

*The Baptism of the Lord*

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Think of what it's like to wait a long time. Can you imagine what it would be like to wait for centuries? No one person lives that long, of course. But for the Israelites they had heard the stories from generation to generation. They had been conquered time and time again, and now "the people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ." They had been waiting for a Messiah, one who did miraculous deeds and said profound things; someone aglow with the glory of God. We all know what it's like to hope and be disappointed. But what if your hopes were fulfilled?

That day at the Jordan River, an audience had gathered. Among the crowd for baptism was an unknown man. Perhaps he was dirty from weeks in the desert. His hands had the calloused palms of a tradesman, a carpenter. He and John the Baptist may have embraced with the familiarity of the cousins they were. This man wades into the Jordan for a good, solid dunking. As he rises from the water, the One who breathed life into Adam gasps for air like any other man.

But then "heaven was opened." The clouds in the sky part miles above. "And the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove." An apparition with substance sails through the sky. It exudes gentleness and power all at once. "And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.'" Can you imagine the sight? For the crowd, there is not doubting what they have seen, who they have seen. Can you imagine this encounter with our God who keeps His promises? What are you waiting for?

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

**SAINT  
 ALPHONSUS  
 CHURCH**

607 South Jackson St.  
 Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641

**St. Alphonsus Mission Statement**

We, the family of St. Alphonsus Catholic Parish, strengthened by Word and Sacrament, strive to live out Jesus Christ's call to discipleship by worshipping faithfully, serving willingly, and growing spiritually.

**Parish Staff**

Pastor.....Fr. Paul Connolly.....385-8410  
 Office Manager ..... Vicki Lohmann.....385-8410  
 Director of Music ..... Carmen Heaton.....385-9342  
 Adult Faith Form/RE Cdtr....Margi Mountz.....385-4937  
 Confirmation Contact.....Ted Mountz.....385-4937  
 Custodian ..... Russell Hill.....385-8410

Parish Council President.....Bob Cardoni  
 Finance Council President...Tom Holtkamp

**Weekend Mass Schedule...** Saturday 5:30 PM  
 Sunday 8:00 and 11:00 AM

**Daily Mass Schedule...**Monday NO Mass,  
 Tuesday—7:00 AM, Wednesday—5:30 PM,  
 Thursday and Friday Noon Mass

**Confessions...**Saturday 4:30 PM or by appointment.

**Eucharistic Devotion:**

Friday Adoration: 9:00 AM to Noon

Monthly Adoration: 1st Thursday Noon to 9:00 PM

**Rosary: Led by KC Members, 7:30 AM Sundays**

Parish Office Phone ..... (319) 385-8410  
 RE Office..... (319) 385-4937  
 Manning Hall.....(319) 385-0544  
 Church fax.....(319)385-0545  
 Church Email .....stalphonsus@windstream.net  
 St. Alphonsus Web Site..https://stalphonsus.weconnect.com

**MASS SCHEDULE AND READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

	<u>Mass time</u>	<u>Mass Intention</u>	<u>Saint of the Day</u>	<u>Readings for the day</u>
Mon, Jan 14	NO MASS		Weekday	Heb 1:1-6/Mk 1:14-20
Tue, Jan 15	7:00 AM	Buena Messer †	Weekday	Heb 2:5-12/Mk 1:21-28
Wed, Jan 16	5:30 PM	Ann Nhon Le †	Weekday	Heb 2:14-18/Mk 1:29-39
Thu, Jan 17	12:00 PM	Sue Rodruck †	St. Anthony, Abbot	Heb 3:7-14/Mk 1:40-45
Fri, Jan 18	12:00 PM	Ron Scherer †	Weekday	Heb 4:1-5, 11/Mk 2:1-12
Sat, Jan 19	5:30 PM	Toby Shanahan †		
Sun, Jan 20	8:00 AM	Ruth Roederer †	2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	Is 62:1-5/1 Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-11
	11:00 AM	For Parishioners		

**MINISTERS FOR JANUARY 19 & 20**

**LECTORS**

- 5:30 PM Deb Mascarenas
- 8:00 AM Ken Feldmann
- 11:00 AM Greg Peck

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

- 5:30 PM Team G Paul Maher
- 8:00 AM Team H Ted Mountz
- 11:00 AM Team I Mary Shy

