

ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY / ST. JOSEPH PARISH  
Roman Catholic Church

“I AM BAPTIZING  
YOU WITH WATER”

LUKE 3:16



## JESUS' BAPTISM

**T**oday's Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord continues the Church's meditation on the revelation of God in Jesus Christ. (The celebration makes the end of the Christmas season and the beginning of Ordinary Time in the Church's calendar.) The Light of Salvation that had shone from a tiny village a few miles south of Jerusalem, that drew shepherds and wise men to a most improbable place, is now seen beginning his "public ministry" to proclaim the Kingdom of God. For some weeks now, we will hear his words and deeds that progressively revealed the Presence of Divinity in the very world He created. This disclosure of the grace of God in our midst would not become fully apparent until His passion, death, and resurrection three years later.

Of course, Jesus had no need of baptism himself. The ritual celebrated by John the Baptist, in which penitents renounced their sins as water was poured over them, was more of an expression of desire than a remedy for the plague that had overshadowed the human race since the dawn of time. John's baptism had no power in itself to free us from the operative guilt of Original Sin and its effects: "I baptize you with water for repentance," he said, "He [Jesus] will be baptized with the Holy Spirit and fire." (Matthew 3:11)

That Jesus's human nature existed in perfect union with the divine nature he had from God the Father meant that, apart from his mother, who was preserved by grace through the Immaculate Conception - there was no other place in the entire created world so free from sin. Why then was he baptized by John?

John himself was baffled: "I need to be baptized by you; do you come to me?" In order "to fulfill all righteousness," Jesus entered into the water and John baptized him. In that moment, his purpose was divulged in the words that came from heaven:

"This is my beloved Son whom I love, with him I am pleased." The Son had come to do the Father's will and this baptism presaged a more terrible baptism to come: "I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is completed." (Luke 12:50) The baptism of Jesus speaks of his willingness to take upon himself the curse of our sins that we also might become beloved sons and daughters of God.

Early patristic sources, writing after the apostolic era, believed the baptism of Jesus did more than serve as a prophetic disclosure of the greater love humankind would witness on the cross (John 3:16). When He "through whom all things were made" stepped into the waters of the Jordan to be baptized by John, they imagined with admirable wonder, that all the waters of the world were prepared as a sacramental sign of our release from the ancient curse of sin death through our own baptism.

It seems these early disciples of faith understood more profoundly than we do the intimate connection between humankind and the elements of God's creation. For them, the words of Saint Paul (Romans 8:19) give some hint that the age-old rift between Creator and creation has been healed: "For creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed...." The thought of Creation... "liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God" (Romans 8:21) as the waters of the Jordan washed over Jesus's head and flowed through the river into the Dead Sea, the Gulf of Aqaba, the Red Sea and then, the oceans of the world is wondrous indeed!

With what wonder then we might think of our own baptism, a baptism through water and the word, into Christ's very death for our salvation, that sacrament which communicates fully our transformation through God's grace into Sons and Daughters of God!

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### The Baptism of the Lord

What John the Baptist was conferring on the banks of the Jordan was a baptism of repentance for conversion and the forgiveness of sins. But he announced: "After me comes one who is mightier than I.... I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit (Mk 1:7-8). He proclaimed this to a multitude of penitents who flocked to him confessing their sins, repenting, and preparing to correct their lives.

The Baptism given by Jesus, which the Church, faithful to His command, does not cease to administer, is quite different. This Baptism frees man from original sin and forgives his sins, saves him from slavery to evil, and is a sign of his rebirth in the Holy Spirit; it imparts to him a new life, which is participation in the life of God the Father, given to us by his Only-Begotten Son who became man, died, and rose again.

