

165 BETHANY ROAD  
HOLMDEL, NEW JERSEY 07733

732-264-4712 PARISH  
732-264-5578 SCHOOL

**JANUARY 10, 2021**

**THE BAPTISM  
OF THE LORD**

**Readings for the week of  
January 10, 2021**

**Sunday:** Is 42:1-4, 6-7/  
Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10/  
Acts 10:34-38/Mk 1:7-11 or  
Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 /  
1 Jn 5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11

**Monday:** Heb 1:1-6/  
Ps 97:1 and 2b, 6 and 7c, 9/  
Mk 1:14-20

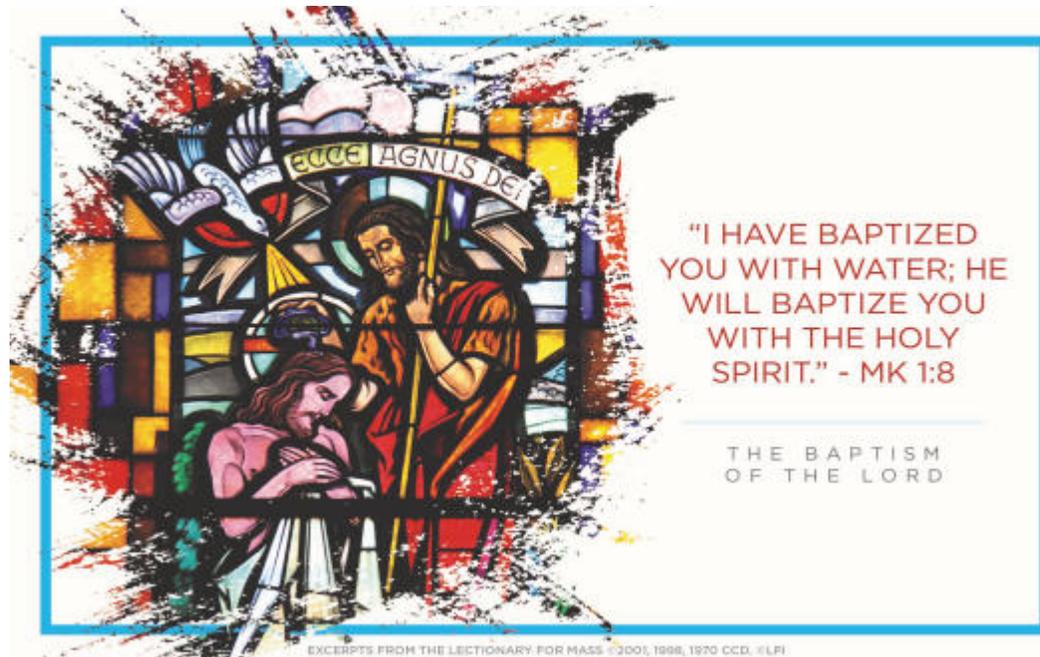
**Tuesday:** Heb 2:5-12/  
Ps 8:2ab, 5-9/ Mk 1:21-28

**Wednesday:** Heb 2:14-18/  
Ps 105:1-4, 6-9/Mk 1:29-39

**Thursday:** Heb 3:7-14/  
Ps 95:6-7c, 8-11/Mk 1:40-45

**Friday:** Heb 4:1-5, 11/  
Ps 78:3, 4bc, 6c-8/ Mk 2:1-12

**Saturday:** Heb 4:12-16/  
Ps 19:8-10, 15/Mk 2:13-17



**"I HAVE BAPTIZED  
YOU WITH WATER; HE  
WILL BAPTIZE YOU  
WITH THE HOLY  
SPIRIT." - MK 1:8**

THE BAPTISM  
OF THE LORD

EXCERPTS FROM THE LECTIONARY FOR MASS ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LFI



**BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF TRENTON**  
MOST REVEREND DAVID M. O'CONNELL, C.M.

**PASTOR**

Rev. Garry Koch

**PAROCHIAL VICAR**

Rev. John Michael Patilla

**DEACONS**

John L. Clymore  
Richard L. Morris  
Raymond R. Pelkowski  
Stephen G. Scott  
Paul A. Remick-Deacon Intern

**TEMPORARY MASS SCHEDULE**

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday: 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.  
Monday - Friday: 9:00 a.m.

**RECONCILIATION**

Monday, Wednesday, Friday  
following the 9:00 a.m. Mass  
and by appointment

**PARISH OFFICE**

Office Hours: Monday to Friday  
9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.  
Sunday 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
Voice: 732/264-4712  
Fax: 732/264-9080

Email: [parishoffice@stbenedictnj.org](mailto:parishoffice@stbenedictnj.org)

Mr. Bob Cognat,  
Facilities Manager

email: [cognat@stbenedictnj.org](mailto:cognat@stbenedictnj.org)

Mrs. Francine DeMuria,  
Office of Temporal Administration  
email: [finance@stbenedictnj.org](mailto:finance@stbenedictnj.org)

Mrs. Margaret Roddy,  
Pastoral Minister for  
Church Management  
and Sacrament Coordination  
email: [roddy@stbenedictnj.org](mailto:roddy@stbenedictnj.org)

Mrs. Lori Ulrich,  
Director of Marketing and  
Event Management  
email: [ulrich@stbenedictnj.org](mailto:ulrich@stbenedictnj.org)

**ST. BENEDICT SCHOOL**

Mr. Kevin Donahue, Principal  
email: [kdonahue@stbenedictnj.org](mailto:kdonahue@stbenedictnj.org)

EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 1, 2020

YOUTUBE LIVE STREAMING OF  
ST. BENEDICT CHURCH MASSES  
MONDAY-FRIDAY 9AM  
SUNDAY 9:30AM

[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)  
Channel: St. Benedict Holmdel



**Year of St. Joseph**



**OUR LADY OF VICTORY  
ADORATION CHAPEL**

Please consider joining us  
as an Adorer.  
Contact Kathy 732/739-3381 for  
more information.



