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 715-877-3400
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Welcome to the Catholic Parishes of
ST. MARY & ST. RAYMOND
 OF PEÑAFORT

The Baptism of the Lord | January 9, 2022

The Baptism
 OF THE LORD

✠

**"I am baptizing you with water,
 but one mightier than I is coming.
 I am not worthy to loosen the
 thongs of his sandals. He will
 baptize you with the Holy Spirit
 and fire." - Lk 3:16bc**

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

Pastor

Parochial Vicar

Fr. Derek Sakowski
 715-855-1294 ext. 101
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Fr. Peter Kieffer
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Rectory: 715-514-0161

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

January 8 through January 16

Sat., Jan. 8	4:00p	SM	+Robert and Joanne Manthey
	6:00p	SR	SM and SR Parishioners
Sun., Jan. 9	8:30a	SR	+Tamara Mueller
	11:00a	SM	+John Hudson
<i>(Misa en español)</i>	1:00p	SM	Priest Intention
Mon., Jan. 10	No Mass		
Tue., Jan. 11	8:00a	SR	Margaret Evans and Children
Wed., Jan. 12	5:30p	SM	+Linda Boehm
Thu., Jan. 13	8:00a	SR	+Gary Heath
Fri., Jan. 14	9:00a	SM	Fr. Altman
Sat., Jan. 15	4:00p	SM	+Pauline Meyer
	6:00p	SR	Priest Intention
Sun., Jan. 16	8:30a	SR	All PCCW Members
	11:00a	SM	SM and SR Parishioners
<i>(Misa en español)</i>	1:00p	SM	+Fr. Norbert Wilger

***Incense will be used at all Masses on Sunday, January 9.**

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Thursday	7:00–9:00p	SR
Saturday	10:00a–12:00p	SM

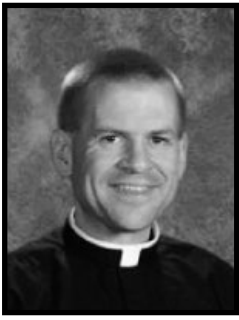
EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION & ADORATION

Tuesday	5:00–9:00p	SM
Thursday	5:00–10:00p	SR

OFFICE HOURS

Mon-Thurs	9a-Noon or by apt	SM
Sunday	Noon-3p	SM
Tues/Thurs	9a-Noon or by apt	SR

Reflections from Fr. Derek Sakowski



The Baptism of the Lord

On Sunday we celebrate Jesus' baptism. The liturgical season of "Christmas" does not even kick off until Christmas Eve, and then continues long after the world has moved on to marketing promotions for Super Bowl snacks, Valentine gifts, and TurboTax.

I remember Father Jack, throughout my adolescent and teen years, quizzing the congregation, and kindly scolding those who had kicked their Christmas trees to the curb too soon. This particular celebration has held a special place in my heart – in part because it coincides so closely with my own birthday. If my anniversary of birth is a Sunday or a Monday, the Baptism of Jesus falls on the same day.

During my nine years of seminary, my birthday often fell in the midst of an annual retreat, prior to the beginning of spring semester. Many people celebrate their 21st birthday at a bar, but mine was in the middle of my first ever silent retreat. Good little Pharisee that I was, I kept perfect silence the entire time. The next two years, my friends Chad and David couldn't resist teasing me about my monastic virtue – not even breaking silence when they surprised me with a chorus of "Happy Birthday."

On those retreats, God captivated my heart with this special moment in the human history of Jesus. The event of his Baptism is meant to be experienced by each of us as his disciples. All that is his becomes ours.

"You are my beloved Son. In you I am well pleased!" (Mark 1:11)

On those retreats, these words spoken to Jesus by his Father became words spoken by the Father to me. I desperately needed to hear them. I still need to hear them.

It is one thing to profess with our lips, "God loves me." It is another to experience it. In terms of teaching, I seriously could not have missed this doctrinal truth that God loves me. During the "warm fuzzy" era of Catholic schools in the 1980s, it seemed to be the only content taught in our religion classes– and still it didn't sink in! No doubt, it's why Christmas and my birthday felt so special to me as a child. They were rare moments in which I felt like I really mattered.

To be human is to matter to God. He has sent his own beloved Son to reclaim us through the shedding of his own blood. By sheer gift, he not only reconciles us, but expresses his delight in us. The words spoken to Jesus are words meant for us. The Holy Spirit also shows up at the baptism, anointing Jesus. That is what "Christ" or "Messiah" means – the anointed one. This is the moment in which the Father anoints Jesus in his humanity (*cf. Acts 10:38*).

