



The Baptism of the Lord January 9, 2022



Parish Staff

Father Joseph Upton, *Pastor*
Deacon John Pryor, *Deacon Assistant*
Anne-Marie Ring, *Office Manager*
Carolyn Mello Pryor, *Faith Formation*
Victoria Costa, *Music Minister*
Rob Whitaker, *Cemeteries & Facilities*

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Parish Office

645 Main Street
Warren, RI 02885
Mondays-Thursdays 9am-12nn

New Members

If you are new to our parish, please take a moment to register through our parish website or by phone. Welcome!

Mass Schedule

Monday through Friday at 8am
Saturday at 4pm
Sunday at 8am & 10:30am
Sabbath@Sundown Sunday evening
Mass at 6pm

Confessions

Confessions are heard in the Reconciliation Chapel at the rear of the church on Saturdays at 3pm or anytime by appointment. Please note that the chapel accommodates both anonymous and face-to-face confessions.

Baptisms

Baptisms are typically celebrated at one Sunday Mass per month. Please contact Deacon John Pryor at 401.245.7000, extension 14, for more information. Private baptisms may also be arranged.

Weddings

Please call the parish office to discuss wedding preparations at least one year in advance of the intended date.

SMB Mountain Movers

Milly Grieve, *Coordinator of Children's Ministries*
Email: smbmountainmovers@gmail.com

SMB Food Pantry

The Food Pantry operates out of the lower church hall and is open on Tuesdays from 3pm to 5pm and on Wednesdays from 9am to 11am.
Wendy Baker, *Director*
Phone: 401.245.7000, ext. 19
Email: smbfoodpantry@gmail.com

Parish Outreach

Parishioners and members of the local community in need should contact the rectory for assistance.
Phone: 401.245.7000, ext. 13

St. Gabriel's Call

St. Gabriel's Call provides emotional and practical support to families in need, including diapers, baby clothing and much more.
Barbara Fisher, *Coordinator*
Phone: 401.245.7000, ext. 20

Welcome to Saint Mary of the Bay

No matter what your present status is in the Catholic Church, no matter your current family or marital status, no matter your personal history, age, income, background, gender, race, ethnicity or spirituality, no matter your own self-image of holiness or virtue, you are welcome here! You are invited, accepted and respected at Saint Mary of the Bay. We hope to share our Roman Catholic way of faith and life in Christ with you!



Mass Intentions

The Baptism of the Lord

Saturday, January 8

4pm: Joan Rogers, 1st Anniversary
Requested by her children

Sunday, January 9

8am: Rev. Joseph Santos
10:30am: Joao DaCamara
Requested by Filomena & Richard, Elvis & Vanessa
6pm: For all parishioners

Wednesday, January 12

8am: Ferdinand J. Regina G. Thivierge

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, January 15

4pm: Deacon Robert W. Bambrick
Requested by Louise, Scott & Ali Marcus

Sunday, January 16

8am: Patrick McKenna, 38th Birthday Remembrance
Requested by his parents
10:30am: Vincent P. Lunney, Sr.
Requested by his family
6pm: Deacon Robert W. Bambrick
Requested by Louise, Scott & Ali Marcus



Padre's Ponderings

Dear Parishioners,

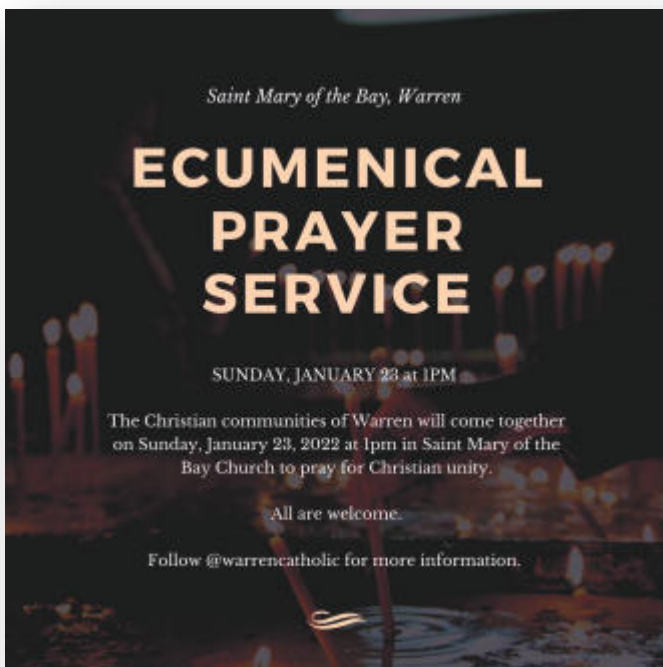
I hope you had a wonderful celebration of Christmas and I hope that the New Year is off to a good start! Thank you to all those who had any part in preparing for our Christmas liturgies. I am especially grateful to all those who participated in our living nativity, "Come to the Stable." Joy Jennings, whose monthly column appears in today's bulletin, did an outstanding job, along with the cast and our musicians. Thanks to Nat Squatrito for lending his talents with the camera. And a special word of thanks to the Holy Family: Rachel, Matt and baby Augustine. It was a very special Christmas season this year at SMB! And on a personal note, thank you to all who sent Christmas cards, gifts and treats to me and Deacon John!

