



CHURCH OF THE  
**BLESSED SACRAMENT**

2119 STILLWATER AVE E. ST. PAUL, MN | 651.738.0677 | [CHURCH@BLESSEDSACRAMENTSP.ORG](mailto:CHURCH@BLESSEDSACRAMENTSP.ORG)

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 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

## Church of the Blessed Sacrament

### An Exhortation: Choose to Live Like Christ

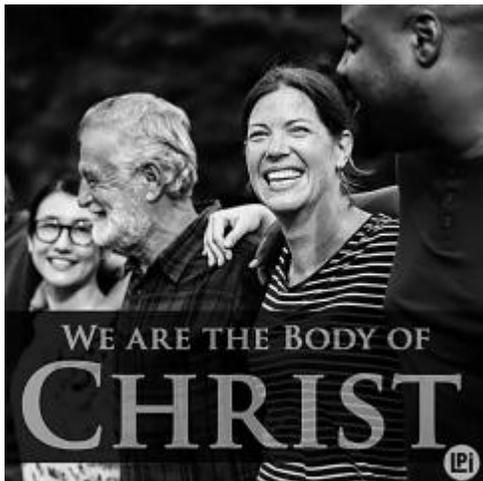
Our faith must be brought into the streets. It cannot remain locked up in a church or limited to expressions of personal piety. Pope Francis reminds us in *The Joy of the Gospel* that “we have been entrusted with a treasure which makes us more human and helps us lead a new life. There is nothing more 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 or 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. This means putting Jesus’ command to love at the forefront of our lives. Are we ready and willing to answer the call?

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 It is a truth which is never out of date because it reaches that part of us which nothing else can reach.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 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. Do we bring a well formed conscience to our daily choices?

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. We will surely die. 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. Restoring relationships that are broken or distorted becomes a priority and securing a means for all people to achieve reasonable happiness in this world becomes the lens through which we see when conducting business.

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. We have to be willing to move from just giving lip service to our brothers and sisters throughout the world and actually relating to them as spiritual siblings.

We cannot ignore the immigrant, the migrant, the orphan, the cold, the hungry or the sinner. We cannot continue to choose the protection of life when it suits us and its demise when it doesn’t. We cannot continue to run roughshod over God’s creation. God continues to try to heal what God has made. We have to help this along, not work against it. Human life has dignity and things like human trafficking, prejudice, severe unemployment, violence, greed, lust for power, and corruption cannot continue. We need to help those who have no voice find one.

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. Our credibility depends upon doing this successfully. We also need to support one another as we strive to achieve God’s vision. Our political systems are broken, people are lost and hurting and there is great sadness across the globe. 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?

*Fr. Mark Suslenko*

**FROM THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR**

**Have you noticed?**

A special "THANK YOU" goes out to Joe & Mike Peisert for their work on installing the new window in the sacristy door and for the construction and installation of the stone table in front of Our Lady of Guadalupe portrait. Also, another THANK YOU to Joe for his work installing the infant changing station inside of the bathroom in the Adoration Chapel.

Another special shout out goes to Joe Peisert and Dave Josephson for the construction of the new



manger for Baby Jesus at the foot of the altar. Thanks to Joe's craftsmanship and for Dave's willingness to bring back this cedar wood all the way here from Tennessee.

Finally, I want to thank the Environment committee led by Cita Regan for the beautiful Christmas environment both inside the church and in the Gathering Space. Thank you to all who contributed to this project, and a special thank you to Cita, for your willingness to lead this committee. Father especially appreciated seeing the hanging stars – a tradition from India (thanks to Fr. Tony for donating them.)

**CFIC Children's Mission News**

An update on our effort to raise funds for the CFIC Children's Mission will be coming soon. We will also be sending out a "thank you" from our friends who were the recipients of our fundraising efforts on our Kentucky Tree program.

**Financial update:**

Thank you to the 65% of our registered families who continue to financially support the basic operations of our parish. If you are not yet currently receiving contribution envelopes and wish to receive them, please let the office know. Also, remember giving monthly via electronic funds transfer [EFT] is an easy option for you to consider, along with using the "DONATE NOW" button found on our website using PayPal. Give us a call and we can explain these options to you. Expect blessings.



