

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY

St. Stephen's Catholic Parish

JANUARY 9-10, 2021



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

This is what John the Baptist proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."
- Mk 1:7-8

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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MASS INTENTIONS

Feast of the Baptism of our Lord

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9th

4:00-4:45pm – Confessions

5:00p - For the People of our Parish

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10th

9:00a - (+)Addie Kostelecky

MONDAY, JANUARY 11th

- No Mass at St. Stephen's

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12th

- No Mass at St. Stephen's

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13th

8:00a – (+) Caroline Monroe

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14th

- No Mass at St. Stephen's

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15th

8:00a – (+) Jim LiPetri

2nd Week of Ordinary Time

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16th

4:00-4:45pm – Confessions

5:00p - For the People of our Parish

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17th

9:00a - (+) Bob Roth

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

THURSDAY, January 14

6:00 pm @ Family Center

STEWARDSHIP of TREASURE & GIVING

December 20: \$1,264

December 27: \$4,224

January 3 : \$1,692

WEDNESDAYS

Eucharistic Adoration

6:00—8:00 p.m.

Benediction ~7:50 p.m.



Dear Friends of St. Stephen's,

As the Christmas comes to a close, we celebrate the great Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord. What a beautiful reminder at the beginning of this calendar year to remember the gift of faith we have received in Baptism. Pope Francis on multiple occasions has encouraged the faithful to find and celebrate their Baptism day. This week, find your Baptismal day and commit it to memory, celebrating the gift of divine life every year moving forward!

Thank you, again, to all who made the Christmas season a special and beautiful one at St. Stephen's!

In Christo per Mariam,
Fr. Andrew

"Our faith must be brought into the streets. It cannot remain locked up in a church or limited to expressions of personal piety. Pope Francis reminds us in *The Joy of the Gospel* that "we have been entrusted with a treasure which makes us more human and helps us lead a new life. There is nothing more precious which we can give to others." Jesus' baptism provides him with exactly what he needs to get about the business of his mission as the Son of God, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." He is given what he needs to be successful in fulfilling the purpose for which he was sent. Our baptisms give us these same gifts. We receive the affirmation we need from God, knowing that we are one of his beloved daughters and sons. It is through our baptisms that we are gifted with the direction and clear purpose we need in order to be productive stewards and faithful Christians. It is not solely about our eternal salvation. In baptism, we receive what we need to be successful in fulfilling our purpose and laboring for the kingdom of God. Baptism is ultimately about putting on Christ and choosing to live like Christ in the world.

Baptism is the Easter mystery made flesh in our lives, reminding us of who we are called to be, and the kind of world God designed for our use. It is because of this truth that Pope Francis can say that "we have a treasure of life and love which cannot deceive and a message which cannot mislead or disappoint. It penetrates to the depths of our hearts, sustaining and ennobling us. It is a truth which is never out of date because it reaches that part of us which nothing else can reach. Our infinite sadness can only be cured by infinite love." Many are experiencing a great depth of infinite sadness. They are lost and without a true shepherd. They have no real axis in their lives and do not know how to frame the choices they make or purify their thoughts and feelings. It is, quite frankly, a mess. We need to help our world move forward and find a greener pasture beyond the sadness. We can powerfully witness to this by moving beyond our own sadness and embracing hope. Baptism tells us who we are and assures us that we are on a much bigger journey. This is good news indeed!

But we cannot move forward by cancelling our past or erasing its memory. History is important. We need it in order to understand ourselves, personally and collectively. The pieces of our histories may not always have been the most positive, honest, exemplary, dignified, proud, and best moments of our lives, but they are ours. We must acknowledge, remember, accept, and often heal

FAITH FORMATION

CLASS – January 13th @ 6:30pm

PRAYER CHALLENGE –

Keep memorizing those Prayers!!

First Reconciliation, Jan. 20th @ 6:30p

If you have any questions, please contact the Faith Formation Coordinator

Heather Schneider 608-676-7329.

