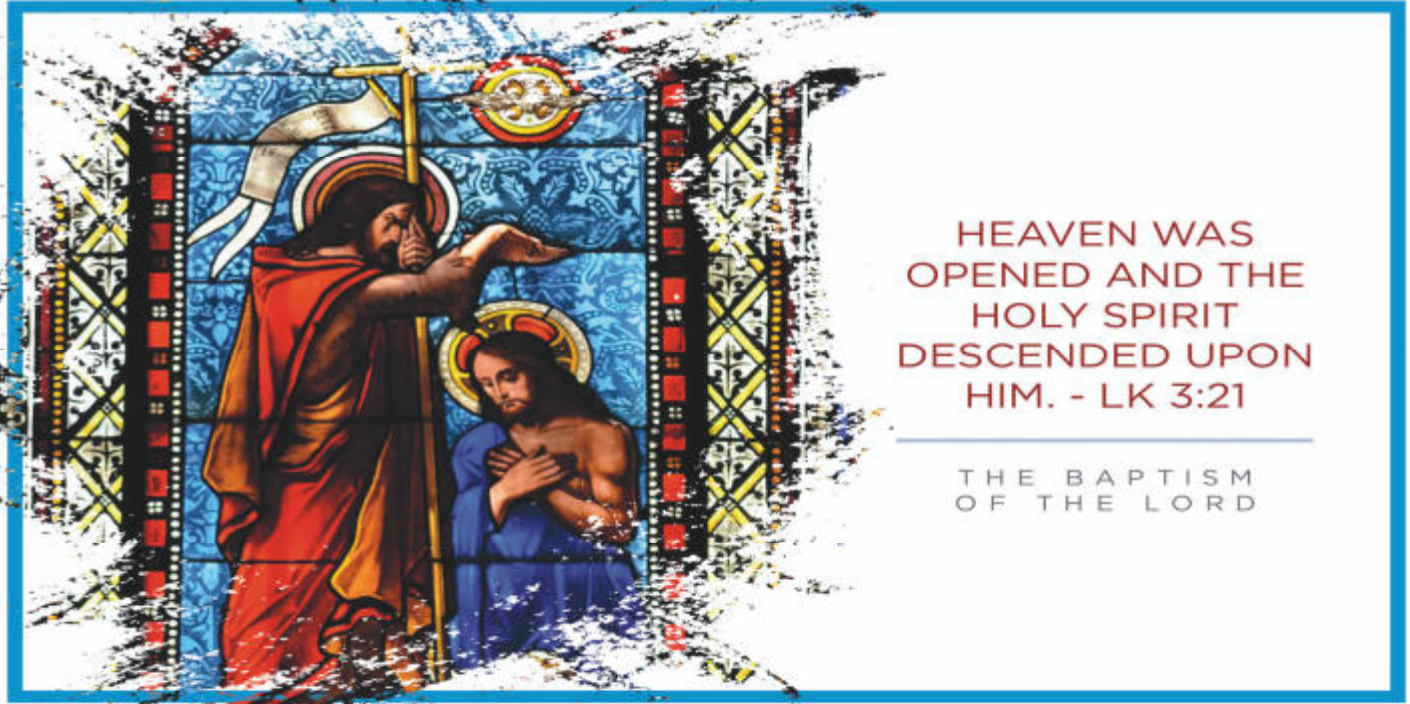


Saint James Parish



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

508 839-5354 • FAX 508 839-5430 • Religious Education Office 508 839-6800 • Web: stjamesgrafton.com

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday 8:00 AM
Tuesday No Mass
Wednesday 8:00 AM
Thursday 7:00 PM
Friday & Saturday 8:00 AM
Saturday Vigil 4:30 PM
Sunday 7:30 & 10:00 AM

Pastor

Rev. Anthony Mpagi
saintjamespriest7@gmail.com

Religious Education

Carole LeBlanc restjames1@aol.com

Parish Secretary

Celeste Allain catstjames@aol.com

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Thursday 6:00-6:45 PM and Saturday 3:00-4:00 PM
Or call the rectory for appointment

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptism is celebrated on the third Sunday of the month
at noon. Call the rectory to make arrangements.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Couples planning for marriage should contact the
rectory one year prior to the wedding date.

CARE FOR THE SICK

Please contact the rectory if you know of anyone who is
hospitalized or confined to home because of age or
illness.

Please call

Father Anthony if you have any questions or concerns.

89 Main Street South Grafton, MA 01560

Parish Office Hours: M, W-F 8:30 AM-2:00 PM

We are a Stewardship Parish
TIME TALENT TREASURE



Saturday, January 8

8:00 AM 8:00 AM Dominic Vinh Vu by the Pham family
 4:30 PM Charlie Hill by his wife and son
 Norman, Doris and Donna Wood
 By Carol Bagdis & Debbie Hill

Sunday, January 9

7:30 AM Richard Glispin by a parishioner
 Raymond Lojko by Carol Ziemba
 1st Anniversary, Brian Silver by his family
 10:00 AM Norman Folster by his family

Monday, January 10

8:00 AM Janet Bacon by her family

Wednesday, January 12

8:00 AM George Fernandez by Maria Wallen

Thursday, January 13

7:00 PM Mary & Joseph Kosiba by Philippe Lavallee

Friday, January 14

8:00 AM Souls in Purgatory

Next Saturday, January 15

8:00 AM Souls in Purgatory

4:30 PM Doc Perron by a friend

Next Sunday, January 16

7:30 AM 55th Anniversary, Mary Caroline Bien
 By Carol Ziemba

10:00 AM Parishioners of Saint James

FINANCIAL BLESSINGS

December 25 & 26 \$3,192.00
 January 1 & 2 \$4,673.00
 Christmas \$2,523.00
 Holy Day \$644.00
 Utilities \$1,006.00
 Candles 400.00

MONTH OF DECEMBER

Budget for December \$21,200.00
 Total for December \$20,168.00

Deficit of \$1,032.00

THANK YOU!

