

January 9, 2022



HEAVEN WAS OPENED AND THE HOLY SPIRIT  
DESCENDED UPON HIM. - LK 3:21

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

EXCERPTS FROM THE LECTIONARY FOR MASS ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPI



CHURCH OF THE  
**BLESSED SACRAMENT**

2119 Stillwater Ave E St. Paul, MN 55119 651-738-0677 church@blessedsacramentsp.org  
Mass Times: Saturday Anticipatory: 4 pm Sunday: 8:30 am & 11:00 am Daily, T-F 8:30am

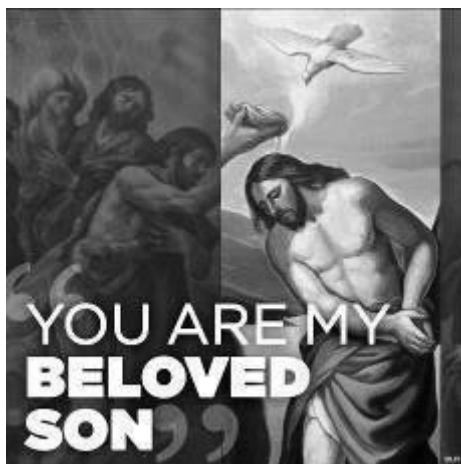
## Church of the Blessed Sacrament

### The Baptism of Jesus Christ, The Messiah and Son of God

Who is Jesus Christ?

*It is a question people asked as they witnessed him preach, heal the sick, and work other wonders. It is a question people have asked through the centuries as they studied the gospels and tried to pattern their lives on his example of self-giving love. If we are to be his followers and pass on the good news to the next generation of believers, it is a question we must constantly ask ourselves.*

*Today's feast of the Baptism of the Lord and, in particular, the beautiful reading from the gospel of Saint Luke teach us that Jesus is the Messiah and the Son of God.*



*First, Jesus is the Messiah. The words "Messiah" and "Christ" both mean "Anointed One." Throughout their history, the people of Israel have awaited the one anointed by God to lead them to freedom. This anointing meant that the Messiah would save them not by his own power, but by the power of God.*

*At his baptism, the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus in the form of a dove. The Heavenly Father was anointing Jesus with power to preach the good news, to give sight to the blind, and to bring freedom to captives. Jesus received this anointing to make it clear that he is the Messiah.*

*What does that mean for us today? It means that we have no other Savior than Jesus Christ. If we are to find true and lasting freedom, it is only through him. If we are to experience true and lasting justice and peace it can only be through Jesus Christ. As Saint Peter declares on Pentecost Day in the Acts of the Apostles, "No other name is given to us in heaven or on earth by which we are to be saved." This means that in everything we do, whether as individuals, as a Church or as a nation, we must look to Jesus if we are to find the justice, truth, freedom, and peace our hearts yearn for.*

*Secondly, Jesus is the Son of God. After the Holy Spirit descends on Jesus, God's voice from heaven is heard, "You are my beloved Son."*

*When we call Jesus, "Son of God", we are not saying that he is like God, or that he is very close to God. Rather, we are saying that Jesus IS God. As we say in the Creed, he is God from God, Light from Light, True God from True God. Whatever we can say about God, we can say about Jesus. He is eternal. There has never been a time when he has not existed. He is All-Powerful. There is nothing he cannot do. And he is All-Knowing. He knows the future and knows our hearts. There is no limit to his power.*

For this reason, we do not only revere Jesus as a great man, but we worship him as our God. We bow our heads when we hear his name. We kneel when he appears before us in the Eucharist. We pray to him, entrust our needs to him, and praise him.

Jesus Christ is the Messiah, the Son of God. We look to him to save us and we worship him as Almighty God. Just as John the Baptist pointed to him, so we must point him out to others as the only Savior of the World. Just as John the Baptist led others to him, we are to lead our family and friends to recognize him as the Messiah our hearts long for. Just as God from heaven declared that he is the beloved Son, so we are to declare to others that Jesus is the God we should follow and obey.

Douglas Sousa

### GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP NEWS

**Returning:  
Grief Support Group**

**Mondays—January 24–  
February 28**

**6:00-7:30pm**

For men & women dealing  
with loss, whether it be re-

cent or long suffering. Come and visit with us and learn ways to cope and not feel so alone. Please bring a journal. If you have any questions, please call Judith 651-795-9944, or call the parish office.



### ADORATION CHAPEL NEWS

***"Look upon the hour of adoration assigned to you as an hour in paradise. Go to your adoration as one would to heaven, to the divine banquet. You will then long for that hour and hail it with joy. Take delight in fostering a longing for it in your heart. Tell yourself, "In four hours, in two hours, in one hour, our Lord will give me an audience of grace and love. He has invited me; he is waiting for me; he is longing for me." - St. Peter Julian Eymard***

We are still working at expanding our hours of Adoration. Please check the website for schedule. Please contact us if you feel called to devote an hour a week to spend with the Lord. We are always in need of prayer partners. Please call Kathy at 651-247-5185 or the parish office, if you are interested.