**SERVER**

- 5:30 PM Lily Syfert/Jacob Fry
- 8:00 AM Elaina Holtkamp/Julia Kinzer
- 11:00 AM Thanh/Hoi Phung

**USHERS**

- 5:30 PM Marc/Maureen Lindeen
- 8:00 AM Jeep Grilliot/Tim Lohmann
- 11:00 AM Bob Walderbach/Bernard Pollmeier

**GREETERS**

- 5:30 PM Dorothy Welcher/Linda Kaska
- 8:00 AM Dennis/Judy Bergman
- 11:00 AM Mike/Kelly Burgmeier

**January is Respect Life Month**

The Social Action Committee will have a display in the Gathering Space promoting Respect Life. There will be several items and information for parishioners to take. There is a crib in the Gathering Space for the collection of baby items. Committee members will be visiting the RE Classes to talk about this years project of collecting diapers and wipes for our communities needs. The diapers and wipes collected will be given to the Fellowship Cup and Tolson Community Action Center.

**Inspiration for the Week**

At the baptism of Jesus, a voice came from heaven saying: "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." Through Baptism, Jesus' identity as God's Son is revealed and understood. He knows very clearly who he is. Baptism does the same for us. It gives us our identity as daughters and sons of God. We have the wonderful opportunity, given to us as a gift, to share in the same intimate relationship Jesus has with God his Father. Being a daughter or son of God gives us a unique and focused mission to which we must be faithful. Our identity, as with Jesus, is rooted in God. This is a simple fact we all must accept. Through Baptism, we are given the power and ability to see the world as God sees and to think and act as God would think and act. This is a tall order but one that will lead us to truth and ultimately to happiness.

**Offertory for January 5 & 6**

Envelopes.....	2643.00
Offertory.....	298.88
Catholic Messenger .....	58.00
Envelope Fee .....	175.00
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>3174.88</b>

Thank you! Your donations make our ministries possible!

**Manning Hall/Kitchen Meeting**

There will be a meeting on Saturday, January 19 at 4:00 PM in the Parish Library to discuss the cleaning/care/management of Manning Hall and Manning Kitchen. If you are unable to attend, but have an idea to share, please call Judy McNeill @ 931-7732.

**ACTIVITY SCHEDULE**

<p><b>Sunday, Jan 13</b> Rosary, 7:30 am <b>Mass, 8:00 &amp; 11:00 am</b> Liturgy donuts, 9:00 am RE Class K-8th, 9:30 am Spanish Mass, 2:00 pm  Homebound Ministers-Team 3</p>	<p><b>Mon, Jan 14</b>  NO MASS</p>	<p><b>Tues, Jan 15</b> Men Scrip, 6:00 am Women Scrip, 6:00 am <b>Mass, 7:00 am</b> Prayer Shawl, 2:00 pm Finance, 4:30 pm Parish Planning, 6:00 pm Quilters, 6:00 pm</p>	<p><b>Wed, Jan 16</b> Women Scrip, 9:30 am <b>Mass, 5:30 pm</b> Choir practice, 6:30 pm  RE Class K-8th and Confirmation I &amp; II, 6:45 pm</p>	<p><b>Thurs, Jan 17</b>  <b>Mass, Noon</b></p>	<p><b>Fri, Jan 18</b> Adoration 9 am-Noon <b>Mass, Noon</b></p>	<p><b>Sat, Jan 19</b> Confessions—4:30-5:00 pm <b>Mass, 5:30 pm</b> Kitchen meeting in Library, 4:00 pm  Blest Art in the Gathering Space</p>
<p><b>Sunday, Jan 20</b> Rosary, 7:30 am <b>Mass, 8:00 &amp; 11:00 am</b> KC Breakfast, 9:00 am RE Class K-8th, 9:30 am  Homebound Ministers-Team 4</p>	<p><b>Mon, Jan 21</b>  NO MASS</p>	<p><b>Tues, Jan 22</b> Men Scrip, 6:00 am Women Scrip, 6:00 am <b>Mass, 7:00 am</b> RCIA, 1:00 pm Quilters, 6:00 pm Parish Council, 6:00 pm</p>	<p><b>Wed, Jan 23</b> Women Scrip, 9:30 am <b>Mass, 5:30 pm</b> Choir practice, 6:30 pm  RE Class K-8th and Confirmation I &amp; II, 6:45 pm</p>	<p><b>Thurs, Jan 24</b> <b>Mass, Noon</b>  Buildings &amp; Grounds meeting, 5:30 pm</p>	<p><b>Fri, Jan 25</b> Adoration 9 am-Noon <b>Mass, Noon</b>  Diocese round table discussion</p>	<p><b>Sat, Jan 26</b> Confessions—4:30-5:00 pm <b>Mass, 5:30 pm</b>  4-H Soup Supper in Manning Hall</p>

### Parish Planning Meeting

All Parish Council members are reminded of the Parish Planning Meeting on Tuesday, January 15th at 6:00 PM in the Parish Library. We will be discussing the future needs of our parish. All parishioners who are interested are welcome to attend.

