

St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church

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THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD, JANUARY 9, 2022



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD



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 3:21-22a



"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

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)

GOSPEL MEDITATION The Baptism of the Lord

*"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.

Sign Up

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UPDATE BY GOING TO
www.route74catholics.org/email**

A Word from Fr. Chris

"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?

Fr. Chris Looby

COVID-19 PROTOCOL UPDATE

 Due to the on-going rise in COVID-19 infections, **effective Monday, December 13**, all indoor places, **including houses of worship**, must require all persons over the age of 2 (**except those unable to medically tolerate a face covering/mask**) to wear a face covering. Unvaccinated individuals continue to be responsible for wearing masks under **CDC directives AND socially distancing** while attending Mass.

 Please use the hand sanitizer located at all entrances and windows. **Those receiving Holy Communion are encouraged to receive communion in the hand.** The obligation to attend Sunday Mass does not apply to those who are sick or have weakened immune systems. For up-to-date diocesan, live-streamed Masses, and other information related to the Coronavirus please visit www.rcdony.org/covid-19. **Thank you all for your patience.**

SHARE THE NEWS...Please take a bulletin to a homebound friend or neighbor. If someone would like to receive our weekly bulletin, please contact the parish office, and we'll mail it out.

Visit formed.org and enter the parish access code NNF9T8 for quality Catholic content.

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Mass Intentions

MONDAY —JANUARY 10

ST. M. 9:00 AM

Anniversary's: William Wells and Katy Wells by Jackie

TUESDAY — JANUARY 11

O.L.L. 8:30 AM

Henry Roth by Bob & Brenda Flynn

WEDNESDAY — JANUARY 12

O.L.L. 8:30 AM

Therese & Rene Vaillancourt by the Fosella & Vaillancourt families

THURSDAY—JANUARY 13—*St. Hilary of Poitiers*

ST. M. 9:00 AM

NO MASS/SERVICE

FRIDAY—JANUARY 14

ST. M. 9:00 AM

Eddie Fabola by Richard & Alice Munson

SATURDAY—JANUARY 15

ST. M. 4:30 PM

For the People of the Parish

SUNDAY—JANUARY 16

ST.M. 9:00 AM

Patrick Vigliotti by the Vigliotti family

O.L.L. 11:00 AM

Bill Calmbacher by Our Lady of Lourdes Choir

St. Mary's Sanctuary Light

...will burn for two weeks in memory of **Louis LeFevre** by James

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE IS NOW AVAILABLE

ST. MARY'S COLLECTION

Enve..... 1/2/2022	\$4,435.00
Plate.....	\$ 274.00
	Total.....\$4,709.00
Christmas.....	\$4,718.00
12/26/2021.....	Total.....\$3,966.10

ATTENTION ENVELOPE USERS

The 2021 Giving Tax Statements will be sent out soon. Those who received Tax Statements last year will automatically receive one this year unless your envelopes have not been used. If you would like to be put on the Tax Statement list, please call the rectory office Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday by 2:00 pm.

ST. MARY'S CEMETERY IS CLOSED FOR THE WINTER MONTHS. PLEASE DO NOT DRIVE ON THE PROPERTY.

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**MEMORIAL CHRISMAS CANDLES WERE REQUESTED FOR:
Lawrence H. Matte by Rosemary**

A Point of Interest:

St. Hilary of Poitiers, Bishop and Doctor of the Church | 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.

Dear Members of St. Mary's Church Ticonderoga

Merry Christmas

Please receive prayerful greetings. I wish to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to you all for the many blessings God has given you. Thanks very much for your prayerful support and for everything.

It is again another season to give and show our friends and love ones, who through their generous support we continue responding to the call of the Lord. Please, be assured of my humble prayers for you and your family.

My prayer for you is that; as God sent the angel Gabriel to announce the good news to the Blessed Virgin Mary, may the same good news be announced to you. Let us continue to ask the Lord to heal the whole world from this Coronavirus.

Wishing you a blessed and a spirit filled Christmas, good health and many blessings in the years ahead. Merry Christmas and a Happy new Year!

**Yours in Christ,
Fr. Severinus**



PRAYER REQUESTS

... for all those who are sick or suffering in any way, especially: Claire Brown, Thomas Curtis, Marge McNeil, Marie Denno Murray, Tony Dettori, Art Hatfield, Ryun Grey, Jerry Peeters, Josh Ross, Katie Ernst, Dominick Osier, Deacon William Lenhart, Ron Drinkwine, Jen Merriam, Meredith Green, Leo Tringale, John teRiele, Dick LaBounty, Darby McLaughlin, Earl Barber, Jr., Pat Carroll, Jim Guyette, Juli Hall, Charlotte Belden, Wendy Shaw, Whitney Anderson, Mollie Woods, Pryce Brandt, Sue Huestis, Mason Charles Carr, Tommy Moore, Mary LaBounty, Kim Allinger, Tammy Morse, Sarah Diehl McLaughlin, Chris Ross, Bev Hutchinson, Andrew St. Pierre, Cindy Archibald, Lydia McLaughlin, Gene Wesley Peter Ross, Rebecca Gallagher, Joshua Connor, all those in the Nursing Home and those recuperating at home.

BAPTISM OF THE LORD



THE LORD'S LAUGHTER:

A businessman ordered flowers to be sent to the opening of his friend's new branch office. When the businessman got to the event, he was shocked to see the flowers with the inscription "Rest in Peace." He was so outraged that he stopped at the florist to complain. "It could be worse," the florist said, "Just think: Today someone was buried beneath a floral arrangement with the inscription 'Congratulations on Your New Location!'"

One Sunday our priest announced he was passing out miniature crosses made of palm leaves. "Put this cross in the room where your family argues most," he advised. "When you look at it, the cross will remind you that God is watching." As I was leaving church, the woman in front of me walked up to the priest, shook his hand, and said, "I'll take five."

Weekly Reflections:

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