



St. Catherine, St. Donatus,
St. Joseph & Sts. Peter & Paul
Catholic Churches
The Baptism of the Lord
January 9, 2022

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

A voice came from the heavens, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." - Mt 3:17

A MESSAGE FROM FR. MILLER/OTHER

Friends,

Peace be with you.

I feel called to relax a little bit about my homily plan. As you may know, I developed a twelve year plan to preach on all the readings offered to us in the lectionary, starting with three years on the first reading, then three years on the second reading, then three years focusing on the gospel, and completing my 12 year assignment with a synthesis of all three readings. In the past month or so, I've felt drawn to a message in the first reading or gospel but felt compelled by this form that I've made to stick to preaching on the second reading. I think it's time that I forget about the form and listen to the message God wants me to preach. Please don't read anything else into it then a desire to want to do the will of God above my own. I tend to get worried about homily preparation and trying to make sure it is a message that moves people to conversion or evangelization or charity. I remember being in Manchester and talking to the high school kids about what they felt stopped people from coming to church. Some of the kids gave the stock answer that the homily is boring. One kid, who kind of fancied himself an atheist, responded that the homily lasts barely 10 minutes out of an hour-long ceremony and it's the most creative thing that happens during the whole time. I appreciated that response and it put into perspective not to overdue the importance of the homily or neglect the importance of everything else that happens at Mass. The whole prayer can be boring or it can be a powerful means of grace depending on the prayerful way the priest presides, the minister's serve, and the people participate. It really is up to us and how we open our hearts to God's desire to come to us and have us come to him.

I'd like to offer a kind of philosophical end to this column focusing on ends and means and not confusing the two. What is our goal or our end in life? Another way of asking that question was the first question of the Baltimore Catechism, which some of you may remember: "What is the purpose of man?" Yet another way of asking this question is to think about the parable Jesus uses in Luke 15 about the woman who loses a coin and sweeps and cleans her house until she finds it. What is the "coin" that you can't live without? I hope we'd all answer heaven. The trouble with answering heaven is that it's not meant to be a reward at the end of our life. The Kingdom of God is breaking into the world right now. We can catch glimpses of heaven here on earth in beauty, truth, and goodness, though they are always distorted because of the presence of sin. Still, if our goal is heaven, it should be our goal for today, not for sometime in the future. We should set up our lives focused on making heaven our priority today. The way we do that is through a means. If heaven is getting to know God on a personal level, we should spend time with him in prayer each day getting to know him. The Mass is a grace-filled way to do that. The rosary is a peaceful way of doing that. Reading the Bible is a powerful way to do that. However, these are all means to getting to know God on a personal level not an end in themselves. I sometimes worry that

Message from Fr. Miller continued

people get the means confused with the ends. Don't get me wrong, being faithful to a time of prayer even when you may not be feeling something special is a very good thing. Weekly attendance at Sunday Mass is a precept of the church, the "bare minimum" expected of us as Catholics. However, prayer must be meaningful for us. Regularly whipping through a rosary without thinking about a single word really is turning the means into an end. Coming to Mass and worrying more about what others are wearing or judging the quality of preaching or the quality of music is definitely valuing the means over the ends. Confining where we attend Mass to a particular church in a particular place is not only turning the means into an end but it makes God's grace seem place dependent instead of universal. In the Baltimore Catechism, the answer to that question about purpose was "to glorify God and to enjoy him forever". Is this the goal of our spiritual life and, if not, how can we make it so?

Upcoming Archdiocesan Conferences for Women & Men **2022 Virtual Archdiocesan Women's Conference: *Holy Women of the Visitation*, Saturday, January 29, 2022, 8:00 am – 1:00 pm**

We invite all women from St. Joseph, Sts. Peter & Paul, St. Catherine & St. Donatus to attend our Satellite Event to be held at the Kruse Center in Bellevue.

Adoration and Reconciliation will be available from 8:00 -9:00 a.m. in St. Joseph Church, with the event to follow at 9:00 a.m. in the Kruse Center. The in person event cost includes the virtual ticket, as well as snacks and a meal.

If there are women not comfortable joining us in person, virtual tickets will be available in order to view the conference from their own homes. Once registered, a registration link will be emailed to you. Contact Julie Schmidt (dbq012s@dbqarch.org) or Marybeth Wagner (dbq181ff@dbqarch.org) with questions.

2022 Archdiocesan Men's Conference Saturday, March 19, 2022

We invite all men from St. Joseph, Sts. Peter & Paul, St. Catherine & St. Donatus to attend our Satellite Event to be held at the Kruse Center in Bellevue.

Adoration and Reconciliation will be available from 8:00 -8:55 a.m. in St. Joseph Church, with the event to follow at 8:55 a.m. in the Kruse Center. The in person event cost includes the virtual ticket, as well as snacks and a meal.

If there are men not comfortable joining us in person, virtual tickets will be available in order to view the conference from their own homes. Once registered, a registration link will be emailed to you. Contact Julie Schmidt (dbq012s@dbqarch.org) or Marybeth Wagner (dbq181ff@dbqarch.org) with questions.