To be "Christian" means to be anointed with Christ. Jesus is God's eternal Son and has no need of repentance, no need of healing, no need of deliverance, no need of power. John the Baptist intuitively understands, and protests Jesus' request to be baptized. But they proceed, "so that all righteousness can be fulfilled" (Matthew 3:15). God desires his righteousness to become ours – truly our own. He plans to make us truly holy in Christ.

In one sense, the baptism of Jesus is a past event, over and done with 2,000 years ago in that tiny and not-so-tidy river that still flows into the Dead Sea. In another sense, this event is ongoing. By God's design, all human flesh is invited to the regenerating waters of baptism. All human flesh is invited to be anointed by the Holy Spirit.

We need that renewal; we need that anointing. In the Scripture readings this Sunday, the prophet Isaiah proclaims the victory that the Messiah is destined to bring – calling prisoners out from the dungeon, opening the eyes of the blind, and helping the lame to walk – all possible because the Spirit of the Lord has anointed him (Isaiah 42:1-7).

Despite my dogged self-protection and self-reliance, God repeatedly pierced my defenses on those retreats, surprising me with the honor and delight of being claimed as his own beloved son. On those retreats, my heart burned with desire in reading the messianic prophecies of Isaiah. During those timeless moments of prayer, I was able to admit humbly how blind and lame and impoverished I was, and to receive as free gift the renewed cleansing of baptismal faith. I realized even then that God intended those words of Isaiah for me as well. As one sharing in the anointing of Jesus, I too am chosen and called to proclaim Good News in the darkest places of people's hearts, to call out those held prisoner in the dungeon, to grasp them firmly by the hand, to invite them to be claimed as God's beloved and to receive the same anointing. I knew then and know now that God has called me to be an instrument of his healing. It turns out that I wasn't ready just then to leave behind my perfectionistic defenses. So God has gently reminded and re-reminded me that I have ongoing need of healing and anointing myself if I am to be an instrument of it for others. I can only give if I keep receiving.

The apostle Paul invites us to participate in the baptismal rebirth and renewal that is freely and gratuitously offered in Jesus, along with the rich outpouring of the Spirit (Titus 3:4-7). Let us come into the waters of baptism with Jesus. Let us cast off the deeds of darkness and commit ourselves to live soberly, justly, and devoutly in this present age as we joyfully await in hope his glorious coming. Let us place our trust fully in his victory, his free gift to us. With him and in him, let us become God's anointed.

Staff Directory

Join Our Team

Evangelization & Faith Formation

Jacqueline Van Hemert, Director

715-855-1294, x 106 (SM)

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Breanna Munns, Marriage Prep & Wedding Coordinator

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Finance, Building & Grounds

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Robert Grzyb, Maintenance (SR)

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Music & Liturgy

Tyler Andreae, Director

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Pastoral Ministry

Jon Jones, Director

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Shelli Julson, Parish Receptionist

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Communication

↳ Communication@SMSRCatholic.com

Pastoral Outreach

↳ Outreach@SMSRCatholic.com

Communication Coordinator for St. Mary's and St. Raymond's

This is a part-time position, usually 15-20 hours per week. Position overview, responsibilities and qualifications are available on both parishes' websites. Interested candidates should send a résumé and cover letter to Jon Jones at JJones@SMSRCatholic.com.

Pastoral Outreach Coordinator for St. Mary's and St. Raymond's

This is a part-time position, usually 8-10 hours per week. Position overview, responsibilities and qualifications are available on both parishes' websites. Interested candidates should send a résumé and cover letter to Jon Jones at JJones@SMSRCatholic.com.

Faith Formation Coordinator for St. Mary's

This is a part-time position, usually 10 hours per week. Position overview, responsibilities and qualifications are available on the St. Mary's parish website. Interested candidates should send a résumé and cover letter to Jacqueline Van Hemert at JVanHemert@SMSRCatholic.com

Stewardship Totals: 12/26/21

St. Mary's Stewardship:

Adults.....\$9,062.00
Offertory (Plate).....\$2,745.01
Total Envelope & Plate.....\$11,807.01

Thank you!

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Adults.....\$5,194.00
Offertory (Plate).....\$1,298.80
Total Envelope & Plate.....\$6,492.80

Thank you!

Stewardship Totals: 01/02/22

St. Mary's Stewardship:

Adults.....\$2,542.00
Offertory (Plate).....\$807.80
Total Envelope & Plate.....\$3,349.80

Thank you!