### WOMEN'S CLUB DONATION REQUESTS

The Women's Club will be looking for contributions of fleece for their annual **Family Service Night**. They are specifically looking for donations for children's prints (1.5 yds. ea.) & teen prints (2 yds. ea.). If you are willing to make a contribution to this great cause, please drop it off at the parish office by February 7th.



**GOSPEL MEDITATION -  
ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE**

*"We are called to live our baptism every day, as new creatures, clothed in Christ."  
— Pope Francis*

What reference point do you use when making decisions? Many times, impulse takes control and decisions are made based solely on emotion and desire. We all know that these types of decisions can often get us into trouble. When a person has a confident sense of who they are and a real understanding of what is important and of value, the likelihood of knee-jerk impulsive choices diminishes. Baptism gives us what we need to make well informed and purposeful decisions. By this simple gesture, God claims us as His own and provides us with the identity and purpose we need to properly live life.

It is tremendously reassuring, when we truly embrace this revelation and realize that we no longer have to wonder about the purpose of our lives or struggle to find our way. The answer of who we are in God has been given to us. We no longer have to fumble around, trip over ourselves or walk aimlessly about. Issues surrounding the sacredness of life, the meaning of death, the protection of those most vulnerable, care for the weak and the poor, offering hospitality to those in search of a home, the purpose and proper place of work, how to create a just social order, caring for creation, and understanding our roles as heralds and stewards are just a few of the wonderful gifts baptism brings. When we make decisions based on things such as these core Gospel truths we really act as Christ himself, revealing to others the new creations that we are. This is how we live our baptism.

It is difficult to walk against the tide. Yet, that is precisely what baptism calls us to do. Although we are sinners, in need of mercy and far from perfection we are called to order our life and make decisions based upon the wisdom and guidance of Almighty God. He alone is the one who can claim us as His sons and daughters. Standing up for our principles will not make us popular. But who ever said Christianity is a popularity contest? Baptism calls us to stand up for that which goes against the grain of secularism. Standing in line with other sinners, we have our anchor to steady us in the tempests of life and God is very pleased. Forge ahead. There is nothing to fear.

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**SOCIAL CONCERNS FOR JANUARY**

**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.



**S** PARISH ADMINISTRATION 651-738-0677  
**T** Rev. Jimmy Puttanickal, Pastor ..... ext. 11  
**A** John Florin, Business Administrator ..... ext. 10  
**F** Joy Hoffman, Administrative Coordinator ..... ext. 12  
**F** Deacon Jerry Saladin.....952-607-9636  
**D** PASTORAL MINISTRY 651-738-0677  
**I** Carol McKenna, .....ext. 15  
**R** FAITH FORMATION & SAFE ENVIRONMENT 651-738-0677  
**E** Connie Hill, Director ..... ext. 14  
**C** MUSIC  
**T** Jan Meulemans, Director.....651-307-7865  
**O** PRAYER LINE  
**R** Please call Carol McKenna.....612-594-1290  
**Y** CHURCH EMAIL: Church@blessedsacramentsp.org  
PARISH COUNCIL: parishcouncil@blessedsacramentsp.org

**S** **BAPTISM** - Participation in the Baptism preparation program is a prerequisite for Baptism. Schedule with the Parish Office.  
**A** **RECONCILIATION**— Saturday 3:00-3:45pm; after 8:30 am Mass on Friday  
**C** or by appointment on other days  
**R** **MATRIMONY**- Make arrangements with the pastor at least six months before the date.  
**A** **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.  
**M** **LOW-GLUTEN HOSTS ARE AVAILABLE**- Please come to the Sacristy before Mass to arrange to receive one.

- P**  
**R**  
**A**  
**Y**
- Blessed Sacrament Adoration, M-Sa, Please see signage for hours.
  - The Rosary is said just prior to all weekend Masses.