**PARISH REGISTRATION**  
Registration forms are available in the parish office and on  
our website at [stbenedictholmdel.org](http://stbenedictholmdel.org)



Like us on Facebook @  
St. Benedict Church and School  
Follow us on Twitter @stbensholmdel





### FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Fellow Parishioners of St. Benedict:

Today, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, marks the end of the Christmas Season on our liturgical calendar. Now begins the short, yet important preparation for the coming Lenten Season, which begins on Ash Wednesday (February 17<sup>th</sup>). Given the pandemic restrictions we do not yet know what Ash Wednesday will look like, but I am sure that it will be much different than times past.

Father JM and I wish to express our deepest gratitude for your generosity to us both personally, and to the parish, during this past Christmas Season. We are always awed by your thoughtfulness and generosity to us. Thank you for thinking of us and including us on your card and gift list. Of course, the most important gift is that of prayer and intentions at Mass. Please be assured that we remember each of you in our prayers and our Mass Intentions.

We would also like to thank you for your generosity to the parish during this Christmas Season. Certainly with the smaller number of people who attended Christmas Masses the collection is not close to what it would normally be, we do still appreciate all that you have done and continue to do for us. Likewise, several people have contributed to the call for air purification systems for the parish grounds, and we are moving forward with that project in phases. Even after this pandemic is over we should be proactive against other viruses, pathogens, and allergens that waft through the air.

January is a busy month in the world of the church. Pope Francis has designated this year (Dec 8, 2020 – Dec 8, 2021) as the Year of Saint Joseph. As a parish we will be focusing on a different title/patronage of Saint Joseph each month. We have been observing a “Saint of the Month” over the past couple of years. This year each month will highlight Saint Joseph under a specific title. We will also do some faith formation programming around St. Joseph. Saint Joseph, patron of the Universal Church, is the silent member of the Holy Family, and our “advocate and guide.”

As January 22<sup>nd</sup> marks the forty-eighth anniversary of the Supreme Court ruling on Roe v. Wade, and with increasing threats to the sanctity of life within our society, especially of the pre-born, Bishop O’Connell is asking us to pray a Novena to Saint Joseph each day from January 14<sup>th</sup> (this Thursday) until the 22<sup>nd</sup>. You can find the Novena prayer further on in the bulletin. The bishops of New Jersey are asking that we observe Friday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> as a Day of Fasting and Abstinence for the end to abortion. We are also being challenged to pray a daily Rosary throughout the month for an end to abortion.

Once again, and in response to some questions – the Vatican has clearly indicated that taking the Covid vaccine, especially those produced by Pfizer and Moderna, pose no moral risk to us. Please treat it as a closed issue without the need to parse through other materials. Bishop O’Connell has reaffirmed the Vatican pronouncement and so we should all feel comfortable taking this vaccine.

Blessings and peace,  
Father Garry

### THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Due to current Covid restrictions we have adjusted our regular baptism schedule. Please contact Margaret Roddy at 732/264-4712 ext. 17 or [roddy@stbenedictnj.org](mailto:roddy@stbenedictnj.org) to make arrangements for your child’s baptism.

### THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY MATRIMONY

Catholics have the duty to receive the Sacrament of Matrimony in a church. Please make contact with the parish office at least one year prior to your intended marriage date to begin the preparation process. This includes attendance at a Pre-Cana Conference and several sessions with our Marriage Minister.

If you are presently in a civil marriage and desire to receive the Sacrament and enter into a valid Catholic marriage, please make contact with the parish office. We offer direction and assistance on receiving an annulment for those who are divorced and re-married. Please do not hesitate to call – the process is generally less difficult or cumbersome than imagined. Please call Lori McCahill, Director of Marriage Ministry at 732/264-4712 ext. 27 or [mccahill@stbenedictnj.org](mailto:mccahill@stbenedictnj.org)

### MINISTRY TO THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND

Parishioners who are ill or unable to get about are often the most neglected and in need. Please make contact with the parish office for any of the following ministries or services:

*Anointing of the Sick* – the priests will visit the persistently homebound at least twice per year but are available to come to your home anytime that there is a health crisis or a deteriorating condition. Please do not wait until the person is in the final stages of life – except for an emergency – to call for a priest.

*Reception of Holy Communion* – if a homebound parishioner would like to receive Holy Communion, please make contact with the parish office.

*Hospital Nursing Homes* – please call the office if a parishioner or a loved one is at Bayshore Community Hospital or has been moved into a local nursing home so that we can tend to the pastoral needs. For family members hospitalized outside of the area the in-house chaplaincy services can tend to the immediate needs. One of the priests will pay a visit as requested.

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH

*Help for People with Medicare (SHIP)* - SHIP is a State Health Insurance Program that provides FREE, objective, confidential help to Medicare beneficiaries who have problems or questions with Medicare, Medigap, Medicare Advantage Plans, Part D and Long-Term Care. Please call Lorrie McGee, Pastoral Minister for Community Outreach at 732/264-4712 ext. 37 or [mcgee@stbenedictnj.org](mailto:mcgee@stbenedictnj.org).

**FIVE THINGS to REMEMBER about In-Church Masses ...**

1. **Dispensation from Sunday Mass obligation** remains in effect for all Catholics of the Diocese.
2. **Diocesan Directives** posted to [DioceseofTrenton.org/coronavirus](http://DioceseofTrenton.org/coronavirus) remain in effect.
3. **Masks** (properly worn) are required.
4. **Social distancing** must be observed.
5. **Occupancy limits** will be enforced.