St. Raymond's Stewardship:

Adults.....\$1,470.00
Offertory (Plate).....\$172.00
Total Envelope & Plate.....\$1,642.00

Thank you!

Save the Date

Jan. 8/9 Marriage Anniversary Blessings @ SM and SR
Jan. 9 Fr. Derek's birthday!
Jan. 9 Faith Formation/Edge at SR
Jan. 9 Social Sunday 12pm @ SM
Jan. 10 Trinity Council Knight of Columbus Meeting 7pm @ SR
Jan. 11 SM & SR Joint Pastoral Council Meetings @ SR
Jan. 12 SM Elementary, SM FFF and SR FFF 1st Reconciliation Retreat 6:00pm-7:30pm @ SM
Jan. 13 SR PCCW Meeting 6:00pm @ SR
Jan. 19 SM & SR Confirmation Class 6:30pm-8:00pm @ SM
Jan. 20 SM Elementary 1st Reconciliation 1:30pm @ SM
Jan. 20 Elizabeth Ministry 5:30pm @ SM
Jan. 21 SM FFF and SR FFF 1st Reconciliation 6:00pm @ SM
Jan. 22 Youth Mass and Potluck 6:00pm @ SR
Jan. 23 Fr. Peter's birthday!
Feb. 2 Faith Formation/Edge @ SM
Feb. 5 Newcomers Dinner 7:00pm @ SR
The Jan. 15 End-of-Life Seminar has been rescheduled to a later date. Please watch for more details.

Women's Retreat

January 22 at St. Paul's Parish in Bloomer from 9:00am-Noon. Come listen to a presentation by Gina Bauer, a dynamic and entertaining speaker. You can register by contacting Diane Kuba (715-568-2388 kuba@bloomer.net) or Kathy Zwiefelhofer (715-568-3942 zeefmly@bloomer.net). Cost to attend this retreat is \$10 per person.

Come...Grow...Serve...

Becoming Catholic for Adults (RCIA)

Are you interested in becoming Catholic or learning more about the Catholic Church? If so, we'd like to invite you, your spouse, your children, and others you may know, to join us in our Becoming Catholic process as we share the truths of the Catholic Faith and the fellowship of our parish family! If you are interested in continuing on that journey with Jesus, contact Jacqueline Van Hemert at JVanHemert@SMSRCatholic.com.

Pathways (RCIC)

Are your child(ren) or your whole family interested in becoming Catholic or learning more about the Catholic Church? Do you have older children who have not yet been baptized? Do you or your child(ren) sense a need for God and a community of faith in your family? If so, we'd like to invite you to join us in Pathways as we share the truths of the Catholic Faith and the fellowship of our parish family! For more information, contact Jacqueline Van Hemert at JVanHemert@SMSRCatholic.com.

Men of the Beatitudes

Would you like to grow in your faith while connecting with other men? Men of the Beatitudes is a small group of men sharing their faith, holding one another accountable, and deepening their prayer life. Together they discuss vulnerably how they experience the Beatitudes as a path to healing of their own brokenness and woundedness. If you are in need of fellowship and connection and would like to join a group, you can contact Lucas Munns at Munnsld@Gmail.com

Claim Your Inheritance

Enjoy a new series on claiming our inheritance from the early Church! Focusing on the first three centuries of Christianity, we will explore important writings that laid the foundations for the Church and the Living Tradition we continue to benefit from today. Topics include apostolic authority, the Eucharist, and more! Come join us every-other Tuesday in the St. Mary's Conference Room continuing on Tuesday, January 18 from 6:00-7:00pm. For more information, contact John Glassbrenner at JAGlassbrenner@Gmail.com.

Subscribe to the Friday Fiat

Do you want to know more about what is happening at your parish? Sign up and join the group "St. Mary's Parish News" or "St. Raymond's Parish News." Through our weekly email we highlight some amazing ministries and introduce new things our staff have been working on. Sign up by either calling your parish office or scanning your parish's code below.

For
St. Mary's
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For
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**St. Mary's
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Thursday, February 10 | 4 to 6 p.m.

Kindergarten Preview

**St. James
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Tuesday, February 8 | 6 p.m.

Friday, February 11 | 1 p.m.

**St. Mary's
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Thursday, February 10 | 6 p.m.

Friday, February 11 | 10:30 a.m.

**Immaculate Conception
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Tuesday, February 15 | 6 p.m.

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