

**January 13, 2019**  
**Feast of the Baptism of the Lord**

**From the Desk of Rev. Fr. Anthony C. Ekanem, MSP:**

*When an infant is clothed with the white baptismal garment, the priest or deacon prays: "You have become a new creation, and have clothed yourself in Christ. See in this white garment the outward sign of you Christian dignity. With your family and friends to help you by word and example, bring that dignity unstained into the everlasting life of heaven." (Rite of Baptism for Children 99). At Jesus' baptism a voice came from the heaven: "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." (Luke 3:16). He did not become a new creation, as we do. However, people had a new awareness of who he was, God's beloved Son. When we are baptized, we become God's adopted sons and daughters.*

*Baptism clothes us with Christ. We are to bring the Christian dignity of that garment unstained into everlasting life. Titus directs us in how to do that. We are to live "temperately, justly and devoutly in this age" (Titus 2:12b). That is, we are to live with self-control, growing in biblical justice, that is, right relationship with God and one another. We are to be people of prayer and devotion or holiness, to which every baptized person is called, no matter our state in life or lifestyle.*

*By being holy, we fill the world with the comfort, tenderness, and care about which Isaiah speaks. The mountains, valleys, rough edges, and winding paths that can hinder us or make it difficult for us to trust God's ways are removed. And the glory of God is revealed when we find light in darkness, courage in fear, hope in despair, and life in the various deaths each day can bring. With family and friends to help us, or by helping them, we see God's beloved presence in our midst.*

**Marriages:** *In order to provide sufficient time for the Marriage Preparation Course, please call the parish office and ask to speak with the pastor at least six months in advance of the wedding.*

**Collection:** *Last Sunday, January 6, 2019 our weekly collection was \$4,077.00*

**2nd Collection:** *The 2nd collection this Sunday January 13th will be for the Catholic Communications & the Catholic University.*

**Food collection:** *With gratitude for your generosity we were able to fill 22 bags of much needed groceries for the needy in our community.*

**Pope Francis:** *"Jesus is the gift of God for us. If we welcome Him, we too can be a gift of God to others."*

**Parish Membership:** *Every family or single adult to be considered active members of St. Mary's must be properly registered in the parish, receiving and regularly using the weekly donation envelopes. Only in this way can the parish issue documents attesting to parish membership and Catholic practice, e.g. a letter to be a Godparent or Sponsor. Also if you have moved and still want to continue as a parishioner of St. Mary's please stop by the office with your new address so that we may make the appropriate changes. Thank You*

**\*\*\*Parents if you still owe money for Registration or the Communion Fee or Confirmation Fee please stop by the office to settle you bill this month or your child will not be able to receive their sacraments.**

**January 2019:**

19th Religious Education Classes

21st Monday **Confirmation Retreat 9:30am to 2:00pm Parish Hall**

26th Religious Education Classes

**February 2019:**

2nd Religious Education Classes **2nd Meeting of Confirmation Parents 11:30 am in the School Cafeteria ~ ALL PARENTS MUST ATTEND!**

9th Religious Education Classes

16th **No** Religious Education Classes

23rd Religious Education Classes

**Mass Schedule for the week of**

**January 13, 2019 to January 20, 2019**

**Mass are daily at 8:15 and 12:05 in English and in Spanish on Thursdays at 7:00pm**

**Below are the Special Intentions for this week**

**Sunday, January 13, 2019:**

7:30 am– For the Parishioners

9:00 am– Joaquim Neto

Margot Navarro

11:00 am– Celina Antao

Eduardo & Alejandra Rodrigues

**Monday, January 14, 2019:**

8:15 am Erlinda Lagarde

Michilyn Lagarde

12:05 pm– Stephen Gebauera

Wife and Daughters

**Tuesday, January 15, 2019:**

12:05 pm-Zonia Torres

Edgardo Torres & Family

**Thursday, January 17, 2019:**

7:00pm– Maria Reyes

Family

**Saturday, January 19, 2019:**

5:00 pm– Mark McFeeley

Rita Cormican

7:30 pm– Maria Reyes

Family

**Sunday, January 20, 2019:**

7:30 am– For the Parishioners

9:00 am– Virgin of Altagracia

Dominican Community

11:00 am– Thomas Natiello

Julia Egan