Information published by the Diocese of Trenton



**Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup>**

5:00 p.m. **James P. Benson** req. His Wife Jeanette  
**Marie Testa**  
req. Clergy, Staff and Parishioners of St. Benedict

**Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>**

*Baptism of the Lord*

8:00 a.m. **Pro Populo<sup>1</sup>**  
9:30 a.m. **Antonio Saliba** req. St. Benedict Ushers  
11:00 a.m. **Frank Capogrosso** req. James and Jenny Pietrofesa

**Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 a.m. **George Rebeiz** req. The Chivi Family

**Tuesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 a.m. **Jack Lietz** req. Lorrie McGee

**Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>**

*St. Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church*

9:00 a.m. **Daniel, Charlotte and Dylan Vassallo**  
req. The Vassallo Family  
**Dianne Cavallaro** req. The Vassallo Family  
**Adam Quinones** req. Mom and Dad  
**Anne Lyons Glanzman** req. The Armstrong Family  
**Jack Lietz** req. The DeMuria Family  
**Beverly Kiely** req. Barbara Jelagin  
**Mr. and Mrs. Ed Engelhardt\*** req. The Quinones Family  
*\*Living Intention*

**Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 a.m. **Jack Lietz** req. The McNally Family  
**Al Bennett**  
req. Clergy, Staff and Parishioners of St. Benedict  
**Susan Dunn** req. Anthony Valentino and Melanie Paccillo  
**Mary Regan** req. Jay and Wini Guage  
**Alfonso Gomez** req. The Rundbaker Family  
**Eileen Conway**  
req. Clergy, Staff and Parishioners of St. Benedict

**Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 a.m. **Ricco Rios** req. The Rios Family

**Saturday, January 16<sup>th</sup>**

5:00 p.m. **Audrey Mooney** req. Jay and Wini Guage  
**Jean Vella** req. Thérèse Flanagan

**Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup>**

*Second Sunday in Ordinary Time*

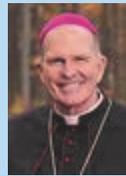
8:00 a.m. **Pro Populo**  
9:30 a.m. **Jean Vella** req. The Flanagan Family  
11:00 a.m. **Carmen Juri** req. Vivian Zeik-Lund

*Please remember in your prayers all those whose names are listed in our Prayer Intention Book*



*Pasqualino Lombardi  
Glenn Flood  
Salvatore Carbone  
Salvatore DiNapoli*

1. *For the People of St. Benedict*



**Bishop David M. O'Connell, C.M.,**

As the new year begins, there are many issues in society that challenge our Catholic moral and social teachings. Opposition to abortion remains our “pre-eminent priority.” During the month of January when we acknowledge the 48<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fateful Supreme Court Roe v. Wade decision,

I invite the clergy and faithful of the Diocese of Trenton to join one another in a common prayerful response: (1) pray the rosary daily for the rest of the month for an end to abortion in our country; (2) pray the newly created “Novena to St. Joseph” to end abortion which can be found on page 8 from January 14<sup>th</sup> through 22<sup>nd</sup>; (3) pray and fast to end abortion on the actual anniversary date, January 22<sup>nd</sup>. As a Diocese, as parishes, let us pray for an end to abortion, for the legal protection of the unborn and in thanksgiving to God for the gift of human life. Thank you. *Bishop O'Connell*



**January 10, 2021  
The Baptism of the Lord**

We need history. We need it in order to understand ourselves, personally and collectively. The pieces of our histories may not have always been the most positive, honest, exemplary, dignified, proud and best moments of our lives, but they are ours. We have to acknowledge, remember, accept, and often heal them. We cannot forget them or pretend that they never existed. As horrible as the atrocities of events like Auschwitz, brutal injustices committed throughout the human journey, or personal painful experiences in our own stories, we need to remember. These times when humanity in general or people in particular have lost their way are times that need to be reconciled and redeemed.

If we lose the memories, we will make the same mistakes again. The human soul needs a strong sense of affirmation, direction, and clear purpose. Without these essentials, we will easily run amuck and repeat the sins of our past. God’s voice throughout history has spoken precisely about this! We are reminded through the voices and example of many prophets and witnesses not to make the same mistakes again, come back to center, discover the purpose given to us by God, maintain a sense of proper direction, seek healing for wounds and be reconciled to our Creator.

Baptism is so incredibly important for the salvation of humankind, not only eternally but here and now. Our existence depends upon it. It gives us the affirmation we need from God by gifting us with the same intimate relationship Jesus had with the Father. We are blessed with the direction and clear purpose we need in order to be productive stewards and faithful Christians. Baptism calls us to remember, accept, and deal with the sins and inequities of our past regardless of how hurtful and serious. We consciously choose to turn away from them and put on the new life of Christ. To do this well, we must look hard and long at our sins and failings, listen to what they are saying and learn from them. If we ignore the past, collectively or personally, or pretend that it never happened, we will never grow. We will surely die.

People need to hear the message, lived and spoken, delivered by the baptized members of the Body of Christ. It is an essential message of hope that is layered with visions of justice, peace, reconciliation, redemption, blessing, and healing. It is a message that helps us remember what has gone before, the graces and the sins, and bring ourselves by God’s help where we need to be. We are called to do much more than sit home behind our closed doors. We have a message to deliver. Are we ready to do so?

## St. Benedict Church Bulletin

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Father Garry is pleased to announce that St. Benedict has received over \$98,615 in pledges for the Annual Catholic Appeal. Our goal is \$95,000. Since our Parish goal has been reached 50% of subsequent donations will be returned to St. Benedict in a parish rebate. **If you have yet to make your gift, pledge forms are available at the doors of the Church.**

## THE ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL – IN ACTION!

### Evangelization

Each parish is unique and offers religious education in ways that meet the needs of over 40,000 students in the local community. Some program structures are very traditional; others are innovative. Over 600 adults in various stages of formation were brought to full initiation with the Church in our diocese last year. Many opportunities for the enrichment of faith are found in events and activities in parishes throughout the diocese, such as Bible Study, parish missions, lecture series, and online learning. These ministries help with adult faith enrichment by providing support for parish leaders and access to resources. Your gift, in essence, builds up our Catholic faith. Together in Mission is a tool within our Diocese that has been created to help pastors, parish clergy and staff, parish ministry leaders and families become more intentional about evangelizing at every phase of life. Your gift supports this innovative tool which impacts the real lives of Catholics growing in faith.