### Save the Date

Vacation Bible School July 22-26, 2019

### Help Support Christian Families in Bethlehem

Blest Art will be visiting our parish on behalf of the Christian families in Bethlehem, Palestine. Their mission is to support those families in the Holy Land.

For centuries, the Christians in and around Bethlehem have earned a living by carving religious olive wood art to sell to visiting pilgrims. Fewer pilgrims are journeying to the Holy Land today, making it difficult for those Christians to support their families. As a result, there has been a dramatic rise in Christian emigration from the Holy Land. Now, less than 1% of the population in the Holy Land are Christians.

Blest Art Inc. helps the struggling families of Bethlehem by marketing their artwork in the United States. Due to this work many families maintain their livelihood and their ancestral homes in the land of our Lord.

**DATE CHANGE:** Please visit the display the weekend of January 19th and 20th after each Mass.

### News from the Fellowship Cup

Thursdays are always a heavy physical and emotional day for our organization meeting the needs of the community we serve. I stop and pray with our clients/volunteers a lot on Thursdays. Today after praying for a client's husband who has a severe heart ailment, I thought that We as a Faith Based organization need to take advantage of the weapon we have in Spiritual Warfare. I would like to ask the community for prayer warriors to meet here on Thursdays 10 AM - 12 PM once a month or more to pray with and for our clients after they have received their food. I could use help in finding those warriors through your own churches, if you could please ask. They can contact me @ 385-3242 and we can meet to set up a schedule.

Ken Brown with the Fellowship Cup

### Offering Envelope Confusion

By now, I am sure many parishioners realize they did not receive their January Offering Envelopes or received someone else's included in their packet. Our Sunday Visitor, offering envelope company, had problems and new January packets will be sent out to everyone. So, some of you will receive a second packet, throw one of the packets away.

### RIGHT TO LIFE MARCH

The North Lee County Right to Life group will be hosting the annual Right to Life March. The March will be held on Saturday, January 26th at 10:00 a.m. The start of the March is at 10th Street and Avenue F, in Fort Madison. Dress warmly and bring your family and friends to support the right to all human life, from conception to natural death. Refreshments will be available at McAleer Hall after the March.

### Pilgrimage to Greece with Father Marty Goetz

Footprints and Flyaways with Heather presents a pilgrimage to Greece, in the Footsteps of St. Paul, including a 4 day cruise to Mykonos, Crete, Santorini and more with Father Marty Goetz. The dates of the pilgrimage is September 16-27, 2019. For more information, contact Heather Tieman 319-759-4508 or [faithflyaways@gmail.com](mailto:faithflyaways@gmail.com).

### Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments

What have been the most significant moments in your life? You probably celebrate your birthday every year, so the day you were born must be pretty important. How about elementary, high school, or college graduations? Hopefully you do something special on or around your wedding anniversary, if you are married. Do you have children? The birth of each child is probably near the top on the list of moments you will never forget. Then there are the sad moments of life: deaths, breakups, and tragedies. As you reflect on all these moments, you can see that you would not be who you are today without having experienced them. Of course as a Christian, you have one moment in time that has had an even greater impact on you and perhaps it didn't even come to mind: your Baptism.


You might say you don't remember it because you were an infant. Perhaps you do not even know the date it took place. You might not feel like it has had much impact on you at all. However, it has made all the difference. Whether you feel the difference or not, on that day you were made a new creation in Jesus Christ. You were marked for Him with an indelible mark that no one can remove, not even you. On that day, you inherited a tradition and lineage of faith that has changed the face of the earth. Today, that baptismal grace beckons you to a real and substantial relationship with the One whose name was invoked on that day. It also calls you to respond with a stewardship way of life, where your gifts make a difference and glorify God. If today is the day you start taking all this seriously, you get to add a new moment to your list. Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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