

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



# HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH

515 South Albert Street Saint Paul, MN 55116 | (651) 698-3353 | holy-spirit.org

Tues.–Fri. 7:30 a.m. Mass • Sat. 3–4 p.m. Confessions & 4:30 p.m. Mass • Sunday 8:30 & 10:30 a.m. Mass & 11:45 a.m.–4 p.m. Adoration

## MASS INTENTIONS & CALENDAR

### January 9, The Baptism of the Lord

8:30 a.m. Holy Spirit community

10:30 a.m. Flora Angui

### January 10

### January 11

7:30 a.m. Teachers and educators

### January 12

7:30 a.m. Healthcare workers

### January 13, St. Hilary

7:30 a.m. Those struggling with COVID-19

12:30 p.m. Quilters Meeting, Howley Hall

### January 14

7:30 a.m. Service industry workers

### January 15

4:30 p.m. Helen Snow†

## OFFICE CLOSED

Please note: The parish office will be closed on Monday, Jan. 17 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

## CHECK OUT HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC SCHOOL!

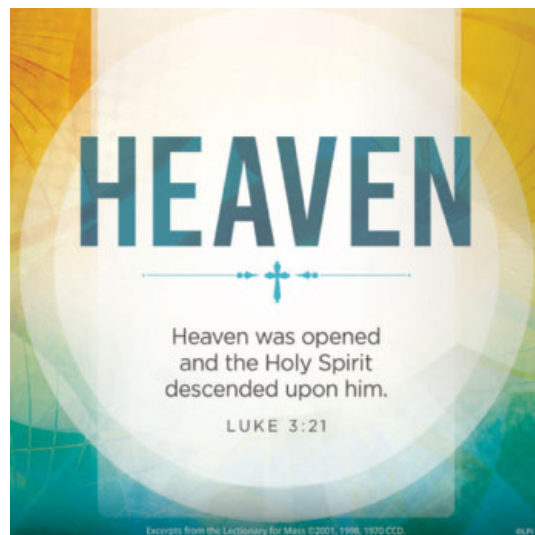
RSVP by Jan. 14 at [holyspiritschoolstp.org](http://holyspiritschoolstp.org).



**PIZZA & A PEEK**

Wednesday, Jan. 19  
5:30-7 P.M.

Bring the family for dinner and a tour while previewing Holy Spirit Catholic School's preschool and kindergarten programs!



## JAN. 13 | QUILTERS

Join us on **Thursday, Jan. 13 at 12:30 p.m.** in Howley Hall. Help us make quilts for those in need. No experience is necessary. Please use the accessible entrance to Howley Hall. Hope to see you there!

## SUBMITTING TO THE BULLETIN

To submit an item, please email [bulletin@holy-spirit.org](mailto:bulletin@holy-spirit.org) by 8 a.m. on the Monday prior to the desired bulletin issue.

Items will be edited for length and clarity by the bulletin editor. View deadlines at [holy-spirit.org/bulletin](http://holy-spirit.org/bulletin).

## NIGHT OF SPIRIT 2022

Holy Spirit Catholic School's fundraising event, Night of Spirit, is just a few months away!

Mark your calendars and join us in person on Saturday, Apr. 30. Stay tuned for more details on tickets, the auction, etc.



### First Reading

Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken. (40:5)

### Psalm

O bless the Lord, my soul. (Ps 104)

### Second Reading

He saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. (Ti 3:5)

### Gospel

After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. (Lk 3:22)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.



## RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

### First Reading

The prophet Isaiah was called to bring words of comfort and good news to the beleaguered Israelites held captive in Babylon. How do you minister to those in your life struggling to find God's presence?

### Second Reading

Paul taught Titus that baptized believers are called "to live temperately, justly, and devoutly." How well do you think you live by this moral and ethical standard?

### Gospel

We hear today the account of the baptism of Jesus and God's words from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." What do you imagine Jesus did (prior to the start of his public ministry) that was so pleasing to God?



## LIVE THE LITURGY

Jesus stood in line with everyone else and was baptized. There is something incredibly humbling about how this must have played out. Then, God did something truly awesome and inspiring. Through a very gentle and simple action he let the world know about the special



relationship He shares with Jesus. That's exactly what is so incredible about our baptisms as well! Through those holy waters God announces to the world the special place we also occupy in His heart. We no longer have to wonder about the purpose of our lives or struggle to find our way. We do not need to fumble around, tripping over ourselves and wondering why we are even here. The answer has been given. All we have to do is live out the vocation we have received, to live the Gospel in fidelity to our Creator. There is nothing to fear and worry has no place. Standing in line with other sinners, we have our anchor and God is very pleased.

# AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

*A Journey to Joy:*

**Bringing Scripture to Life with Drama and Humor**

**Jan. 5-7, 7-8 p.m.**

**Immaculate Heart of Mary, Minnetonka**

Actor Frank Runyeon will perform the Gospel of Luke, explore the Sermon on the Mount, and speak about Hollywood vs. Faith. Frank is best known for his roles on television. Visit [ihm-cc.org](http://ihm-cc.org) for more info!