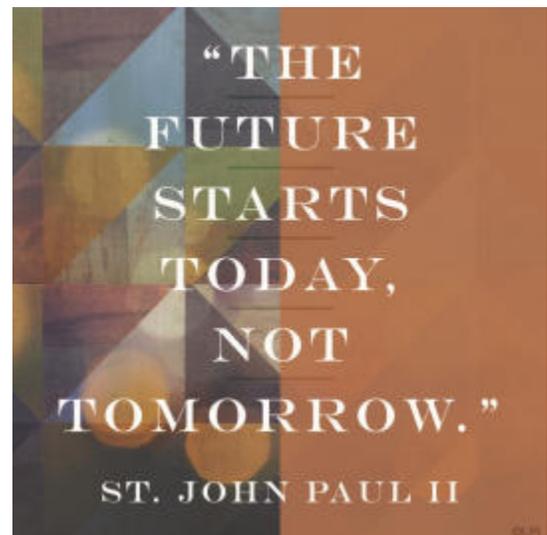
## St. Benedict Catholic Church Memorial Mass Society



For a suggested donation of \$20 those who are enrolled in the Memorial Mass Society will benefit from Masses to be celebrated on Twelve First Saturday's. A book with the names of all those enrolled will be placed near the altar for the Memorial Mass. The names of first time enrollees will be read at the first Mass in which they are remembered. When requesting enrollment in the Memorial Mass Society a blue padded Mass Card will be provided for presentation to the family of the deceased.

### MEMORIAL OPPORTUNITIES

If you would like to memorialize the Altar Bread and Wine, Altar Flowers or Sanctuary candle in honor/memory of a loved one for one week, please contact the parish office. If you would like to memorialize one or all of the candles in our Lady of Victory Adoration Chapel in honor/memory of a loved one for one week, please contact the parish office. All intentions will be listed in the bulletin.



**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS-CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

Three meetings are held weekly: Monday 8:00 p.m., Tuesday 6:30 p.m. and Friday 5:45 p.m. Meetings are held in the Choir room.

**MERCIFUL SAVIOR PRAYER GROUP-CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

The St. Benedict Merciful Savior Prayer Group meets every Monday (except when a holiday falls on a Monday) at 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel. For further information, please call Sal and Janice Alagona at 732/264-5744 or Geri Ventura at 732/566-6642.

**MUSIC MINISTRY**

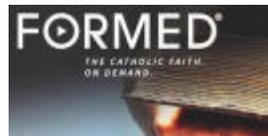
The Contemporary Choir sings every Sunday at 11:00 a.m. Mass. The Youth Choir sings at the 9:30 a.m. Mass on the second and fourth Sundays. The Teen Choir sings at the 5:00 p.m. Mass on the third Saturday. For information about the Contemporary Choir, please contact Tom O'Brien, Choir Director at [thomasobrienjr1@gmail.com](mailto:thomasobrienjr1@gmail.com). For information about the Youth Choir or Teen Choir, please contact Ellen Remick, Choir Director at [remick@stbenedictnj.org](mailto:remick@stbenedictnj.org)

**PRAYER INTENTION GROUP-CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

The Prayer Intention Group will meet on the second Tuesday of each month after the 9:00 a.m. Mass in the Chapel to pray for one another's special intentions.

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY-**

The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets on alternate Tuesday mornings to knit or crochet shawls for those who are ill or have lost a loved one. If you would like a shawl for someone or would like to join us on Tuesdays, please call Caroline Cattani at 732/241-5150.



St. Benedict has a gift for you, that gift is a subscription to **FORMED**, a wonderful website that has been called a "Catholic Netflix." Discover the best Catholic content in one place.

Entertaining movies, enlightening programs, inspiring talks and audio dramas a great selection of popular e-books-all just a click away! Go to **FORMED.org** and register with our parish code **HHNG3M**. Share it with your friends!

**Check <https://leaders.formed.org/> for inspirational resources for Faith Formation in January 2021.**



**Catholic Brain for Children**

Catholic Brain St. Benedict code: **STB19535**

**PARISH COUNSELING SERVICES**

A joint effort of the Diocese of Trenton and Catholic Charities provides licensed professionals for short term counseling (up to 6 sessions) to parishioners dealing with difficult issues, for example, job-stress, family concerns and bereavement. Contact your pastor or parish priest for additional information and referral. The fee is \$90 per session, but, if needed, financial assistance is available through the Diocese of Trenton Parish Counseling Services.

**Our Promise to Protect**

The Diocese of Trenton is committed to the initiatives outlined in the U.S. Bishop's Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People in regard to the reporting and investigation of sexual abuse allegations involving minors. If you have been sexually abused as a minor by a member of the clergy or anyone representing the Catholic Church, or if you know of someone who was, you can report that abuse through the diocesan Abuse Hotline: 1/888-296-2965 or [abuseline@dioceseoftrenton.org](mailto:abuseline@dioceseoftrenton.org).



Mr. Kevin Donahue, *Principal*  
email: [kdonahue@stbenedictnj.org](mailto:kdonahue@stbenedictnj.org)

Mrs. Christine Keeling, *Vice Principal*  
email: [keeling@stbenedictnj.org](mailto:keeling@stbenedictnj.org)

Mrs. Monica Hurni, *Administrative Assistant*  
email: [hurni@stbenedictnj.org](mailto:hurni@stbenedictnj.org)

Mrs. Pat Tobino, *Administrative Assistant*  
email: [tobino@stbenedictnj.org](mailto:tobino@stbenedictnj.org)



**CELEBRATE CATHOLIC  
SCHOOLS WEEK 2021**  
January 31 - February 6  
**#CSW21**

**SCRIP**

*Store/Gift cards*

The SCRIP Program provides an opportunity for school families to earn tuition credit by purchasing gift cards for supermarkets, retailers, restaurants, travel destinations, hotels, service providers and more. The list of cards we carry is on the Counter Sales Form. Any other cards available through SCRIP can be ordered using the SCRIP Order Form. Both forms can be printed from the SBS website under the SCRIP tab or the Forms tab. Payment for these cards are made with a check or cash at time of purchase or order. For additional information please contact Lorrie McGee at [mcgee@stbenedictnj.org](mailto:mcgee@stbenedictnj.org) or by phone 732-264-4712 ext. 37.



Lord Jesus, Son of the Eternal Father and Mary Immaculate, give to our young people the generosity necessary to follow your call, and the courage required to overcome all obstacles to their vocation. Give to parents that faith, love, and spirit of sacrifice which will inspire them to offer their children to God's service, and to rejoice whenever one of their children is called to the priesthood or religious life. May your example and that of your Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph, encourage both young people and parents to let your grace sustain them.