ONLINE GIVING

You can access online giving easily on our parish website!
 Just click on the link for online giving and follow the instructions.

Please consider using this method in place of mailing or hand delivering your donations. Thank you to those of you who donate to Saint James this way.

MASKS REQUIRED

Effective immediately, everyone must wear a mask at all Masses and parish functions. Masks will be available for those who need them. Thank you for all you are doing to keep us all safe.



FLOCKNOTE

Scan the code to connect with us!
 It's a great way to stay connected with texts or email! You can also go online at stjames56.flocknote.com.



Any Suggestions?

There is a Suggestion Box in the main vestibule where we welcome any comments, concerns and suggestions. Please let us know what's on your mind.

GRAFTON PARISH COLLABORATION

These representatives will be engaged with Fr. Anthony and Fr. Leo as we continue our collaboration process among the three parishes. Besides regularly communicating through the bulletin and websites, as well as by regular mail, these representatives are also available to you to answer questions and to listen to your concerns and comments.

The four representatives for St. James are:

Mike Braun at msbraun@charter.net
 Al Hargrave at ahargrave@verizon.net
 Lori Lauria at lorijhl@aol.com
 Nancy Morin at npm9329@gmail.com.

"How many lessons of faith and beauty we should lose, if there were no winter in our year!"--*Thomas Wentworth Higginson*

SAINTS OF THE WEEK**Saint Gregory of Nyssa Jan 10 Saint of the Day**

The brother of Saint Basil and the son of Saints Basil and Emmilia, was a married man when he began studying for the priesthood. He became Bishop of Nyssa and fought Arianism and was a prominent figure at the Council of Constantinople.

**Blessed William Carter Jan 11 Saint of the Day**

Born in London, Blessed William Carter was a printer who got in trouble for printing Catholic material during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. Eventually brought to trial, he was convicted and hanged, drawn, and quartered on January 11, 1584.

**Saint Marguerite Bourgeoys Jan 12 Saint of the Day**

Born in France but adopting Canada as her home, Saint Marguerite Bourgeoys definitely won the hearts of the Canadians. She moved to Canada at the request of the governor of the French settlement. She later founded a school for girls in Montreal and founded the Sisters of Notre Dame.

**Saint Hilary of Poitiers Jan 13 Saint of the Day**

Saint Hilary of Poitiers was converted to Christianity through his reading of the Sacred Scriptures. A married man, he was chosen as Bishop of Poitiers in France where he ardently fought Arianism. As a result, he was sent into exile, but returned home to Poitiers before he died.

**Saint Gregory Nazianzen Jan 14 Saint of the Day**

Saint Gregory Nazianzen paid a huge price for his faith. In conflict with the Emperor Valens, who defended the Arians, Saint Gregory worked hard to defend the Catholic faith. Toward the end of his life, Saint Gregory gained some peace and quiet as he gardened and wrote religious poetry.

**THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES****Sunday, January 9, The Baptism of the Lord**

9:00 AM Religious Ed classes Gr. 1-6

Monday, January 10

6:00 PM Religious Ed classes Gr. 7-9

The Baptism of Jesus

In the reports by Matthew, Mark, and Luke of Jesus' baptism, the testimony of the voice from heaven is very important. Jesus is identified as "my Son, the beloved, with whom I am well pleased" (Lk 3:22).

The ancient Mediterranean world believed that the male deposited a fully formed miniature adult (a seed) into the female (viewed simply as a field for the seed).

Not yet having achieved the contemporary understanding of human reproduction and lacking the sophisticated paternity tests of our modern era (see Num 5:11-31 for their test), these people were totally unable to prove paternity at the biological level.

For this reason, the public and social acknowledgment of paternity by the male was of critical importance. This act not only gave the child legitimacy and appropriate social standing in the community but also publicly obliged the father to accept responsibility for the child.

In Luke's version of Jesus' baptism, the voice from heaven acknowledges Jesus as "my Son, my beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

On average, 90 percent of the world's cultures regularly have such experiences and find them useful and meaningful in their cultural context.

What kind of human experience was this in which Jesus hears a voice from heaven speaking to him?

Scholars note that it is an experience in an altered state of consciousness or an experience of alternate reality.

Only the industrialized West has managed to block this pan-human potential. Even scholars who would insist that the baptism of Jesus is an interpretation from the evangelist's hand must admit that the evangelist built wisely on the culture and made the point with very persuasive cultural plausibility.

The transfiguration of Jesus and the appearances of the risen Jesus also belong to this category of human experience.

John J. Pilch

COLLECTION MONEY COUNTERS

If anyone is interested in volunteering on a Sunday morning, from 9:30 to 11:30, we are in need of counters for the weekend collections. There needs to be two people (not related) each week. It won't be a commitment every week if there are enough volunteers. Please call the parish office or email Celeste at catstjames@aol.com if you can help Saint James in this way. Thanks!



MaryEllen Curran Rancourt, AUD

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