In-Person Event in Cedar Rapids: Register at <https://archmensconference.org/register>. Keynote speaker Mark Harfiel, and lunch session speaker, Devin Schadt.

A MESSAGE FROM JULIE SCHMIDT/OTHER

Catechist Corner from Julie Schmidt

This weekend we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. What a wonderful time for all of us to reflect on our own baptismal call to holiness. How much do you know about your own baptism? When and where did it take place? Who was there and who Baptized you? What were you wearing-was it a family heirloom or an outfit especially picked out for this day?

If you are like me, a cradle Catholic, you don't remember your baptism because you were an infant. However, through my journey in discovering God's call in my life, I have taken the time to discuss this honorable celebration with my parents. I was baptized at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Preston (the old structure which is now the Treasure Trove) by Fr. O'Brien on January 1st, which is not just New Year's Day in our secular world, but the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God in our Catholic tradition. So, I was lucky enough to share the day of my Baptism with a holy day honoring Jesus's mother, Mary.

It is never too early or too late for us to share stories of our faith encounters or Sacraments with our family and friends, especially the little ones in your families. As adults, we often hear youngsters asking us about the day they were born or what they were like as a baby. In fact, just this week my friend's daughter asked me if she was chubby when she was a baby- which yes, she was by the way. And from the stories of every single one of my childhood neighbor ladies who took turns walking me around the block or rocking me, apparently all I ever did was cry-including the day I was baptized.

Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and Godparents, I challenge you, when you get asked those questions from little ones about what they were like as a baby, try to include in your response, "Let me tell you about the day you were born... into the Catholic faith."

FYI- You may be able to open these conversations with the little ones by discussing the activities in our new weekend Children's Bulletins, which will be used in Children's Liturgy and can be found in the back of all of our parishes.

Euchre Tournament at Sts. Peter & Paul in Springbrook

Sts. Peter & Paul, Springbrook will host a Euchre Tournament on Sunday, January 16th in Kilburg Hall. No partner is needed. Registration is at 1:00 p.m. with the tournament starting at 1:30 p.m. The cost is \$10.00 per person. Ham sandwiches, chili and beverages will be available for purchase.

Tournament play: there will be 16 hands per game; partners switch between each game; 5 games to determine points winner; payout to be determined on number of contestants.

"No matter how sinful one may have been, if he has devotion to Mary, it is impossible that he be lost."

-- St. Hilary of Poitiers,
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Holyday.....	\$20.00
Total.....	\$3298.75

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Initial Offering	\$5.00
Christmas.....	\$175.00
Hall rent.....	\$230.00
Flowers.....	\$15.00
Total.....	\$1351.00

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Votive.....	\$62.00
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Fall Appeal.....	\$4085.00
Thanksgiving.....	\$125.00
Christmas.....	\$1825.00
Holy Day.....	\$330.00
Retired Religious.....	\$80.00
Lent Mission.....	\$100.00
Initial Offering.....	\$55.00
Total.....	\$17,952.80

Sts. Peter & Paul

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Envelopes.....	\$2115.00
EFT (Auto Deposit)	\$981.00
Offertory.....	\$143.00
Votive.....	\$3.00
Religious Retirement.....	\$20.00
Christmas.....	\$270.00
Initial Offering.....	\$5.00
Total.....	\$3537.00

Children's Bulletins Thank You

Thank you to Live to Give and owners Angie & Chris Read for providing our parishes with the subscription to our new Children's Bulletins which are now located in the back of each of our churches.



OTHER

LITURGICAL ROLES

St. Joseph - Saturday, January 15 at 4:15 PM

Lector: Gail Michels **Eucharistic Minister:** Cortney Kueter, Leonard Ernst, Rhonda Petesch, Molly Ploessl **Lead Rosary:** Judy Moran **Sacristan:** Dick/Marie Zeimet **Servers:** Ethan/Alaina/Nic DeSotel **Ushers:** Tim Daugherty, Loras Deppe, Russ Kettmann, Jim Kilburg, Greg Schulte, Dick Zeimet

Sunday, January 16 at 10:15 AM

Lector: Brody Recker **Eucharistic Minister:** Monica McHugh, Megan Capesius, Jacob Sturm, Dahlia Beauchamp **Lead Rosary:** Kim Moore **Sacristan:** Angela Burken **Servers:** Joe Deaver, Patrick Dunn, Landon Sturm **Ushers:** Dalton Jackson, Shawn Jackson, Mark Jess, Mark Michels, Eric Schroeder

Sts. Peter & Paul - Sunday, January 16 at 8:00 AM

Lector: Susan Williams **Eucharistic Minister:** Beth Gerlach **Servers:** Cameron Gerlach, Connor Thomas, Mary Lane **Lead Rosary:** Jr./Laura Steines **Offertory:** Sally Rowan **Ushers:** Kevin/Darin Banowitz, Charlie Peters, Jr. Steines