Amen.

Living

- Fr. Stanley Lukaszewski
Fr. Michael Lynch
Fr. Vincente Magdaraog
Fr. Thomas Maher

Seminarian-William Clingerman

Discerning-Adam

Deceased

- Fr. Joseph R. Hughes
Msgr. John J. Enderbrock
Fr. John R. O'Connor
Fr. Walter Greene
Msgr. Zenon Lesniowski
Msgr. Joseph C. Urban
Fr. Charles A. Bulla
Fr. Andrew Szostakowski
Fr. Marcellino Romagno
Fr. Francis X. Langan
Fr. J. Paul Butler
Fr. Edmond J. Gonch



Wondering who to talk to? Did you know Father Garry and Father JM serve on our Diocesan Vocation team? Call or make an appointment and they would be happy to answer any questions.

Email: Father Garry Koch frgarry@stbenedictnj.org
Father JM Patilla frjohn@stbenedictnj.org



The Knights of Columbus is the world's foremost Catholic Fraternal Benefit Society. It also maintains a highly rated insurance company with attractive rates for its members and their families. If you are interested in joining you may pick up a prospect card at the church entrance, fill it out and drop it in the collection box. Or send an email to lindgerry39@gmail.com to have the prospect card sent to you. Complete information about the Knights of Columbus and insurance programs is available at KofC.org.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST
Sunday, January 17th
Serving from 8:45 - 11 am
\$6 Adults • \$5 Kids • \$18 Family
St. Benedict Church
165 Bethany Rd. • Holmdel
Masks & Social Distancing Required
Presented by Knights of Columbus • Council 11349

Family Rosary



The Knights of Columbus will recite the next Family Rosary on Saturday, January 30th beginning at 4:30 p.m. and will continue every last Saturday of each month. Parishioners attending the Vigil Mass are encouraged to arrive early to participate.

All are welcome.

Knight's Prayer



Our Lady, Queen of the Knights, bless all the activities of our Order. Keep us true to our pledge, to extend the kingship of thy divine son on earth. Through Thine intercession, win for us the grace, ever to exemplify in our public and private lives, the virtues that should characterize those especially dedicated to the service of the heavenly court. Make us always aware that as your Knights, we are constantly observed, our faith judged, and our Order appreciated. Accept, O Mary, this renewed pledge of fealty and devotion, of Thy Servants, the Knights of Columbus.



Respect Life News

November 24, (LiveActionNews) - A proposed bill put forward by two Arkansas lawmakers would ban all abortions in the state except those committed to save the life of the mother. Under the proposed bill, a doctor or anyone who commits or attempts to commit an abortion could face a fine of up to \$100,000 or 10 years in jail. "It is the intent of this subchapter to ensure that abortion in Arkansas is abolished and protect the lives of unborn children," reads the bill. The Family Council believes this bill — if passed — could threaten Roe v. Wade. "S.B. 6 will give the U.S. Supreme Court the opportunity to overturn Roe v. Wade," Family Council President Jerry Cox said in a statement. "Family Council fully supports the passage of this good law. This is an opportunity for Arkansas to be a real leader in the effort to end abortion in America." He added that "Arkansans are overwhelmingly pro-life" and recent public polling shows 23% of Arkansans think abortion should be entirely illegal, while 59% believe it should be legal only under certain circumstances. Current Arkansas law states that abortion may only be committed after 20 weeks in cases involving rape or incest, or to save the health or life of the mother. Additional laws include requiring parental consent before an abortion, a ban on telemedicine abortion, and a 72-hour waiting period with state-directed counseling before an abortion. A law passed in February 2019 will automatically outlaw abortion in the state in the event that Roe v. Wade is overturned or an amendment is adopted that gives states the authority to prohibit abortions. Another law signed in March 2019 would have banned abortion after 18 weeks except in cases of medical emergencies or rape or incest; however, a judge blocked that law from taking effect.

Healing the Wounds of Abortion

Rachel's Vineyard is a weekend retreat that offers wounded parents an opportunity to walk with Christ through the complex circumstances that led to abortion, as well as the devastating aftermath. Rachel's Vineyard also provides a blessed opportunity for parents to begin processing their grief, and to memorialize their children. There is no judgment. There is just an atmosphere of fellowship, compassion, and healing. If an abortion is impacting you, remember that God loves you, just as much as He loves your child. If you would like to experience a weekend of God's love and mercy for yourself, please contact Judy Warenkiewicz at 732-536-6871.

All inquiries are strictly confidential.



A social ministry, SVDP provides spiritual, food distribution, emergency financial and other services to those in need. For assistance, please call 732-264-4712 ext. 33 and leave a message.

Your call will be returned.

Please do not leave a message for financial assistance on the Emergency line.

For questions or to volunteer please contact Bill Casey-billy.casey@hotmail.com.

Food Pantry

The St. Benedict Food Pantry is open on Wednesdays ONLY from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. until further notice.

Please wear a mask.

Food Pantry Items Needed:

Below is a suggested list of items needed for our Food Pantry, however all donations are welcome.

- Diapers (all sizes)
Baby Wipes,
Coffee/Tea
Soup
Shampoo
Laundry Detergent
Toilet Tissue
Baby Food (stages 2/3)
Children's cereal
Juice
Soap
Toothpaste and Toothbrushes
Dish Detergent

When donating please check expiration dates as we cannot accept expired items.

SCRIP

The St. Vincent DePaul Society provides assistance for the less fortunate. Parishioners are asked to use the SCRIP envelopes, available in the parish office and make a donation toward the purchase of a supermarket gift card.

SCRIP envelopes can be placed in the collection basket at the entrance of the Church or at the Parish Office.

We are grateful to all who kindly make donations throughout the year. Your kindness puts food on tables!