**No Ordinary Retreat**

**Jan. 12-14, 6:30-7:30 p.m.**

**Saint Joseph Church, Rosemount**

Join us for a 3-day "No Ordinary Retreat" as we launch into Ordinary Time and look at how we can make the ordinary, day-to-day tasks, God-filled. Speaker Pat Millea will lead the retreat. Register today at [stjosephcommunity.org/special-event/patmillea](http://stjosephcommunity.org/special-event/patmillea).

**Miriam Dinner**

**Jan. 17, 6-8 p.m.**

**Archdiocesan Catholic Center, Saint Paul**

Archbishop Hebda invites women, ages 16-35, who are discerning consecrated life to join him for dinner and conversation. Sister Mary Joseph, a Handmaid of the Heart of Jesus Sister, will lead the program that will include consecrated women sharing their testimonies, stories of consecrated life, and discernment tips. Register today at [1000vocations.org](http://1000vocations.org).

***Apples and Oranges?***

**An Interreligious Approach to Loving God and Neighbor**

**Jan. 20, 6:30-9 p.m.**

**Basilica of Saint Mary, Minneapolis**

The reality of religious pluralism—that there are many religions, that many good and sincere people practice these many religions, and that these many religions will remain many—invites us to grow in our love for God and neighbor by encountering what is true, good, and holy in these traditions. But where and how do we begin this interreligious learning? With examples from Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, and Judaism, we will explore the possibilities religious pluralism and comparative theology provide. Free event. Registration is required: visit [collegevilleMN.com/theologyday](http://collegevilleMN.com/theologyday), call (320) 363-3560 or email [theologyday@csbsju.edu](mailto:theologyday@csbsju.edu).

## *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."

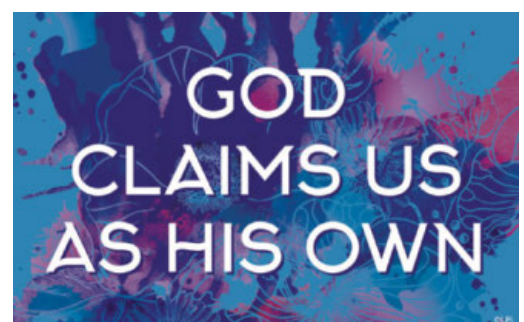
Though the authenticity of this exchange cannot be verified, its message rings perfectly true: all the value of our stewardship lies in its relativity to the one in whose name we perform it.

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.

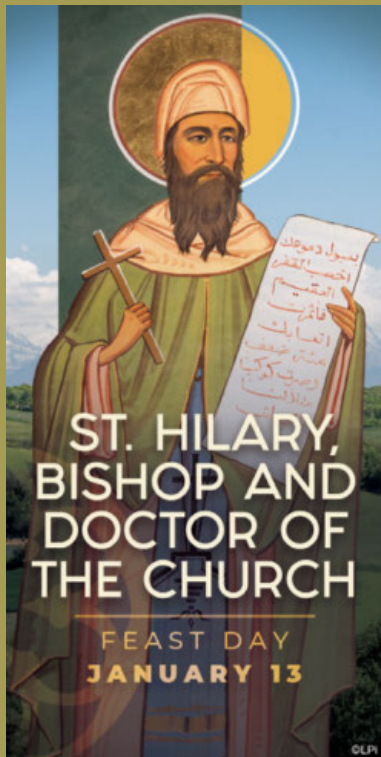
But why is he great? Because he prepared the way. All his accomplishments and escapades mean nothing if they are taken out of the context of salvation history. He only makes sense relative to Christ — and this is exactly as he wanted it. "One worthier than I is coming," he insists. And because of that 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







## ST. HILARY OF POITIERS JANUARY 13

Born a pagan, St. Hilary (c. 315 – c. 367) studied philosophy and the meaning of life, eventually making his way through the bible. He became a convert and was appointed bishop of Poitiers in 353. Sometimes referred to as the Hammer of the Arians, St. Hilary defended the Nicene Creed against a popular heresy, Arianism.

He was exiled to Phrygia for opposing Roman emperor Constantius II, who preferred the heresy which denies Christ's divinity. From Phrygia St. Hilary fought with his pen, zealously writing against the heresy.

Eventually he was allowed to return to Poitiers, but did so by a circuitous route, preaching against Arianism all the way.

St. Hilary was likely the first writer of hymns in the West, his writings on the Trinity, Psalms and Gospel of Matthew survive today. St. Hilary was created Doctor of the Church, a title given to those who provided important contributions to theology and doctrine, in 1851 by Pope Pius IX.

## - Gospel Meditation -

*"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 kneejerk 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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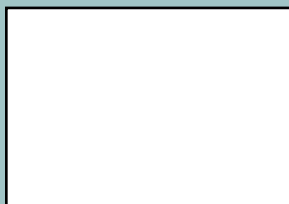
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