends on special occasions



	<b>Goal</b>	<b>Remaining</b>	<b>Past Due</b>
<b>Malta:</b>	\$15,520.00	\$3790.00	92,305.91
<b>Dodson:</b>	\$3,204.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Saco:</b>	\$2,525.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

## Sacrificial Giving for 1-3-2021

	<b>1-3</b>	<b>Needed</b>	<b>Direct Deposit</b>
Malta:	\$1,711.00	\$3,879.78	\$25.00
Dodson:	\$175.00	\$416.18	\$0.00
Saco:	\$135.00	\$470.96	\$0.00

## Finance Council

Charlie Mears 654-7006, cmears@itstriangle.com

Regina Webb 319-491-7607, auntregina@gmail.com

Lance Hould 406-539-5772, lanceh\_99@hotmail.com

Mike Ereaux 658-2613 (H), 654-7803 (C), mfe7195@itstriangle.com

Scott King 654-7302, sbking1959@gmail.com

Lana Fortin 654-4811, lanafortin03@gmail.com

Please send bulletin announcements to **office@SaintMarysMalta.org** by Thursday evening. Thanks!

## Word of Life from the USCCB

“There is such a wide spectrum of issues involving the protection of human life and the promotion of human dignity. Good people frequently disagree on which problems to address, which policies to adopt and how best to apply them. But for citizens and elected officials alike, the basic principle is simple: We must begin with a commitment never to intentionally kill,

or collude in the killing, of any innocent human life, no matter how broken, unformed, disabled or desperate that life may seem. In other words, the choice of certain ways of acting is always and radically incompatible with the love of God and the dignity of the human person created in His image.”

## Weekly Reflection from Priests for Life

We are now witnessing the gradual restructuring of American culture according to ideals of utility, productivity and cost-effectiveness. It is a culture where moral questions are submerged by a river of goods and services and where the misuse of marketing and public relations subverts public life...The losers in this ethical sea change will be those who are

elderly, poor, disabled and politically marginalized. None of these pass the utility test; and yet, they at least have a presence. They at least have the possibility of organizing to be heard. Those who are unborn, infirm and terminally ill have no such advantage. They have no "utility," and worse, they have no voice"

## Parish Council

Alora Snider— 399-1675, [alora\\_lynn\\_09@hotmail.com](mailto:alora_lynn_09@hotmail.com) (Malta)

Shawn Bleth— 654-7303, [shawn.bleth@gmail.com](mailto:shawn.bleth@gmail.com) (Malta)

Cliff Merriman— 654-4391, [merrimanclifford@gmail.com](mailto:merrimanclifford@gmail.com) (K of C)

Wilma Mavencamp—654-1346, [maven100@itstriangle.com](mailto:maven100@itstriangle.com) (PCCW)

Tom DePuydt—674-7060, [4bard@itstriangle.com](mailto:4bard@itstriangle.com) (Saco)

Leona Kienenberger—383-4459, [leona\\_kienenberger@yahoo.com](mailto:leona_kienenberger@yahoo.com) (Dodson)

**Calling you to service** - any/all interested persons are invited to an organizational meeting of the Worship and Liturgy Commission on **Tuesday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM** in the church basement.

This Commission is a task force of the Parish Council called to help carry out the mission of Jesus and the Church. Typical activities or responsibilities of the Worship/Liturgy Commission are to nourish and provide direction to the liturgical and communal prayer life of the church community. This includes liturgy preparation, training or various ministers including sacristans, ministers of hospitality, lectors, musicians, servers, lay leaders, creating the appropriate environment/decor for workshop, seek opportunities for worship and assess, attend to spiritual and renewal needs and more.

It's a learning process and I invite everyone to join in the conversation and planning activities. Please consider joining this step forward.

Anne Boothe – interim Commission Chairperson.

406.654.1887 or [anneboothe406@gmail.com](mailto:anneboothe406@gmail.com)

## **Faith and Baptism**

Baptism is the sacrament of faith. But faith needs the community of believers. It is only within the faith of the Church that each of the faithful can believe. The faith required for Baptism is not a perfect and mature faith, but a beginning that is called to develop. The catechumen or the

For all the baptized, children or adults, faith must grow after Baptism. For this reason the Church celebrates each year at the Easter Vigil the renewal of baptismal promises. Preparation for Baptism leads only to the threshold of new life. Baptism is the source of that new life in Christ from which the entire Christian life springs forth.

For the grace of Baptism to unfold, the parents' help is important. So too is the role of the godfather and godmother, who must be firm believers, able and ready to help the newly baptized - child or adult on the road of Christian life. Their task is a truly ecclesial function. The whole ecclesial community bears some responsibility for the development and safeguarding of the grace given at Baptism. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

# BAPTIZED



“I have baptized you with  
water; he will baptize you  
with the Holy Spirit.”

MARK 1:8