

St. Julie Billiart Parish



The Baptism
of the Lord
9 January 2022

St. Julie Billiart, Dartmouth – Diocese of Fall River

Sunday and Daily Mass Schedule

January 9th – January 16th

Sat.	Jan 09	Baptism of the Lord (Vigil) (Wh) 4:30pm <i>Pro Populo</i>
Sun.	Jan 09	Baptism of the Lord (Wh) 7:30am Rev. John Andrews 9:00am Pereira & Veiga Families 11:00am Arthur Senna
Mon.	Jan 10	Feria (Gr) 9:00am Le Van Phuc, Le Thi Tu & Le Van Dinh
Tues.	Jan 11	Feria (Gr) 9:00am Jose DeSousa
Wed.	Jan 12	Feria (Gr) 9:00am Jose & Amelia Martin and Family
Thurs.	Jan 13	St. Hilary; Bishop (Wh) 9:00am John Aguiar & Thomas Doyle
Fri.	Jan 14	Feria (Gr) 9:00am Aldina de Melo
Sat.	Jan 15	Blessed Virgin Mary (Wh) 9:00am Richard Brown
Sat.	Jan 15	2nd Sunday (Vigil) (Gr) 4:30pm Odilia DeMello
Sun.	Jan 16	2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Gr) 7:30am Rev. John Andrews 9:00am <i>Pro Populo</i> 11:00am Joan Kindamo

Note: *Feria* designates a weekday which does not celebrate a feast or memorial for a saint or other dedication.

Pro Populo means a Holy Mass “for the people”. It indicates the obligation for priests to celebrate one Sunday or Holy Day Mass for their parishioners.

Please Pray For:

All the Souls in Purgatory and for parishioners who are ill at home or in nursing home or hospital and especially also for: *Lilly Harris, Jenna D., Connie Bernado, Dan D., John Costa, Jaime Pimentel, Joaquina Robinson, Helen W., Delmar C., Fran, Donald Baxter, Spencer, Kathy & Marianna M., Eric, Kateri, Anne Belmonte, Brian D., Louise R., Dan D., Margaret K., Bob, Frank C., Janice Sharp, Melissa M., Maria S., Bill H., Lucille Dussault, Tom & Matthew, Grace Gonsalves, Margaret K., Joe Barbero, and Benjamin Enoksen, Mia, Reanna M., and Kristen B.*

UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

January	- Maintenance Collection (all month)
January 9	- Parish Assessment
January 16	- Catholic Communications

THE PASTOR'S COLUMN

Conformed to the Master

The Baptism of Our Lord Jesus, which we celebrate this Sunday as the conclusion of the Christmas season, should invite each of us to reflect on the significance of our own baptism. For most of us, this occurred when we were infants and unaware of the event. But hopefully, we have seen the effects of that day throughout our lives and can easily see the difference it has made.

The purpose of baptism is to connect us mystically to Christ, to attach our souls to Christ who is the source of all divine assistance and grace. As a result of this connection, our souls are identified with Christ, and the goal of our lives is to become more like Christ, to be configured to Him.

Here's how Pope St. John Paul II explained the consequence of baptism: “Christian spirituality is distinguished by the disciple's commitment to become conformed ever more fully to his Master (cf. Rom 8:29; Phil 3:10,12). The outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Baptism grafts the believer like a branch onto the vine which is Christ (cf. Jn 15:5) and makes him a member of Christ's mystical Body (cf. 1Cor 12:12; Rom 12:5). This initial unity, however, calls for a growing assimilation which will increasingly shape the conduct of the disciple in accordance with the ‘mind’ of Christ ...” (*Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, 15).

So, when we are baptized, we become a branch on the vine of Christ. Jesus said, “*I am the vine, you are the branches*” (Jn 15:5). The spirit and life of Christ should flow from Christ into our souls, especially when we receive the sacraments honestly and worthily. And this power from Christ helps us to live as He taught and be conformed to Him.

I once heard a Cardinal of the Church explain that the greatest day of his life was not when he was made a cardinal. It was not when he was consecrated as a bishop, and it was not even when he was ordained a priest. He said the greatest day of his life was when he was baptized as an infant, because it was then that his relationship with Jesus Christ began, and he said that relationship determined everything and made all the difference in his life.

Everybody knows the date of their birthday, but very few Catholics probably know the date of their baptism. It's a good idea for each of us to become aware of the date of our baptism and to celebrate it fittingly, especially with extra prayers of gratitude for the difference it has made in our lives. For many of us, it's hard to imagine any life other than the one we have had as a Christian. But we owe it to Christ, and perhaps to our parents who brought us to the baptismal font, to appreciate the difference it has made to live our life as someone who is related to Christ and strives to be ever more conformed to Him.

