

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

JANUARY 12, 2020

LIVING GOD'S WORD

All the baptized have been "anointed with the Holy Spirit and power." What is the Spirit empowering you to do? Should you write a letter to your senator about a justice issue, or volunteer at a prison or a school for the blind?

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK JANUARY 13, 2020

Monday, Jan. 13, St. Hilary, Bishop & Doctor
8:15AM Special Intention
Tuesday, Jan. 14
8:15AM Intention of Catholic Extension Donor
Wednesday, Jan. 15
10:30AM Communion Service at Three Springs
Thursday, Jan. 16
NO MASS
Friday, Jan. 17, St. Anthony
8:15AM Bob Friess by John
Saturday, Jan. 18
5PM For the Parish
Sunday, Jan. 19
9AM Art Maes by Bruce & Mary Brown

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK JAN. 12 THRU JAN. 19

Sunday	9AM Mass PSR Class after 9AM Mass till 11:15AM
Monday	8:15AM Mass in rectory dining room 11AM-1PM K of C Luncheon Meat Loaf/Fried Chicken
Tuesday	8:15AM Mass (Grades 1-4)
Wednesday	10:30AM Com. Service at Three Springs
Thursday	Fr. Gene's Day Off
Friday	8:15AM Mass (Grade 7 & 8 Liturgy) 2:50PM Dismissal NO BUS
Saturday	5PM Mass
Sunday	9AM Mass

NOTE FROM THE PASTOR: In Isaiah's passage God presents an unnamed servant: chosen, upheld, and pleasing to God, who has endowed the servant with the divine spirit. This enables him to serve God faithfully. The nature of his service is to bring forth justice, not just to Israel, as one might expect, but also to the nations, establishing justice "on the earth." The Hebrew word for justice, *mishpat*, here refers to the restoration of God's order. This "victory for justice" will not be accomplished through physical or military force. Instead the servant will bring the nations into covenantal relationship with God, opening up the path for God's light and healing. Matthew notes that Jesus went to John in the wilderness specifically to be baptized. In response to John's question, Jesus does not suggest that he needs to receive John's baptism for repentance (3:11), but "to fulfill all righteousness." Righteousness here means doing God's will, and it has been suggested that by being baptized, Jesus is placing himself in solidarity with the sinners he will save. In any case, the baptism is the occasion for a confirmation of his identity as God's Son and the empowerment for his mission by the Holy Spirit, who will immediately lead him into the wilderness.

TITHE WEEK OF JAN. 5, 2020

Mary Help of Christians: \$16,381.00
\$1,708.00 Solemnity of Mary; \$600.00 Initial Offering;
\$454.00 Cemetery; \$8.00 Votives
WEEKLY Budget Need: \$7,000.00
YTD Average Weekly Tithe: \$6,329.86
Fiscal Year Week: 27
YTD Actual Giving: \$170,906.00
YTD Budget Need: \$189,000.00
YTD Budget Difference: (\$18,094.00)
YTD Weekly: (\$670.15)

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: Like the Christmas story, the story of Jesus' baptism can become so familiar that we shut out its Holy Spirit. Today, take time to note the remarkable aspects of this story, and your own story.

SERVERS SCHEDULE for Jan. 18 & 19: 5PM, Gage Hopkins, Garret Hopkins; 9AM Grace Welborn, Bea DeGuzman, Nathan Jany

DUE TO Christmas decorations being taken down on Sunday, Jan. 12, First Reconciliation has been rescheduled for Sunday, Feb. 9, after the 9AM Mass.

TIME IS RUNNING OUT! Please return your donation slips for the Gala Dinner Auction by Sunday, Feb. 2. You may drop these slips in the collection basket.

RAFFLE TICKETS for the Gala Dinner Auction have been dispersed. Please sell these tickets and return them in the collection basket.

MAKE SURE to reserve your seats for the Gala Dinner Auction which will be held on Saturday, March 7. Price per ticket is \$35. Contact Ron Korando (615-2509) to assure your place on this festive evening.

LITTLE CAESAR'S PIZZA SALE; Contact any SMS student or call the office (826-3120) to place an order for Little Caesar's Pizzas. They are also offering breadsticks, a deep dish apple crumble with caramel, and various flavors of cookie dough. Offers will be accepted through Tuesday, Jan. 14. Delivery will be on Monday, Jan. 27.

GREAT MARRIAGES DON'T JUST HAPPEN, Couples Make Them! "he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon him." Encourage the Holy Spirit to enrich your marriage by taking part in a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend. The next weekends are Feb. 7-9 and April 24-26 at the Courtyard Marriot in St. Peters, MO. Call or text 3114-649-7317 or visit stl-wwme.org/schedule.php for more information.

GOD'S GIFT OF FORGIVENESS THROUGH HIS SON: The Sacrament of Baptism initiates us into the body of Christ and is the new beginning of our faith journey on earth. Baptism is the first flow of grace where we are made whole, free of all sin and ultimately strengthened in our relationship with Jesus Christ and the Church. Today we mark the Baptism of Jesus, the Son of God, performed by John the Baptist in the Jordan River to mark His new beginning as He begins His public ministry of redemption. We can see that just as Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son at the Jordan, we also take on a new identity in Baptism as adopted children of Our Father. By reflecting on this, we can begin to grasp the importance of renewing our Baptism vows as well as encouraging others to step into the transforming waters of Baptism and celebrating with them as they receive a new beginning in the sacrament.

NO PARTIALITY: St. Peter declares this truth: God shows no partiality. God may be my God, but God does not love me-or only mine-the best. God is not only on my side. God is on every side. God loves everyone and everything. On this day recalling the Baptism of Jesus, we cherish our own Baptism into him. Baptism calls us to discipleship and to mission. How will I, like Jesus, go about doing good this day? How will I, like Jesus, bring forth justice-even in some small way? How will I be at peace?