

JMJ

Dear Parishioners,

With today's Feast of Jesus' Baptism the liturgical Season of Christmas concludes. The Child, who the Magi from the East came to adore at Bethlehem offering their symbolic gifts, we now find an adult, at the time when He is baptized in the Jordan River by the great Prophet John (see Mt 3: 13).

The Gospel notes that after Jesus had received baptism and left the water, the heavens opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him like a dove (see Mt 3: 16). Then a voice was heard from heaven that said: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased" (Mt 3: 17). This was his first public manifestation after approximately 30 years of hidden life at Nazareth. Besides the Baptist, eyewitnesses of the singular event were the Baptist's disciples, some of whom then became Christ's followers (see Jn 1: 35-40). It is both a christophany and a theophany: first of all, Jesus manifests Himself as the Christ, a Greek translation of the Hebrew Messiah, which means "anointed". He was not anointed with oil as were Israel's kings and high priests, but rather with the Holy Spirit. At the same time, together with the Son of God appeared signs of the Holy Spirit and the heavenly Father.

What is the meaning of this act that Jesus wishes to fulfill - overcoming the Baptist's resistance - in order to obey the Father's will (see Mt 3: 14-15)? The profound sense emerges only at the end of Christ's earthly existence, in His death and Resurrection. Being baptized by John together with sinners, Jesus began to take upon himself the weight of all of humanity's sin, like the Lamb of God who "takes away" the sin of the world (see Jn 1: 29): an act which he brought to fulfillment on the Cross when he also received his "baptism" (see Lk 12: 50). In fact, by dying He is "immersed" in the Father's love and the Holy Spirit comes forth, so that those who believe in Him could be reborn by that inexhaustible font of new and eternal life. Christ's entire mission is summed up in this: to baptize us in the Holy Spirit, to free us from the slavery of death and "to open heaven to us", that is, access to the true and full life that will be "a plunging ever anew into the vastness of being, in which we are simply overwhelmed with joy"

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Father Newcomb



**March
for Life**

St. Mary's Church will be sponsoring a bus to Washington, D.C. for the March for Life, Friday, January 24.

Arrive by 3:45am for a prompt departure at 4am. We will have Mass with Cardinal Dolan in Washington, DC. Cost is \$45 per adult, Children under 12 FREE. Make your reservations now.

For more information call Nancy at 845-856-4610.

Planning Catholic Funeral Liturgies Workshop at St.

Joseph's Seminary

February 1, 2020 10am – 12

Topics covered: What is the Catholic teaching about death? What is the history of Catholic funeral rites? What role do the funeral rites have in the mourning process? What are the options for readings, music, prayers and words of remembrance? Can Catholics be cremated? Presenter: Fr. Matthew Ernest, S.T.D., Professor of Liturgy
Registration Fee: \$15
Register at: nyliturgy.org/funeralworkshop

Liturgical Ministers for January 18th/19th, 2020

Mass	Lector	Ministers of Holy Communion	Altar Servers
4:00pm	T. WEBB	J. FLYNN	N. & A. WEBB
8:30am	J. HENDRICK	J. TAYLOR, A. WITKOWSKI	E. AND A. WITKOWSKI
11:30am	H. MARINARO	N. SMITH	A. LAUTURE, Z. ADAMCIK

We have various announced Mass Intentions available for the 2020 year. Stop by the parish office. Everyone loves the gift of prayer.



Little Caesars Pizza Fundraiser
 Help Little Lambs by ordering your favorite Pizza... Just in time for Lent!
 Orders will start Jan. 15 and due by Feb. 10
 Delivery/Pick at St. Mary's Little Lambs School-Feb. 26 in the afternoon, more information to follow
 Orders are available on line:
 Go to www.pizzakit.com click

on "Products" then "shop" Fundraiser **ID # 368645** is necessary for Little Lambs to get sales credit. Mary Carver, Director of Little Lambs will also be in the Narthex the weekend of Feb. 1/2 to take orders.



Boy Scout Troop # 173 is having their *Chili Takeout Fundraiser* on the weekend of February 1st/2nd after all Masses \$8 per quart.



Save the Date! Court Madonna #114 is hosting the 2nd annual Family Fun Day! Join us on Sunday, February 9th for an afternoon of fun, games, crafts, face painting, and snacks. Call Gina 917-733-4307 or Rose Jarvies 919-259-6539 to RSVP by January 31st. **FREE** fun for the whole family!

Soap Box Derby-

Anyone interested in driving the St. Mary's car for the Soap Box Derby is asked to contact Gina at the parish office. All names will be put in "hat" to be picked. Please reply before March 15th.

Announced Masses

- Monday, January 13 (Hilary, bishop and doctor of the Church)**
 9:00am Jim and Mary Wohlscheid, by James Hinkley
- Tuesday, January 14**
 9:00am Mary Wohlscheid, by Melanie Yennie
- Wednesday, January 15**
 9:00am Mary Wohlscheid, by Deacon Rich and Joanne Marino
- Thursday, January 16**
 9:00am Betty and Bill Brislin, by Paul and Rosemary Brislin
- Saturday, January 18**
 4:00pm John Oliver, by the family
- Sunday, January 19**
 8:30am The parishioners of St. Mary's
 11:30am Fran and Mike Senkiew, by Gary

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Donald Wolff, Carol Gomillion, David Lisker, Nancy Parsons, Debi Cotugno, Michael Bello, Michael Barnes, William Lincoln, Jeannine Lincoln, James Lincoln, Charles Hildebrandt, Maureen Hildebrandt, Walter Szpakowicz, Carmella Balsamello, Aedan Roach, Robin Radzikowski, James Roach, Catherine Simons, Brendan Carmody, Joe Formisano, Nico Nicolette, Jaryd Viserta, Steven Gaesser, Kacey Warner, Sandra Ramsey, Lorraine Mannarino, Antonino Mazzara, Elizabeth Startup Jones, Mary Lynn Beam, Jose Ramos, Carmen Ramos, Mercedes Rodriguez, Jose Brito, Michael Medaglia, Barbara Straub, Tress Loughrey, Sal Careri, Cody Bain, Robert Witherow, Susan Upton, Theresa Fuller, Allen Lynch, Enid Decker, Jackie Mundy, Chris Marion, III, Carmella Balsamello, Barbara Lindsay, Robert Ackerman, Wayne DeMarco, Ryan O'Connor, Elizabeth Brennan, Jerri Kavanaugh, Allan Garcia, Christine Haberzettl, Eric Hildebrandt, Rose Gotthardt, Georgia Gotthardt, John Olenick, John Hendrix, and Stephen A. Odrechowski and fam.

We now have Lottery tickets available for the month of February. You can win multiple times a month. Call the parish office for more information. All proceeds go to Church Improvements.

The collection for January 4th/5th was \$5,314. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Court Madonna # 114 will have their Annual Tricky Tray on Sunday, February 16. Doors open at 12 noon, drawing begins at 2pm. Tickets 25 for \$1! All proceeds benefit community charities. Contact Barbara Drew, Chairperson, for any additional information or for donations. (845) 856-2624