ON THE COVER - BY STEVEN N. GUILLOTTE

The people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. John answered them, "... one mightier than I is coming... He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." (Lk 3:15-16)

The Church portrays the essence of Advent to be "expectation", while it portrays the essence of Christmas to be that of "arrival". However, the Church inspired by the Holy Spirit instructs us today that while the Christ Child has arrived in our hearts, the close of the Christmas season represents an additional sense of glorious anticipation.

The Christmas season concludes today with the **Feast of the Baptism of Jesus**, and although we depart a high liturgical season for more "ordinary time", our scriptural quotation above from today's gospel reading testifies that our on-going religious practice is meant to be anything but ordinary. It is meant to be "*filled with expectation*".

Every Sunday is focused on Jesus Christ, especially this Sunday. In order to sharpen this focus, the Church presents to us today the great signpost of the divine, John the Baptist. As noted in the Gospel of Luke, it was on John that the expectation of the Judean people of the 1st century was initially transfixed in their hope of salvation. This is not the first expectation focused on John. At the birth and naming of John, Luke tells us that, "*All who heard these things took them to heart, saying, 'What, then, will this child be?' For surely the hand of the Lord was with him*" (Lk 1:66). Remember that the Blessed Virgin Mary's cousin Elizabeth conceived John in her old age and that John's father Zechariah had an angelic vision whence he was struck mute for his hesitation to believe (Lk 1:20), and that Zechariah regained his speech only at the naming of John (Lk 1:64). Even Jesus calls John the Baptist the greatest man born of woman (Lk 7:28) meaning that his natural capacity and constitution along with his providential inclination to faith must have been great indeed! With this charisma he was certainly a magnet to the people. Yet even more so, in the Spirit, he was a magnet for God.

For this Sunday's feast we place on our bulletin cover a work by the Italian painter, **Luca Giordano**, entitled *St. John the Baptist Preaching* (1695). Giordano painted this work later in life during his residency in Spain. This is fitting in that his early training was completed by a Spaniard residing in Italy – Jusepe de Ribera. This work is thoroughly Baroque. John is presented in strong physical stature and his listeners are filled with expectation as to what he will say and do. (Even the small dog has a posture of excitement). But here we see John reorienting the crowd's expectation by pointing upward indicating that there is another coming after him; someone who comes from heaven bearing the full authority of the Godhead.

John's testimony is depicted solidly for John stands upon God's surety shown here as a "rock of refuge" (Ps 18:2; 71:3). John tells his followers, "*One mightier than me is coming*". In fact, this mightier one had arrived many years earlier in a manger in Bethlehem. He has done as John foretold and sent His Holy Spirit to inflame the faithful with grace. Jesus will come one last time, as we say in our creed, "*in glory to judge the living and the dead*". If we approach His coming earnestly, with anticipation and joy, rather than grudgingly, with apathy and sloth, then we show ourselves to be true disciples of sincere and expectant hope in God.

PARISH INFORMATION

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

In Person: Mon - Fri 9:45am – 4:00pm
Otherwise staff are in the office and available by telephone or email between these same hours Monday through Friday to assist you.

HANDY CONTACTS

Religious Education: 508-990-0287
Facilities Management: 508-441-1145
St. Vincent de Paul Society: SVdP@saintjulies.org
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[Rhonda@saintjulies.org]

Mr. Joe Martino, Parish Maintenance

[Joe@saintjulies.org]

Mr. Steven Guillotte, Business Manager & Pastoral Assistant [sng@saintjulies.org]

HOLY MASS

Sunday 7:30am, 9:00am & 11:00am

Saturday Vigil 4:30pm

Monday-Saturday 9:00am

Holy Days 9:00am & 6:00pm

CONFESSIONS

Wednesday 5:00-6:00pm

Saturday 8:00-9:00am

Saturday 3:30-4:30pm

Any Time by Appointment

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Wednesday 10:00am-6:00pm

Saturday 10:00am-3:00pm

The Baptism of the Lord - January 9, 2022

HOLY WATER FOR THE FEAST: This weekend we are putting out at the entrance of the church, bottles of holy water for families to take home with them after Mass. *We ask that each household take only one bottle.*

We offer these as part of today's celebration of the **Baptism of the Lord**. It is through Jesus, once anointed in the Jordan River, that the waters become holy by way of the blessing of the priest or deacon.

