

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

JANUARY 10, 2021

FROM OUR PRIESTS' DESKS

Dear brothers and sisters of Sacred Heart:

Little is known of the life of Jesus from the time of his birth and infancy to the time of his baptism, described in today's Gospel (Mk 1, 7-11). Almost thirty years, by far the largest part of Jesus' life, are passed over by the Scriptures in silence. Many writers have speculated about those "hidden years", drawing more on imagination than on fact about the daily life of the Holy Family in Nazareth—about Jesus, Mary and Joseph. All we know for sure is what St. Luke tells us at the end of chapter two of his Gospel: that Jesus for his part progressed steadily in wisdom and age and grace before God and men. To speak about Jesus "making progress" sounds a little strange. In thinking about the perfection of his divine nature we forget that he was also human—that he was like us in all things but sin. So, it was necessary for him, as it is necessary for us, to learn from the experiences of life, to discover who we are and what we are to do with the one and only life we have. And in this process of self-discovery there are turning points, important moments in which the choices we make determine in a very real way the future direction our lives will take. Perhaps we can think of these moments in our own lives—they may be connected with our families, our careers, our faith, or all three; they may have been well-planned for, or maybe they were unexpected and caught us by surprise.

For Jesus one of those moments was his baptism by John the Baptist in the Jordan River. That event, recorded in all four Gospels as a sign of its importance, speaks of a religious experience in which God is revealed as a Trinity of persons, loving, and supporting each other—the Holy Spirit descends in the form of a dove; the Father speaks words of approval and encouragement, and Jesus is identified as the beloved Son. What this experience means to Jesus is clear from the actions he immediately takes. He withdraws into the desert for a period of reflection and prayer which will prepare him for the mission he has decided to undertake. No doubt he had been thinking about that mission even before the baptismal waters first ran down over his head; it was the fruit of perhaps years of hopes and dreams and desires. It did not become real, however, until after Jesus' confronted the devil and rejected all the alternatives that Satan proposed as being untrue and unfaithful to the commitment, he had made to carry out the will of his Father. We commemorate this rejection of evil and we make it our own, in the baptismal promises that all of us make when we reject Satan, and all his works, and all his empty

promises, and personally embrace the love of God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

For the majority of us Baptism was an event of the distant past, something we know happened to us but which we don't remember since we were only infants at the time. We do remember, hopefully, the principal effects of Baptism: to cleanse us of original sin, to make us children of God and heirs of heaven, and to incorporate us into the mystical body of Christ, the Church. These effects, of course, are not visible or tangible—we can't see them or feel them. It is only faith that makes us aware of them, of their meaning and challenge: Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel; come out of the darkness into the light; stop living for yourself alone; make room for God and make room for others. And when we do these things our Baptism becomes a living reality for us and we become vessels—open to receive and open to give. In beginning this New Year may our principal resolution be to continue to realize the promises of our Baptism and continue to make progress on our own spiritual journey.

Fr. Michael Rafferty, OAR

Fr. John Gruben, OAR

Fr. Eric Crelencia, OAR

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened,
And the Spirit descended upon him like a dove,
And the voice of the Father thundered:
This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

God indeed is my savior; I am confident and unafraid.
My strength and my courage is the Lord, and he has been my savior.
With joy you will draw water at the fountain of salvation.

You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

Sing praise to the Lord for his glorious achievement; let this be known throughout all the earth.
Shout with exultation, O city of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel!

**CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION AND
CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY
NEXT WEEKEND JANUARY 9th & 10th**

The Catholic University of America is the national university of the Catholic Church in the United States, located in Washington, D.C. It provides an academically rigorous education guided by Catholic intellectual tradition to nearly 7,000 students every year. More than 4,000 students directly receive scholarship aid from this Collection, including many from our diocese. Next week is the National Collection for The Catholic University of America (and Catholic Communications).

2020 CONTRIBUTION OFFERINGS

The year-end reports for 2020 from the envelope company and parish pay if you have signed up for online giving, will reflect totals for the year 2020 for envelopes on which parishioners' numbers and amounts have been recorded on the outside throughout the year. Statements will be mailed by the end of January. **Thank you for your generous support!**

SHARING WHAT WE HAVE IN JESUS' NAME

Feast of the Holy Family—\$12,258.

Last Year's Collection - \$13,557.

January 3rd Collection—\$12,433.

Last Year's Collection—\$13,342.

Solemnity of the Virgin Mary - \$2,215.

Last Year's Collection - \$5,526.

Flower Collection – \$4,023.

Last Year's Collection—\$4,229.

PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday, January 10

Monday, January 11

Tuesday, January 12

Wednesday January 13

Thursday, January 14

Friday, January 15

Saturday, January 16

12:00pm – Holy Rosary



*During pain, affliction,
or mortification
say to yourself:
"Most Sacred Heart
of Jesus, I trust in Thee."*

PRAYER FOR RESPECT FOR LIFE

Heavenly Father, the beauty and dignity of human life was the crowning of your creation. You further ennobled that life when your Son became one with us in his Incarnation. Help us to realize the sacredness of human life and to respect it from the moment of conception until the last moment at death. Give us courage to speak with truth and love and with conviction in defense of life. Help us to extend the gentle hand of mercy and forgiveness to those who do not reverence your gift of life. To all, grant pardon for the times we have failed to be grateful for your precious gift of life or to respect it in others. We ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen!



**48th ANNUAL MARCH FOR LIFE
FRIDAY, JANUARY 29TH**

This year due to the pandemic the March for Life will occur virtually. EWTN will be hosting events throughout the day. The Basilica can only accommodate 100 persons and due to that only 100 people will be able to attend and will be by invitation only. That being said, your personal participation is still very much needed and wanted. Please tune in and pray with us all!