In other news, Phil Beaulieu, who has selflessly served our parish community for thirty years, retired officially on December 31. I asked Phil to play the part of a shepherd in our living nativity because that is what Phil has been to this community. He has shepherded and guided our parish, often through trying and uncertain times. Whenever there was change and things were in flux, Phil always proved a constant. Phil, thank you on behalf of all those whose lives you've touched through your service to our community. For the countless things you've done—both seen and unseen—we are truly grateful. I hope that you'll join us next Sunday at the 10:30am Mass to honor Phil. We will gather in the church hall after Mass for a reception. Even if you can't make the Mass, please come to the reception afterward to thank Phil for his many years of faithful service.

Mark your calendars and plan on joining us for the Ecumenical Prayer Service on Sunday, January 23, at 1pm in the main church. We will welcome members of other Christian communities to SMB, so please make every effort to attend.

As we look ahead now to Lent, I want you to think about people in your life (or maybe yourself) who might be interested in learning more about membership in the Catholic Church or those who have not completed their sacramental initiation. I will be preparing individuals throughout Lent to be received formally into the Church or to complete their sacramental initiation at the Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 16, 2022. Please send those people my way! They can get in touch by email or by phone.

Until next week,



A Message from Phil Beaulieu...

To all the parishioners and priests of Saint Mary of the Bay and the former parish of Saint Jean Baptiste, it has been a privilege and an honor to serve this great parish community of Warren for thirty years. I will always be grateful to all who supported me through good times and bad. I have always tried to the best of my ability to take care of all the needs of the families from our parish and our cemeteries, especially in their time of need. As I now begin to start a new chapter in my wife's and my life, please always remember us in your prayers. I am only a phone call away if you need me. May God bless you all.

*Sincerely,
Phil*



Sanctuary Lamp

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn the week of January 16 in loving memory of:

Patrick McKenna

at the request of Katherine Gere.

If you would like to request that the sanctuary lamp burn in honor of a deceased loved one or for a special intention, please call the parish office.



Stewardship

Weekend of December 18 & 19, 2021

Budget Envelopes: \$5,628.00 Loose: \$1,703.00
Online: \$2,082.00
(Average Online Gift: \$49.57 Number of Users: 42)
Total: \$9,413.00

Christmas Collection: \$7,794.00

Weekend of December 26, 2021

Budget Envelopes: \$1,720.00 Loose: \$916.00
Online: \$687.00
(Average Online Gift: \$27.48 Number of Users: 25)
Total: \$3,323.00

Weekend of January 1 & 2, 2022

Budget Envelopes: \$5,224.00 Loose: \$1,354.00
Online: \$2,850.52
(Average Online Gift: \$54.82 Number of Users: 52)
Total: \$9,428.52

Thank you for your generosity!



Thank You!

Our Giving Tree this year was a great success! We delivered over 400 gifts to Saint Michael's and Saint Patrick's Churches in Providence. These included clothing, toys and gift cards for young and old. We also delivered gifts to Corliss for close to thirty adults. We also gave presents to DCYF for children in state, which included over 100 gifts of toys, clothing and gift cards. Gift cards were given the North American Family Institute located here in Warren. In addition to the Giving Tree, Parish Outreach assisted fourteen families with food and gift cards to purchase presents for Christmas. The Good Lord has blessed our parish with many generous people who helped to make this Christmas a very happy one for many families in our community and beyond. Thank you! -Phil Beaulieu