**Catholic Education Fund**

We have designated the month of January for our Catholic Education Fund program. This is a program where we grant scholarships to children of parishioners who elect to send their children to a Catholic grade school or Catholic high school. Our monthly second collection will take place the third weekend in January. We are accepting donations throughout the month for this worthy cause. Simply indicate "Education Fund" on the memo line of your check or you may pick up an envelope at the hospitality desk in the Gathering Space.

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- PARISH ADMINISTRATION 651-738-0677**
- Rev. Benny Mekkatt, Pastor ..... ext. 11
- John Florin, Business Administrator ..... ext. 10
- Joy Hoffman, Administrative Coordinator ..... ext. 12
- Deacon Jerry Saladin.....952-607-9636
- PASTORAL MINISTRY 651-738-0677**
- Carol McKenna, .....ext. 15
- FAITH FORMATION 651-738-0677**
- Connie Hill, Director ..... ext. 14
- MUSIC**
- Jan Meulemans, Director.....651-307-7865
- PRAYER LINE**
- Please call Carol McKenna.....612-594-1290
- CHURCH EMAIL: Church@blessedsacramentsp.org**
- PARISH COUNCIL: parishcouncil@blessedsacramentsp.org**

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- BAPTISM** - Participation in the Baptism preparation program is a prerequisite for Baptism. Schedule with the Parish Office.
- RECONCILIATION**— Saturday 3:00-3:45pm or by appointment on other days
- MATRIMONY**- Make arrangements with the pastor at least six months before the date.
- ANOINTING OF THE SICK** - Please call the parish office if you or a family member is going to be hospitalized. Also, if you are home-bound and wish to receive the Eucharist or a friendly visit, please call the parish office.
- LOW-GLUTEN HOSTS ARE AVAILABLE**- Please come to the Sacristy before Mass to arrange to receive one.

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- Blessed Sacrament Adoration, M-W-F 1-11pm & TH 6am-noon
- The Rosary is said just prior to all weekend Masses.

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- Sunday, January 10**
- Baptism of the Lord*
- Is 55:1-11/ 1 Jn 5:1-9/ Mk 1:7-11
- 9am Parish Mass
- 11am † Joanne Kriva
- Monday, January 11**
- Weekday in the First Week of Ordinary Time*
- Heb 1:1-6/Mk 1:14-20
- Tuesday, January 12**
- Weekday*
- Heb 2:5-12/ Mk 1:21-28
- † Pauline Franklin
- Wednesday, January 13**
- Weekday/Saint Hilary, Bishop & Doctor of the Church*
- Heb 2:14-18/Mk 1:29-39
- † John & Johanna Tillman
- Thursday, January 14**
- Weekday*
- Heb 3:7-14/ Mk 1:40-45
- † Joseph & Lodina Peloquin
- Friday, January 15**
- Weekday*
- Heb 4:1-5, 11/Mk 2:1-12
- † Al & Joan Bierwerth
- Saturday, January 16**
- Weekday/BVM*
- Heb 4 :12-16/Mk 2:13-17(Morning Readings)
- 4pm † Huey Henriksen
- Sunday, January 17**
- Second Sunday in Ordinary Time*
- 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/Jn 1:35-42
- 9am † Bernard Bearth
- 11am Parish Mass

# Church of the Blessed Sacrament

## SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

January 10– January 17

The celebration of public Masses has resumed for a limited number of participants!