Catholic Charities News



Community Services is Catholic Charities' link to parishes in the Trenton diocese. Serving families in crises, we provide food, mortgage, rent and utilities assistance, temporary housing, counseling, and immigration services. To learn more about Catholic Charities Community Services visit our YouTube presentation. Click on: https://youtu.be/-r8YRyPCIY4 Anyone needing assistance, please contact Catholic Charities at 800-360-7711

**NOVENA TO ST. JOSEPH TO END ABORTION**

(January 14-22, 2021)

*St. Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church and Guardian of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Child Jesus, the Son of God whom she carried in her Immaculate womb: intercede for us, we pray, that all recourse to abortion might cease in our nation and our world. As you cared for Mother and Child, care for all women who bear the gift of life in their womb. May no harm ever endanger them and may no choice ever threaten the blessing of human life that God has created within. Guard them with your loving protection, at every moment, until His will has been fulfilled. St. Joseph, spouse of Mary and foster father of the Lord, help us build a culture of life that yields a civilization of love among us.*

Say the "Our Father," the "Hail Mary" and the "Glory be" after the novena prayer.



**Found in Church**

One gold earring with precious stones.  
Please contact the parish office.

**Year of St Joseph**



Artist: Anton Raphael Mengs  
Created: 1773-1774

In the Gospel of Matthew, the apostle relates: "And when [the wise men] were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him." (Matt. 2:13.)

In 1773 Mengs was granted the privilege of hanging his portrait in the Florence gallery of artists' portraits founded by Giorgio Vasari in the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century. Allegedly, he chose the spot himself: having been celebrated as "the new Raphael", he promptly placed his portrait beneath the one of the great Italian painter. In 1745 Mengs had become Saxon court painter in Dresden but spent a great deal of his time in Rome. There, along with Winckelmann, he became one of the founders of Classicism and in the view of his admirers helped to supersede the decadent Baroque. In 1773/74 he returned to Madrid, where he had been appointed court painter to Charles III in 1760. The present painting depicting Joseph's dream was probably created during Mengs's Florentine period and came directly into the possession of the grand duke Pietro Leopoldo. In Rome Mengs had renewed his study of the works of Michelangelo, and Joseph's posture is clearly adopted from the master's Jerome in the Sistine Chapel.

**The Dream of St. Joseph** Read more here at

<https://www.coraevans.com/blog/article/the-dream-of-st.-joseph>

**Title: Joseph most obedient,  
Obedient to God's will**

Several times, angels came to St. Joseph in dreams and directed his course of action. The angels told him to marry Our Lady when he had thought of a quiet divorce, to flee to Egypt, and to return to Nazareth. In all these instances, he did as they said without question, giving us a model of surrender to God's will.

"He responded positively to the word of God when it was communicated to him at the decisive moment" - "what he did is the clearest obedience of faith." JPII Redemptoris Custos

What does obedience look like for us? Obedience is a word that may cause a reaction in us. We strive for our autonomy and ability to choose. In the spirit of obedience in the faith journey there are small nuances to observe. The sin of omission in daily situations is a good example. We may be in a situation where the Holy Spirit gives us a nudge to act or speak and we do not. We may know that we are engaging in a situation where we should walk away from. We turn a blind eye to a situation where love needs to be given. Standing for God and the Church is hard. But God calls us to holiness and stepping out in fear, while trusting him to fight for us, will increase our faith. There is an opportunity to grow spiritually when we break out of those easy to ignore situations and act as God calls.

**The definition of obedience is:**

1. compliance with an order, request, or law or submission to another's authority.
2. Similar: compliance, dutifulness, duty, respect, observance of the law/rules, discipline, pliability, conformity, submission, docility, tameness, meekness

**The Catechism of the Catholic Church speaks of the obedience of faith:**

To obey (from the Latin ob-audire, to "hear or listen to") in faith is to submit freely to the word that has been heard, because its truth is guaranteed by God, who is Truth itself. CCC144

**Pray:** St Joseph pray for me this week to be blessed with the strength to **obey**, That my soul may subdue both natures, Blending them as a fair aromatic bloom. .

**Action:** Choose to have an open heart this week to a duty or a belief that is hard for you to observe. Choose to be flexible and follow God with trust, hope and joy.

To learn more about St. Joseph click on the link below to access our dedicated page to him.

<https://parish.stbenedictholmdel.org/year-of-st-joseph-1>

## Faith Formation

Faith Formation at St. Benedict is committed to offering programs that will help enhance our participation and deepen our understanding of the Catholic faith. We offer programs for parishioners of all ages to deepen their spiritual lives and grow closer to God.

Mrs. Melissa Dayton,  
*Director of Faith Formation*  
732-264-4712 ext.26  
email: [mdayton@stbenedictnj.org](mailto:mdayton@stbenedictnj.org)

Mr. Ciro Saverino,  
*Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministry*  
732-264-4712 ext.12  
email: [saverino@stbenedictnj.org](mailto:saverino@stbenedictnj.org)

Miss Rachel DenHartog,  
*Assistant Coordinator of Religious Education*  
732-264-4712 ext. 12  
email: [denhartog@stbenedictnj.org](mailto:denhartog@stbenedictnj.org)

Mrs. Carol Cesario, *Administrative Assistant*  
732/264-4712 ext. 24  
email: [cesario@stbenedictnj.org](mailto:cesario@stbenedictnj.org)



**We are looking for virtual volunteers  
Share your faith with our young people!**

Anyone interested in volunteering please contact:  
Melissa Dayton [mdayton@stbenedictnj.org](mailto:mdayton@stbenedictnj.org) or  
732-264-4712 ext. 26

### Grade 1-6 Traditional Program

Tech savvy volunteers are needed to help moderate our online program. Students will complete lessons virtually each month. The estimated time for volunteering is approximately 2 hours total answering emails and checking lessons for each lesson.

**High School students welcome**-service hours will be given.  
Online teacher training will be provided.



### Join Youth Group!

Attention rising 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders: We have a high school youth group here at St. Benedict Parish. Live your faith in action through service and spend time in prayer and fellowship with like minded friends. All are welcome to join us. Inquiries can be directed to [saverino@stbenedictnj.org](mailto:saverino@stbenedictnj.org) for more information.