- The **Thursday, January 28, Opening Mass of the Prayer Vigil for Life will be 8:30 p.m. EST / 7:30 p.m. CST**, to allow for greater participation by viewers from across the country.
- Mass will be followed by a series of **Holy Hours throughout the night** in various locations, taking advantage of different time zones.

The **Closing Mass at the Basilica on Friday, January 29**, will begin at 8:00 a.m. EST / 7:00 a.m. CST.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29TH

**Day Of Prayer And Penance Here at Sacred Heart
In Solidarity with the March for Life in D.C.
Marking the 48th Anniversary of Roe vs. Wade:**

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, starting at 9:30am with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, and ending with the Rosary for Life, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, and Benediction beginning at 3:00pm.



**BANNS OF MARRIAGE
For the first time**

**KAREN LYNCH AND JEFFREY
CONSTABLE**



Please pray for those who are ill and have asked us to pray for them: Keith Alanis, Jenna Applebaum, Theresa Anselmi, Andrea Schnabel Blaesi, Michael Brady, Tyler Borenkoff, Angie Clifford, Robert Conly, Comerford Family, Teresa & Tom Consolo, Mirella Cosentino, The Cosentino Family, Janet Curcione, Joe Davey, Anthony DeFrancesco III, Matthew DeMayo, Cledha Desir, Mary Discini, John Duffy, David Eckert, Sr., Ginny Figula, Stefanie Gaudelli, Arlene Gentile, Joseph Gilson, Mark Goldman, Debra Gravina, Senan Halpin, Clement Hayes, Mr. Harris, Domenic & Anthony Iannaccone, Rob Incognoli, Bob Janson, Fran Janson, Eileen Kennedy, Fred Lemoine, Elizabeth Lempka, Vasily Lockhart, Roberta Lynch, Laura Mack, Matthew Luludis, Charles Lynch, D. Pat Lynch, Kathy Masserano, Thomas Mathai, Jeanne Matera, Richard McCarthy, Rosemary McCormick, Debra McGovern, Catherine McMenamin, John McLoughlin, Jacob Mendelsohn, Ken Meyer, Florence Mohan, Mary Lou Oldfield Napolitano, Barbara Neilson, Michael Noonan, Robert Nunes, Thomas O'Connor, Jennifer O'Hara, Pat O'Neill, Nancy Overend, Leona Overend, Gerry Roemer, Daryl Pack, Shace Paljusevic, Noreen Pidgeon, Etta Rooney, Claudia Spallanzani, Joseph Pasculli, (Baby Ty) Reilly, Michael Shumway, Jean Simons, Roberto Sorgo, Maureen Starke, Shaun Stein, Patricia Steiper, Janet Tamburro, Richard Vanadio, Barbara Veraldo Strano, Phyllis Varacalli, Kali Villela, Robert Vogt, Fr. Wing.

**FOR OUR ARMED FORCES & FIRST RESPONDERS
OF ALL KINDS, AND OUR DOCTORS & NURSES**

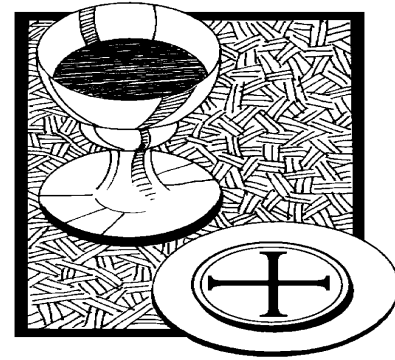
We pray for all the men and women serving our country AND especially the sons and daughters, grandchildren and loved ones of our parishioners.

**ALTAR MEMORIALS
JANUARY 10, 2021**

**Altar Candles In Memory of
PALMA & HENRY HECK**



Let us pray for our deceased parishioners, and family members and loved ones: **Celestino Pitingolo**



SCHEDULE OF MASSES
9:00AM DAILY – (MONDAY – FRIDAY)
SUNDAYS
8:30AM, 11:30AM, 1:00PM AND 5:30PM
10:00AM – (SPANISH)

LIVE STREAMED ON OUR WEBSITE:
WWW.SACREDHEARTPARISH.ORG

- SATURDAY, JANUARY 9 VIGIL MASS**
5:30pm – Robert Steinberger / Nancy Spano
- SUNDAY, JANUARY 10**
8:30am – James David Simmons / Lester Bernstein
10:00am – Spanish Mass
11:30am – Camilleri & Zammit Families
1:00pm – All Souls in Purgatory
5:30pm – Parish Memorial / All Parishioners
- MONDAY, JANUARY 11**
9:00am – Bernard & Bonnie Wysocki
- TUESDAY, JANUARY 12**
9:00am – Mary & Paul Rosselo / Frank, Mom & Dad Tarantino
- WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13**
9:00am – Ernestina & Ercole Gagliano
- THURSDAY, JANUARY 14**
9:00am – Katherine Howard/ Fr. John Quinn/ Eugene & Rose Magurno
- FRIDAY, JANUARY 15**
9:00am – Tom Tomporowski
- SATURDAY, JANUARY 16**
12:00pm – Holy Rosary
- SATURDAY, JANUARY 17**
5:30pm – Vigil Mass – Palma & Henry Heck / Mary Colleen Kosciuszka
- SUNDAY, JANUARY 18**
8:30am – For the Abandoned Souls
10:00am – Spanish
11:30am – Rose Land & Mary Ruffino
1:00pm – Joseph Shanley
5:30pm – Parish Memorial / All Parishioners

BOOSTER CLUB

WEEK 17 – ANNE FRANCIOSA