The event of Christ's Baptism is not only a revelation of his divine sonship, but at the same time a revelation of the whole Blessed Trinity. The Father-the voice from on high-reveals in Jesus the Only-Begotten Son consubstantial with him and all this comes about by virtue of the Holy Spirit who, in the form of a dove descends on Christ, the Lord's Anointed. - Pope John Paul II, Jan. 1997 (Source: ewtn.com)



**Your Parish Office Is Open:  
Monday-Friday: 9 am-3 pm  
www.ststthomasjoseph.com**

**Pastor:** Rev. Rees Doughty  
frdoughty@stt-stj.com  
**Parochial Vicar:** Rev. John Kwaku Sah  
**Weekend Assistant:** Rev. Robert Phelps  
**Deacons:** Leonard Farmer, Anthony Ferraiuolo,  
John Hanley, Joseph Lieby, John Pelella

**Parish Office**  
845.534.2547 · office@stt-stj.com · FAX 845.534.1357  
**Faith Formation Office**  
845.534.9393 · reled@stt-stj.com  
Faith Formation Coordinators:  
Annmarie O'Connor and Mary Ellen Tiernan  
**RCIA/T**  
845.661.8586 · metiernan@stt-stj.com  
Coordinator: Mary Ellen Tiernan

### **St. Thomas Church**

340 Hudson St., Cornwall on Hudson, NY 12520

#### **Sunday Masses**

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 pm  
Sunday: 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am

**Weekday:** Monday-Saturday: 8:30 am

#### **Confession**

Saturday: 9-9:45 am (or by appointment)

#### **Miraculous Medal Novena**

Monday after 8:30 am Mass

**Rosary:** Monday-Saturday after 8:30 am Mass

### **St. Joseph Church**

4 Saint Joseph's Pl., New Windsor, NY 12553

#### **Sunday Mass**

Sunday: 12:30 pm

**Weekday:** Wednesday, 6:30 pm Mass

**Confession:** Wednesday, 6-6:30 pm

**Adoration:** Wednesday, 5:30 pm



## **March for Life 2019**

For New Yorkers, it is important more than ever to gather in prayer on this Anniversary in this year as we expect the Reproductive Health Act - Abortion

Expansion - will become law in the state of New York on January 22, 2019, making late term abortion legal in New York, among many other sorrowful provisions.

Anyone wishing to join the March for Life Pilgrimage to Washington, DC on Friday, January 18, should contact the following parishes to arrange bus transportation: Sacred Heart, Monroe (John Deschner: 845.782.0242); St. John the Evangelist, Goshen (Parish Office: 845.294.5328); Our Lady of the Lake, Newburgh (Howard Spear: 845.563.5257). Information about the program and speakers (including Abby Johnson, Ben Shapiro, Dr. Alveda King and others) for the day is available at [marchforlife.org](http://marchforlife.org).

The Respect Life Office will be hosting a Prayer Vigil for Life with the Sisters of Life and the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal on Tuesday, January 22, marking the 46th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade. At 6:30 pm there will be a Holy Hour led by Br. Malachy, CFR and the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, followed by Holy Mass with Fr. Richard Veras of the *Magnificat* publication as the homilist.

Also, on January 22 — A Prayer Vigil for Life will be held at St. Patrick's Cathedral. This is an opportunity for a local pilgrimage to the Archdiocesan Cathedral.

### **OFFERTORY**

**Dec. 24/25:** \$33,361.60

**Dec. 29/30:** \$8,055.80

**Parish Project Fund:**  
\$2,932.40

**Religious Retired:** \$2,213.23

**Solemnity of Mary:** \$3,678.15

**Jan. 5/6:** \$9,188.30

**Online Giving (12/31/18-1/6/19):** \$1,625.00

**Shrines:** \$415.46

The **Second Offertory for January 12/13** is for Communications/Catholic University.

Thank you for your generosity and continued support of the parish! In addition to cash or checks for your donations, Online Giving through debiting your credit card or bank account is available. Visit the "News/Events" tab at [ststthomasjoseph.com](http://ststthomasjoseph.com), and click on "My Own Church" for more information.

**Got Ink Cartridges?!** The Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Rita #264 Ink Cartridge Recycling Program will take place until Sunday, February 10. Recycling boxes will be available at Saturday and Sunday Masses, Faith Formation classes, and Fellowship Breakfasts.

**Reminder: Faith Formation Classes** for children begin in First Grade. Registration for all 2019/20 classes will be in April 2019. For more information, contact Annmarie O'Connor at [reled@stt-stj.com](mailto:reled@stt-stj.com), 845.534.9393; or contact Mary Ellen Tiernan at [metiernan@stt-stj.com](mailto:metiernan@stt-stj.com). Information about classes (including a video on Family Faith Formation) is also available on the parish website. Calendars for 2018/19 Classes are also on the website, under "Ministries" tab.



# ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY / ST. JOSEPH PARISH

St. Hilary of Poitiers (310-367)  
Feast Day: January 13  
Patron Saint Against Snake Bites



*“There is no space where God is not; space does not exist apart from Him. He is in heaven, in hell, beyond the seas; dwelling in all things and enveloping all. Thus He embraces, and is embraced by, the universe, confined to no part of it but pervading all.”*

This staunch defender of the divinity of Christ was a gentle and courteous man, devoted to writing some of the greatest theology on the Trinity, and was like his Master in being labeled a “disturber of the peace.” In a very troubled period in the Church, his holiness was lived out in both scholarship and controversy. He was bishop of Poitiers in France. (Source: franciscanmedia.org)



Our Parish is blessed to have a **Prayer Chain!** To have yourself or a

loved one put on the Prayer List, contact Carolyn Mundy (Prayer Chain Facilitator) at 845.534.9277 or stsjprayerchain@gmail.com. Prayer Line contact information is also available at all times on the parish website under “Ministries” and then “Prayer Ministries”.

**New Altar Servers Training.** If your child is 10 years old, in 4th grade or older, and wants to serve on the altar, training will be Tuesdays starting January 22, 7-8:30 pm. Email Gene at [genefenton44@gmail.com](mailto:genefenton44@gmail.com). All children must be accompanied by a parent to the practices.

Our **Food Pantry** is running low on laundry detergent, tissues, and hot and cold cereal. Thank you for your continued support!

New Adult Bible Study to begin this week!  
**Galatians: Set Free To Live** with Jeff Cavins will begin Tuesday, January 15, 7-9 pm in the St. Thomas old school building. The Study will run for 8 weeks. We will meet in person for great fellowship and discussion, however, the study can be done online if you choose. To register and purchase your study materials, visit: [ascensionpress.com/studies/35477/registrations/new](http://ascensionpress.com/studies/35477/registrations/new). For more information, call or text Theresa Trella at 845.667.1772.

**The Catholic Faith. On Demand!** Visit [formed.org](http://formed.org), and enter the St. Thomas/St. Joseph parish code: FHHFCV to gain FREE access to thousands of movies, video programs, audios, and ebooks.

## Banns of Marriage Joanna Mcintire and Carlo Colombara

Banns of marriage serve to fulfill the Church's obligation to determine a person's freedom to marry. By publishing banns, parishioners are asked to come forward if either party has been married previously and not able to receive the sacrament.

## MASS INTENTIONS

**Mon, Jan 14**

8:30 am +Bill Fulton by Colette Fulton

**Tues, Jan 15**

8:30 am +William Young by Hogan Family

**Wed, Jan 16**

8:30 am

6:30 pm +Fr. Hilfiker and Mr. R. Hilfiker by Kathy Kissel

**Thurs, Jan 17: St. Anthony, Abbot**

8:30 am +William R. Kelly by Kathryn Kelly

**Fri, Jan 18**

8:30 am

**Sat, Jan 19: BVM**

8:30 am

4:30 pm +Aidan Colletti by Dennis Murphy  
+Thomas Campbell by Crispo family

**Sun, Jan 20: Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

7:30 am +Sofie Zimmer by Eric and Jasmine Lundgren

9:00 am Rogan and Pelella Families by Margaret and John Pelella

11:00 am Pro Populo

12:30 pm +Marcelle Tahtouh by Ireifej family

ALL Masses are celebrated at St. Thomas of Canterbury Church, except for the Sunday, 12:30 pm Mass and the Wednesday, 6:30 pm Mass, which are celebrated at St. Joseph Church.

*Pro Populo (For the Intentions of the People of the Parish)*

*Mass Intentions are scheduled through the Parish Office. Offering for an announced Intention is \$15. Up to two separate intentions will be accepted at the Saturday Vigil Mass at 4:30 pm and the Sunday 9 am Mass. The Sunday 11 am Mass intention will only be designated “Pro Populo”.*