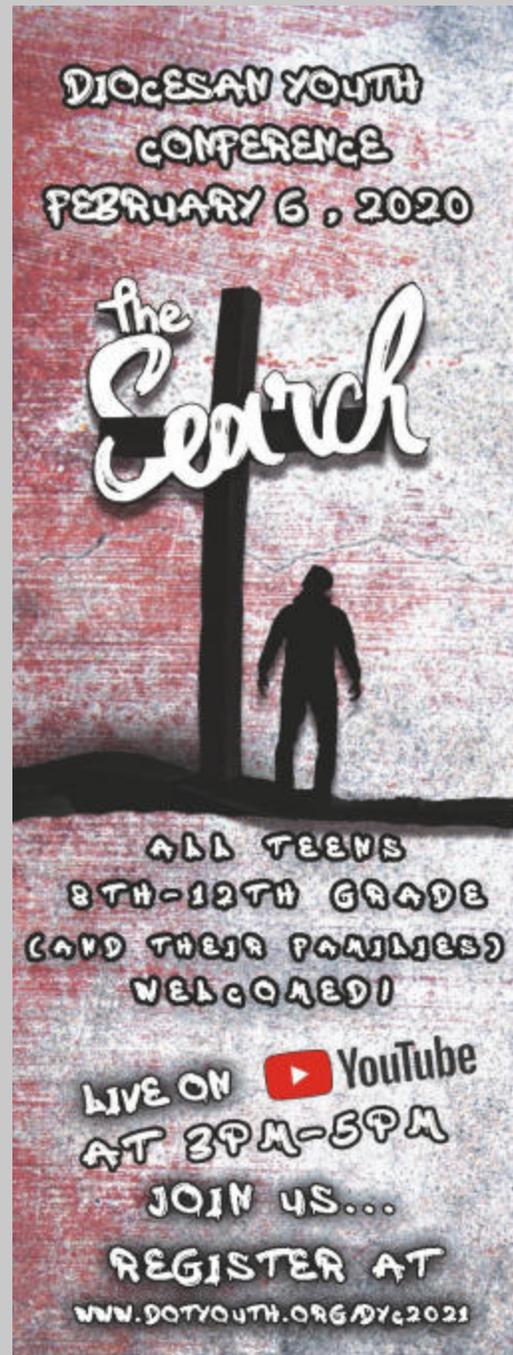


Make sure you're following us on Instagram for updates/announcements and other good content during the week! [@stbensyouthgroup](https://www.instagram.com/stbensyouthgroup)

### High School Service Opportunities

#### Virtual Sunday Night Mentor

The Sunday night 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade parish confirmation program is still looking for additional virtual assistant facilitators to help the main facilitators. This program meets twice a month virtually on Sunday nights from 6-8:00 p.m. from now until April. Community service hours can be earned for this volunteer position. Students must apply. Please contact Ciro Saverino [saverino@stbenedictnj.org](mailto:saverino@stbenedictnj.org) for additional information.



## Faith Formation



Virtual Prayer, video's, Apps and Conferences for Stay at Home/ Covid-19 can be found under the **adult programs** tab on the St. Benedict website.

<https://parish.stbenedictholmdel.org/adult-programs>



### Faith + Family Collective Blog

[https://www.faithandfamilycollective.com/blog-1?](https://www.faithandfamilycollective.com/blog-1?utm_campaign=0a400abe-4ede-4709-b677-fc3aa0ad1ed9&utm_source=so&utm_medium=mail&cid=ee7ccaef-ea4d-41c2-8944-a11293d21948)

[utm\\_campaign=0a400abe-4ede-4709-b677-](https://www.faithandfamilycollective.com/blog-1?utm_campaign=0a400abe-4ede-4709-b677-fc3aa0ad1ed9&utm_source=so&utm_medium=mail&cid=ee7ccaef-ea4d-41c2-8944-a11293d21948)

[fc3aa0ad1ed9&utm\\_source=so&utm\\_medium=mail&cid=ee7ccaef-ea4d-41c2-8944-a11293d21948](https://www.faithandfamilycollective.com/blog-1?utm_campaign=0a400abe-4ede-4709-b677-fc3aa0ad1ed9&utm_source=so&utm_medium=mail&cid=ee7ccaef-ea4d-41c2-8944-a11293d21948)

### Parenting Blog: Carrots for Michaelmas

<https://www.carrotsformichaelmas.com/>

Cultivating the Catholic Family through literature, liturgical living and urban homesteading.

### Family Faith Formation ideas:

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/family/>

### January- Faith Family Calendar

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RyhnLiInjmPZqwN-Ukvr9kq\\_hD5f1urX/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RyhnLiInjmPZqwN-Ukvr9kq_hD5f1urX/view?usp=sharing)

### Every Sacred Sunday

<https://everysacredsunday.com/>

The mission at Every Sacred Sunday is to invite each person into deeper relationship with Christ by creating spiritual resources inspired by the beauty of the Catholic Church.

### Grief Support Group

This Peer Support group is for those grieving the death of a loved one. If you have lost a loved one, please join others who have also experienced a loss for a series of six sessions of information, mutual sharing and peer support in a spiritual, caring, and confidential setting. We invite you to participate, we are using *The New Day Journal, A Journey from Grief to Healing*. The sessions will include time for readings, sharing, reflection and journaling.

If you would like more information about the group please contact Carol DeMuria at [pastoralcare@stbenedictnj.org](mailto:pastoralcare@stbenedictnj.org) or call 732-239-2053. All communication will be kept confidential.



**Lori McCahill:** Director of Marriage Ministry  
[mccahill@stbenedictnj.org](mailto:mccahill@stbenedictnj.org) or 732-264-4712 ext.27

### Engagement and Anniversary Announcements

The Marriage Ministry would like to celebrate all engagements and anniversaries for members of our parish. For newly engaged couples receiving the Sacrament of Matrimony at St. Benedict please send in a engagement photo and we will announce your wedding date in the bulletin. For couples celebrating a special anniversary please send in your wedding photo and we will announce your special anniversary in our bulletin. Please email all photos emailed directly to [bulletin@stbenedictnj.org](mailto:bulletin@stbenedictnj.org) in a jpeg format. Please provide the date of your upcoming wedding or anniversary.



### GOT Faith QUESTIONS? RCIA might just be for you!

RCIA is for someone who:

- Is interested in becoming Catholic
- Was never baptized
- Was baptized in another Christian denomination
- Is married to a Catholic and is interested in sharing their spouses faith.