Sabbath@Sundown

Sunday Mass at 6pm in Saint Mary of the Bay
645 Main Street, Warren

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A Joyful Message



Many years ago, I found my first spiritual director. It took me a long time to find her, but with some persistent searching, I was encouraged to contact a Trappistine monastery in Wrentham, Massachusetts, which housed 49 cloistered nuns at the time. My letter of inquiry was eventually given to one of the founders of the monastery, who agreed to keep correspondence with me. The Trappistines are otherwise known as members of "The Cistercian Order of Strict Observance", and I did not expect anything more than a correspondence. Yet, through that strict monastic enclosure and through her letters, she was to swing open the contemplative doors of a boundless love for silence and scriptural reflection.

In her first brief letter to me, "Sister Anna" sent a bookmark that she had created herself. It was small and plain, but the personal handwriting and scripture passage she chose were exquisite:

*"In the morning, long before dawn,
he got up and left the house,
and went off to a lonely place and prayed there." Mk 1:35*

She signed the back of the bookmark: "He prays in you. Let's pray for each other." It was so simple, yet so profound, and that single bookmark became a guidepost for me on seeking solitude to develop an interior life of prayer. That was almost 40 years ago...why mention it now?

January in New England seems to be the perfect time for all of us to pause and be still, after the festivities of Christmas. Perhaps you don't like the cold, or perhaps you are simply tired from all the gaiety and gatherings of December, or perhaps another developing spike of Covid-19 has been your invitation to pull back in some interior manner, to see or to hear what gift is available to you in the quiet. This opportunity exists for all of us. Whatever it might be that calls us to slow down and take stock...let's listen to that. Can we find that place to pray, long before dawn, as "Sister Anna" and the Book of Mark offer for our consideration? In doing so, is it possible that we might find some measure of serenity?

I just finished reading "Fifty Days of Solitude" by Doris Grumbach. This journal was written by the author as an experiment, as she had an opportunity to spend 50 days entirely alone, during a winter at home on the coast of Maine. Would she be able to do it? With her television silent and her phone calls sent to messaging, she discovered much about herself and her time alone with the Great Alone. She wrote:

"When I prayed alone in the morning or evening, God seemed nearby or at least available to my unspoken words. Without the distractions of other persons, without the extraneous sounds of their voices and my own, I felt the presence of God...not a noisy landscape of the mind but a still life."

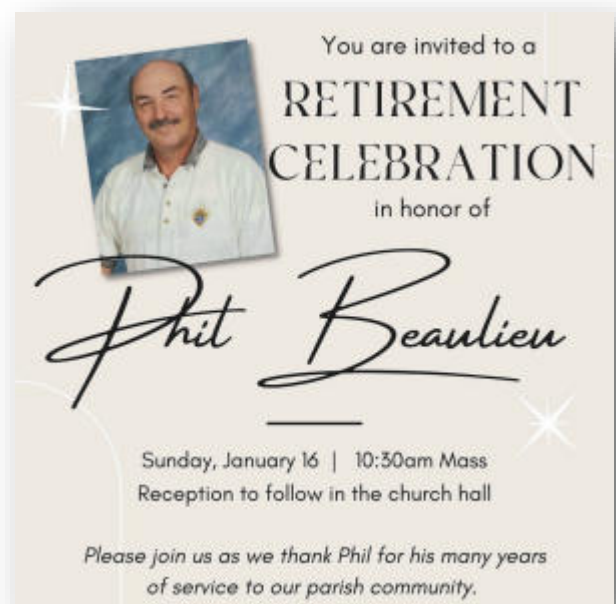
This sort of statement can pique our interest, yet it is so easy to delay the opportunity to take it slow, to seek out the quiet, and to find God waiting for us in the silence of our hearts. And yet, January and its promise of a new year seem to be ideally suited to this type of endeavor.

"Sister Anna" lived to be 97, and was a spiritual director and role model for me throughout many years when I was yearning for some guidance and companionship in my journey of soul. I still have her bookmark, which has gathered a smudge or two throughout the years, living deep inside the pages of many a book on prayer.

May you find some meaningful moments this January... within a quiet place, a silent space, where the Divine Presence is waiting for you.

Until next month,
Joy Jennings

P.S. After writing to "Sister Anna" for three years, I was allowed to meet with her monthly, for one hour per month, in the monastery's parlor...face-to-face...an unexpected grace!



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