We all know the common practice of dipping our fingers in the font as we enter the church, making the Sign of the Cross to commemorate our baptism. Yet, as a sign of spiritual cleansing, holy water can be used at home against temptations and spiritual enemies and used in times of physical and emotional danger. As a "sacramental" (not a sacrament, which depends on a specific rite) the effective use of holy water depends on one's faith and prayerful petition to God. Holy water is not meant to be a magic-tincture, but rather a strength to the faithful in times of spiritual need.

Please keep your holy water in a respectful place such as near the sacred images you use as guides in your prayer. Use it to bless yourself and your children as a way to grow in pious devotion to your baptismal promises and to Christ Our Savior.

MASS INTENTIONS: We will open the Mass Book for the period of July through December 2022 **this Wednesday 12 January after the 9 am Mass**. At that time, parishioners will be able to schedule 3 Mass intentions (i.e. 1 weekend and 2 weekday). Those coming to the parish office that morning will be the first to schedule Masses that day. After this we will take Mass intentions over the telephone and by email. Once a few weeks have passed we will evaluate the total Mass intentions scheduled and make you aware of the availability of more Masses.

THIS WEEKEND'S READINGS AND GOSPEL: in the *Credo hymnal* are on **page 1055 through page 1057** (for the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord).

RESPITE CARE NEEDED: We recently received a communication from a parishioner who is the grandmother of a developmentally disabled 32 year old male who lives in the home of a foster care family. The foster caregivers are in need of two weeks respite and the grandmother of the adult male is seeking a loving family to provide care to him in their own home for a two week period.

The adult male is ambulatory. He understands and takes directions, but is non-verbal and needs physical assistance with many activities of daily living. Related caregiving experience is preferred for this respite care.

If you have such experience and are able to provide care in your home, please call Mary Caravana at 508-992-5316. She will be glad to answer any of your questions and assist you in the process.

Theology Presentations at SJB Parish

The theology presentation by Fr. Pignato scheduled for Wednesday, January 12, at 7:00 p.m. in the parish hall **has been postponed and rescheduled to February 9th**. The topic of this next presentation is "*Church and State: What Caesar Owes to God*." It will discuss the Church's teaching after Vatican II on the ideal relationship between the Church and the State. All are welcome to attend.

COAT DRIVE: The **Ladies Guild** will be collecting gently used men's and women's winter coats for distribution to Sister Rose and Grace House **the weekend of Jan. 15 & 16 before all Masses**. There is also a need for hand warmers at both shelters.

HAND KNIT SCARVES: We are collecting hand knit/crocheted scarves, hats, and mittens for the local homeless in a collection basket in the church entrance. We will periodically remove these items from the church entrance to deliver them to those in need. The collection will continue until January 30, 2022. Thank you for sharing your craftsmanship with the poor.

PLEASE PRAY FOR: Ronald and Mary-Ann (Ruge) Macomber who were married in our parish church on 1 January 2022 in a Mass celebrated for the Solemnity of the Mother of God. May the Lord bless their union as they strive forward together in a life of grace.

Parish Ladies Guild

THE SUNSHINE VOLUNTEER: through January 15th is Anne Fraga whom you can contact at 508-999-6519, if you would like us to send a note or card of encouragement to someone who has lost a loved one.

RUMMAGE SALE: We are using Facebook's Marketplace to sell items online. We are in need of higher value items (no clothes) in new or like-new condition. If you have any items to donate please first contact Robin at 508-994-8908 to see if it is something we could use.

JEWELRY DONATIONS: are being accepted and sold on "Poshmark" online. We thank you for donations of Costume, Fine, Vintage or Broken. Call Isabel 508-992-5464 for pickup. Please do not drop off items at the parish.

SVDP Food Collection

THE FOOD DONATION BIN: will be kept outside for winter near the north side entrance to the parish hall to provide a bit more shelter. Your food donations are appreciated by the *Solanus Casey Food Pantry* which is operated by Catholic Social Services in the Diocese of Fall River.

Of Sacraments by Steven N. Guillotte

There are Seven Sacraments in the Catholic Church. Most Catholics know this. Some may not. Many may be able to name all seven; others may not. It is vitally important though that all Catholics know the full Seven, not simply as an exercise of the religious mind, but as a daily practice of the prayerful soul.