**Sunday, January 9**  
*Baptism of the Lord*  
*Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ti 2:11-14;3:4-7/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22*  
 8:30am Parish Mass  
 11am † Melvin Houle

**Monday, January 10**  
*Weekday/First Week in Ordinary Time*  
*1 Sm 1:1-8/Mk 1:14-20*

**Tuesday, January 11**  
*Weekday*  
*1 Sm 1:9-20/Mk 1:21-28*  
 † Peggy Douglas

**Wednesday, January 12**  
*Weekday*  
*1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Mk 1:29-39*  
 Mary Theresa Regan

**Thursday, January 13**  
*Weekday/Saint Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church*  
*1 Sm 4:1-11/Mk 1:40-45*  
 † Martin Denk

**Friday, January 14**  
*Weekday*  
*1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Mk 2:1-12*  
 † Rev. Thomas F.A. O'Brien

**Saturday, January 15**  
*Weekday/BVM*  
*1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19, 10:1/Mk 2:13-17 (Morning Readings)*  
 4 pm † Huey Henriksen

**Sunday, January 16**  
*Second Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
*Is 62:1-5/1 Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-11*  
 8:30am † Bernard Bearth  
 11am Parish Mass

**M**  
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## Church of the Blessed Sacrament

### SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

January 9—January 16

Sun, Jan 9:	9:30-10:45 Coffee & Donuts 9:45-10:45 Faith Formation Classes
Mon, Jan 10:	6:30pm Movement & Christian Meditation
Tues, Jan 11:	6:30pm Women's Club Meeting
Wed, Jan 12:	Young at Heart after Mass
Thurs, Jan 13:	6:30pm Men's Club Meeting
Sun, Jan 16:	9:30-10:45 Coffee & Donuts

### FINANCE

#### Gifts of Treasure

December 25/29, 2021

Sunday Envelopes & Plate	\$ 4,077.00
Christmas:	\$ 6,482.25
Mary, Mother of God:	\$ 120.00
CFIC Children's Mission:	\$ 100.00
Building Maintenance:	\$ 50.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 10,829.25</b>

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP-  
RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

I Hope I Am Like Him

“Who is this Christ? Is he like you?”

Perhaps you've heard this story, often attributed to the life of St. Teresa of Calcutta. A sick man asked her this question, as he marveled at her tireless service to himself and others in the name of someone named Jesus Christ.

“He is nothing like me,” the saint is said to have answered. “But I hope I am like him.”

Though the authenticity of this exchange cannot be verified, its message rings perfectly true: all the value of our stewardship lies in its relativity to the one in whose name we perform it.

Consider the figure of John the Baptist — a magnificent, towering character even purely from a literary or historical perspective. A martyr who fed on wild locusts and boldly spoke truth to power — a man so great some mistook him for the Messiah.

But why is he great? Because he prepared the way. All his accomplishments and escapades mean nothing if they are taken out of the context of salvation history. He only makes sense relative to Christ — and this is exactly as he wanted it. “One worthier than I is coming,” he insists. And because of that humility and that total embrace of God's will, he is given one of the greatest honors in the New Testament — he baptizes the Son of God.

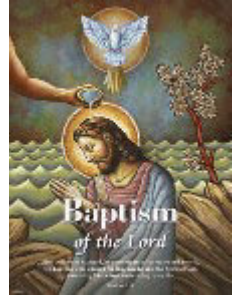
Let's examine our lives in the light of their relativity to Christ. How do we prepare the way? When Christ comes to us, what do we do? How do we leave ourselves open to be actors in God's plan?

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

## FAITH FORMATION: PEEK AT THE WEEK

### HAPPY FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD!

After a joyful Christmas break, we are happy to welcome students back to atrium and the classroom on January 9. Students ponder stories about the three great Sundays during this time of year (Christmas, Epiphany, and Baptism of our Lord). They also work with materials about the gestures of the Mass and learn terms such as epiclesis, offering, and mingling of the water and wine. Finally, students hear about the History of the People of God, including the many Saints that the church has canonized. Confirmation candidates work on their Saint report, too.



### 2022 CALENDAR



Parents, this weekend, plan to pick up our Faith Formation calendar for our second half of the year. Highlight key dates: Parent meeting for First Holy Communion on January 30. Mass and sponsor meeting for Confirmation on February 13. Parish Night of Service on February 23.

Visit our website for further details.

<https://blessedsacramentsp.org/faith-formation>

Save the date!

**PARISH NIGHT OF SERVICE**

FEBRUARY 23, 2022

6:00 to 8:00 pm

*Be the hands and feet of Jesus*

CHURCH OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

### Divine Mercy Cenacle



***"I will not allow myself to be so absorbed in the whirlwind of work as to forget about God. I will spend all my free moments at the feet of the Master hidden in the Blessed Sacrament."*** (#82)

Prayer cards are on the table to take. Look for a new message from St. Faustina's Diary weekly.



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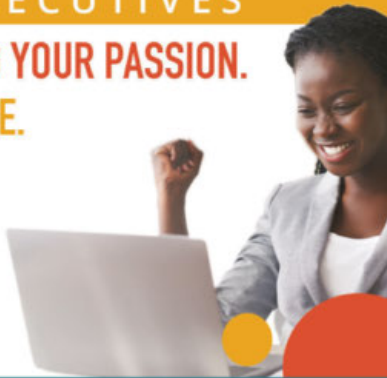
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