Tues, Jan 12: 6:30pm Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

## FINANCE

### Gifts of Treasure

*December 19/20, 2020*

Sunday Envelopes & Plate:	\$ 9,077.02
Other:	\$ 35.00
CFIC Children's Mission:	\$ 898.00
Christmas:	\$ 605.00
Building Maintenance:	\$ 470.00
<b>Total :</b>	<b>\$ 11,085.02</b>

*December 26/27, 2020*

Sunday Envelopes & Plate:	\$ 3,616.00
Christmas: & Holy Day:	\$ 4,740.00
Utilities:	\$ 30.00
CFIC Children's Mission:	\$ 1,015.00
Christmas Memorial Flowers:	\$ 50.00
Additional Operating:	\$ 170.00
<b>Total :</b>	<b>\$ 9,621.00</b>

*January 2/3, 2021*

Sunday Envelopes & Plate:	\$ 5,468.00
Christmas: & Holy Day:	\$ 1,428.00
Utilities:	\$ 44.00
Other:	\$ 215.00
CFIC Children's Mission:	\$ 255.00
Educational Fund:	\$ 100.00
Additional Operating:	\$ 180.00
<b>Total :</b>	<b>\$ 7,690.00</b>

God is good...All the time,  
All the time ...God is good!

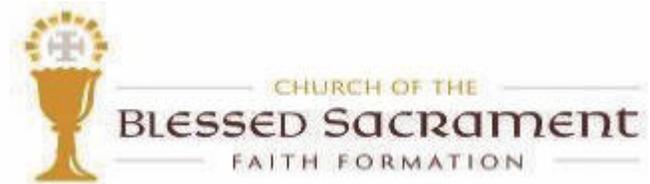
from the  
**Parish  
Council**

The Parish Pastoral Council meets regularly on the second Tuesday of each month to aid Fr. Benny in his pastoral responsibilities at Blessed Sacrament.

If you have questions or concerns for the Pastoral Council, please

email [parishcouncil@blessedsacramentsp.org](mailto:parishcouncil@blessedsacramentsp.org) or speak directly with a member of the Council to have your voice and opinion heard.

**CORRECTION:** Please note the Anticipatory Mass on Saturday, January 9th at 4pm was for †Gerard Lydon.



### Upcoming

Sun, Jan 10	Presentation of Confirmation Candidates at 9:00 am Mass Candidate and Sponsor Meeting after Mass (10:00 to 11:00 am)
Tues, Jan 19	CGS 10:00 to 11:30 am
Wed, Jan 20	CGS 6:15 to 7:45 pm
Sun, Jan 24	No meeting. Pray for Confirmation Candidates on Retreat
Wed, Jan 27	Zoom call at 7:00 for Parish Night of Service

### Christmas Continues!

Tradition suggests that we keep our nativity scene on display at home through The Presentation of the Lord on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. On that feast, also called Candlemas, Mary and Joseph bring Jesus to the temple to be united with the divine presence in that special dwelling place of God. With Candlemas, we celebrate the coming of the Light of the World.

### Works of Mercy

Spread the **JOY** of Christmas through works of mercy. Jesus first; **O**thers next; **Y**ourself last. The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines them as “charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in spiritual or bodily necessities.” (CCC 2447). Scripture tells us, “Whoever has two coats should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise.” (Luke 3:11). In his encyclical letter (Rich in Mercy, 1981), Saint John Paul II wrote two bold statements about mercy: “Mercy is love’s second name” and that mercy is “the greatest attribute of God.”

### Parish Night of Service – COVID friendly

Looking to join with others in works of mercy? Part I of this Blessed Sacrament tradition will take place on Wednesday, January 27<sup>th</sup>. Plan to make valentines at home to be mailed to our homebound parishioners. *Visiting the imprisoned* is a work of mercy that we can do by making connections with those who may feel isolated from their church.

**Directions:** Please register by emailing Connie at [ca-hill@blessedsacramentsp.org](mailto:ca-hill@blessedsacramentsp.org) or by calling the office. Pick up card-making supplies at the church office or use materials you have at home. Cut, paste, color, decorate, and include a bible verse with “love” in it. Write that you are praying for them (and do it!) Optional: sign your family name. You can begin praying and making cards at any time this month, or you can make them on our Night of Service. **Send Connie a picture of your works of mercy!** Either way, plan to join our Zoom meeting at 7:00 pm on Wednesday January 27 to share experiences and pray as a church community.



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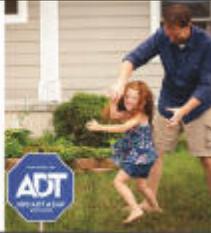
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