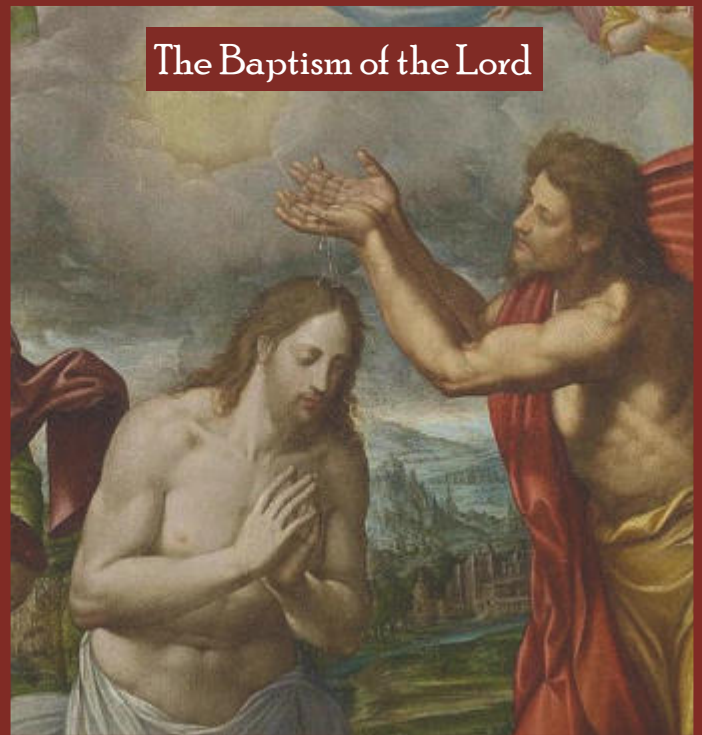
Equally as important as knowing that there are seven sacraments, is knowing what a sacrament is. A sacrament is “*a sensible sign, instituted by Christ, by which invisible and inward sanctification are communicated to the soul*” (Fr. John Hardon’s *Modern Catholic Dictionary - Catholic Culture*). We say “sensible” (not visible), since while we can see the water of Baptism, we primarily sense it when it touches the forehead, just as we do the chrism oil of Confirmation. We say “instituted by Christ” because Christ gave us these seven efficacious signs whilst He was personally present on earth and their efficacy rests solely on His merits. We say “communicated to the soul” because the Holy Spirit infuses us with strength and virtue through a spiritual conveyance. We say “invisible and inward” because what is conveyed is grace, an interior gift of the divine life, freely given. Finally, we say “sanctification” because we are made holy, not on our own power, but by grace, and only by grace.

Once we come to understand all the elements of a sacrament, we are ready to enter the *sacramental life*. At Baptism the Christian believer is initiated into the life of Christ, including His death and resurrection. All the other sacraments flow forth from this anointing of water (the *matter* or stuff of Baptism) accompanied by a blessing in the Holy Trinity (the *form* or formula of Baptism). Each sacrament after Baptism (e.g. Penance and Holy Communion) expands the sacramental life, thus broadening the life of grace just as one would broaden the flow of water by widening a crack in a dam.

It is important that every Catholic understands that the sacramental life is the ordinary way to heaven (i.e. as a participation in the divine life of Christ so instituted). This is because it is the way to ever greater sanctification, whereby the earnest and humble soul becomes ever more holy in the fruits of the Holy Spirit through the infused virtues of faith, hope, and love, and hence comes to greater resemblance to Christ. Sadly, a poor understanding of the sacramental life will always result in a proportional neglect of and indifference to grace itself.

Let us take marriage for instance. If a person consenting to a sacramental marriage fails to remember his consent, he neglects to cultivate a graceful union of mutual love with God and his wife. Failing in this, he may neglect grace entirely, and even if he has what he considers a “happy marriage” on earth, he may forfeit his matrimonial path to heaven.

All Catholics must know and understand the sacraments well, because they are all gifts toward eternal life.



The Baptism of the Lord

The Baptism of Christ
by Juan Navarrete (1567)

“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)

40 HOURS DEVOTION: This Friday, January 14th from 6 to 9 am, we will hold Eucharistic Adoration in our church as part of Bishop da Cunha’s effort to increase devotion to the Holy Eucharist within the parishes. The full schedule for the 40 Hours is posted in the church entrance. Our Bishop’s intentions for this devotion are an end to COVID and a fruitful diocesan synod phase.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 9, 2022

Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/Acts 10:34-38/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22 or, Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 [1]/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22
Monday: 1 Sm 1:1-8/Ps 116:12-13, 14-17, 18-19/Mk 1:14-20
Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Mk 1:21-28
Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Mk 1:29-39
Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/Mk 1:40-45
Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19/Mk 2:1-12
Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 2:13-17
Next Sunday: Is 62:1-5/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10 [3]/1 Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-11

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