St. Donatus - Saturday, January 15 at 5:30 PM

Server: Gage Kilburg **Lector:** Elise Kilburg **Eucharistic Minister:** Pat Draus **Ushers:** Larry Herrig, Jonathan Herrig

St. Catherine - Sunday, January 16 at 8:00 AM

Lector: Michele Colbert **Eucharistic Minister:** Vicki Weber **Ushers:** Dennis Noel & Joe Kies **Sacristan:** Liz Staner

YOUTH GROUP/ EPIC/HS FF/YFF/FFF/MSFF/HSFF/CONFIRMATION

- Sunday, February 6 - 2:00 p.m. **Confirmation** at St. Joseph-Bellevue.
- Wednesday, February 16 - **Youth Faith Formation, Family Faith Formation, Home Study Faith Formation, Middle School Faith Formation** – Family St. Valentine Gathering @ Trinity Center 6:30 p.m. (Meal served)
- Sunday, February 20 - **High School Faith Formation Class** in Kruse Center from 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Sunday, February 20 - **EPIC** - meet in Kruse Center - 11:15 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Faith, Food, and Fun (Brink a drink-food provided)

Stewardship Quote ... Jesus, whom God called “my beloved Son,” is also the “servant” of whom Isaiah speaks in the first reading. We who are baptized in Christ must follow His example and use our time and resources in the service of God and neighbor.

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St. Catherine/St. Donatus News:

The recipient of the January Monthly Special Collection for our parishes is the Dubuque Dream Center, a Community Outreach Center committed to impacting youth and strengthening families, helping to provide children with the assets they need to be successful in school and in life, which in the end will benefit the entire community. The Center is located at 1600 White Street in Dubuque. More information may be found on their website at dubuquedreamcenter.org.

Please use the envelope found at the end of each pew for your donation and put it in the regular collection basket at either parish any weekend of this month. Thank you.

Would you like to learn more about the Bible? A perfect opportunity awaits you, and it's free too! Sign up for “The Bible in a Year,” sponsored by Ascension Press. It's not too late. Hosted by Fr. Mike Schmitz and featuring Jeff Cavins, it is America's #1 Religion Podcast. To sign up, go to the ascensionpress.com/bibleinayear website. Each episode is 20-25 minutes long. If you miss a day, episodes are always available for you to view later. People who participated in the program last year appreciated the energy and explanations provided by Fr. Schmitz and others, and felt they are able to better understand many of the Mass readings.



Welcome to St. Joseph Parish

We welcome Donald & Tammy Zimmer, who recently joined St. Joseph Parish.



Through the waters of Baptism we welcome, Emily Ann Scheckel, daughter of Jayden & Molly (Shanahan) Scheckel who is being baptized this weekend at St. Joseph.



Our sympathy and prayers to the families of Alvin Kilburg and James Cloos who both passed away on December 28th. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.

2021 Christmas Fair Thank You

Thank you to anyone who donated items to the Christmas Fair. Also thank you to everyone who volunteered their time to help make it a success. We were able to raise \$4456.25. Thank you!

Holy Hour for Vocations

All are invited to a regional Holy Hour for Vocations on Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at St. Joseph the Worker parish in Dubuque at 7:00 p.m. There will also be a witness talk by a seminarian as part of this event.

St. Joseph Catholic Church
HOLY HOUR for Vocations
Saturdays 8:00 a.m.— 9:00 a.m.



MASS SCHEDULE/INTENTIONS

Monday, January 10

5:30 PM - SJ † Janice Sieverding

Tuesday, January 11

8:25 AM - SJ † Deceased Members of the Lemer Family

5:30 PM - SC † Janet Kemp

Wednesday, January 12

8:25 AM - SJ † David Mausser; † Janice Sieverding

10:00 AM - MVCC † Jean Hoffmann

Thursday, January 13

8:00 AM - SPP For the People

Friday, January 14

8:00 AM - SD † Janice Sieverding

8:25 AM - SJ † Jean Hoffmann
† Alvin Kilburg

Saturday, January 15

4:15 PM - SJ † Rose Zeimet
† Carl, Leona & Joe Kieffer
† Butch, Don & Tom Sieverding
† Melvin Wagner; † Estelle & Alvin Kilburg

5:30 PM - SD † Milton Weber
† Sylvester (Dolly) & Clara Zimmer

Sunday, January 16

8:00 AM - SC † Susie & Al Blatz

8:00 AM - SPP † Leon Kilburg, Delores Trenkamp & Karen Lundin

10:15 AM - SJ For the People

Kids Corner

PUZZLE

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

JOHN MESSIAH BAPTIZING	WATER POWERFUL SANDALS	HOLY SPIRIT FIRE JESUS
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A J T U A R B Y W E N
H O L Y S P I R I T O
E H A I T O S U F A M
J N E G Y W A T E R E
I Y B E H E U P L M S
H S I N U R M O A Y S
J U P A W F I R E C I
E M O Z T U Y M S U A
S A N D A L S E O T H
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MISSION

Find out what makes God happy. As a family, read John 15:9-12.

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