(*ctd.*) them. We certainly cannot forget them or pretend that they never existed. The times when humanity in general, and people in particular, have lost their way are the very times that need to be reconciled and redeemed. Baptized people can speak to this need and help with this healing. We are reminded through the voices and example of many prophets and witnesses not to make the same mistakes again, come back to center, discover the purpose given to us by God, maintain a sense of proper direction, seek healing for wounds, and be reconciled with our Creator. We need a conscience. This is only accomplished by having a strong relationship with God, being informed and enlightened by good, solid teaching, living a good moral life, being persons of integrity, and discerning the path to virtuous, Gospel centered decisions.

Baptism is so incredibly important for the salvation of humankind, not only eternally, but here and now. Our existence depends upon it. The Gospel, ratified in us through baptism, anchors us in the God given virtues of faith, hope, and love. It orients us to truth and that truth brings joy. It is only through baptism that we can remember, accept, and deal with the sins and inequities of our past regardless of how hurtful and serious. We consciously choose to turn away from them and put on the new life of Christ. To do this well, we must look hard and long at our sins and failings, listen to what they are saying and learn from them. If we ignore the past, collectively or personally, or pretend that it never happened, we will never grow. It is amazing that when we actually put on Christ so much changes! We learn to resolve our conflicts peacefully and without recourse to violence, in addition to restoring relationships that are broken or distorted

People need to hear the message, lived and spoken, delivered by the baptized members of the Body of Christ. It is an essential message of hope that is layered with visions of justice, peace, reconciliation, redemption, blessing, and healing. It is a message that helps us remember what has gone before, the graces and the sins, and bring ourselves by God's help where we need to be. We are called to do much more than sit home behind our closed doors. We have a message to deliver. The challenge comes in accepting the risk of preaching the Gospel. While we may have all we need in our baptism to do so, we have to find the willingness within to actually pull it off.

This is the beauty of being the Body of Christ collectively. The responsibility for the mission of the Gospel does not fall on any one person. It does, however, require that all of the baptized members of that Body realize who they are and take their faith to the streets. It is all too easy to mistake what is purported as being politically correct with ultimate truth, forgetting that there are principles and ideals that need to be in place to effectively govern our lives. We will face more difficult times before it gets better. But we have a hope with us that the world cannot give. It is our identity in God sealed in our baptism that assures us that God is with us and will use us to heal God's world. Are we ready to do so?"

Want to Grow Closer to God in 2021?

There is no limit to spiritual growth.

If you are a practicing Catholic, man or woman, single or married, between the ages of 18 and 65, you may be called to deepen your prayer life as a member of the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites. We are a local community that follows the teaching and charism of the Carmelite Order. Our group meets once a month in Janesville. For more information call:



Mary Jane Bennett

(608) 295-6674

OR

ourladystarsea@gmail.com

Nancy Everhard

(608) 346-1955

BIBLE IN A YEAR!!

Ascension's *Bible in a Year* Podcast, guides Catholics through the Bible in 365 daily episodes starting Jan. 1st, 2021. Each 20-25 minute episode includes:

- two to **three scripture readings**
- a **reflection** from Fr. Mike Schmitz
- and **guided prayer** to help you **hear God's voice in his Word.**

SIGN UP HERE!! -

<https://ascensionpress.com/pages/biy-registration>

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Those not noted in the previous post



In Memory of:

- Bud & Darlene McCarthy (Verlin & Linda Wallace)
- Leo & Alvaretta Wallace
- Deceased members of (Pam & Terry Strom)
Ross & Strom Families
- Carl & Virginia Gorychka (Dick & Kathy Ferguson)
- Leo & Johanna Lesch (Jan & Jerry Lesch)
- Lawrence & Theresa Schueller
- John Brandl (Sandy Brandl)

LET US PRAY FOR THEM! Thank You!

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