RCIA is time of exploration. We gather to discuss the truths, teachings, and practices of the Catholic Faith in an open forum, with sound presentations and lively discussions. This process involves time not only for instruction, but also growth in the practice of the faith through discussion and prayer. We meet on Sunday mornings over a cup of coffee!

Perhaps, you are baptized Catholic but have not received the Sacrament of Eucharist and Confirmation? This is the place for you to grow in faith. Remember, it is never too late to receive the sacraments. There are various members of the community on the RCIA team to assist you.

Please call Melissa Dayton at 732-264-4712 ext. 26 if you have any questions.

### Never completed your Sacraments? Confirmation Class for Adults

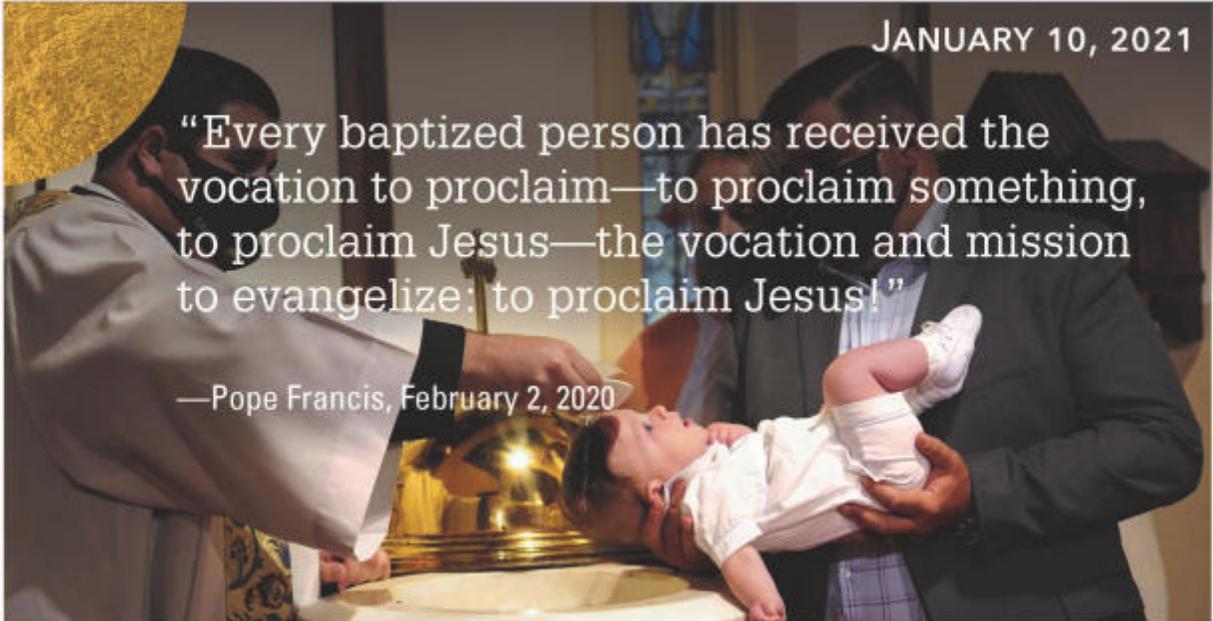
Are you a baptized Roman Catholic, made your First Communion and are over the age of 18 and have not received the Sacrament of Confirmation? Please consider joining us on Sundays after the 9:30 a.m. Mass. We welcome you and look forward to sharing this journey with you. The process is easy; this formation program is for you. Contact Melissa Dayton at 732-264-4712 ext. 26 for more information.

# The Baptism of the Lord

JANUARY 10, 2021

“Every baptized person has received the vocation to proclaim—to proclaim something, to proclaim Jesus—the vocation and mission to evangelize: to proclaim Jesus!”

—Pope Francis, February 2, 2020



Cathy Images

## Today, we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord!

The origin and foundation of Christian Baptism is Jesus. Before starting his public ministry, Jesus submitted himself to the baptism given by John the Baptist. The waters did not purify him; he cleansed the waters. “He comes to sanctify the Jordan for our sake . . . to begin a new creation through the Spirit and water” (St. Gregory Nazianzen, Liturgy of the Hours, I, 634).

Jesus’ immersion in the water is a sign for all human beings of the need to die to themselves to do God’s will. Jesus did not need to be baptized because he was totally faithful to the will of his Father and free from sin. However, he wanted to show his solidarity with human beings in order to reconcile them to the Father. By commanding his disciples to baptize all nations, he established the means by which people would die to sin—Original and actual—and begin to live a new life with God.



Join thousands of Catholics nationwide in the annual Respect Life novena, *9 Days for Life*, Thursday, January 21—Friday, January 29. Get daily intentions, brief reflections, and more. Sign up at [9daysforlife.com](https://9daysforlife.com)!



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# The Baptism of the Lord, A Feast That Reminds Us of Our Mission

BY MARECELLINO D'AMBROSIO

**T**he Jews were absolutely unique in the ancient world. Not only did their religion forbid them to worship any gods other than the Lord, but their prophets actually taught that the gods of other nations were mere figments of the imagination. They did not exist at all.

For devout Jews in the time of Jesus, monotheism—the belief or doctrine that there is only one God—was their distinctive hallmark and was ingrained in them from cradle to grave. They recited several times a day the verses of Deuteronomy 6:4 “Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone!”

So it should come as no surprise that the notion of Jesus as the Son of God was a bit hard for them to take. The Gospel of John tells us that this claim to divine sonship was one of main reasons for Jesus’ crucifixion. Hundreds of years later, Roman Emperor Constantine had to call a church council to reaffirm that Jesus was God, equal in glory and majesty to God the Father. Yet another council had to be called a few generations later to definitively affirm the same about the Holy Spirit.

“The Jews were absolutely unique in the ancient world.”

To this day, people from Da Vinci Code fans to Jehovah’s Witnesses ridicule the doctrine of the Trinity, the belief of three divine persons in God, alleging it was invented by Constantine.

But a close reading of the Scriptures shows that the Trinity was revealed when Jesus met his cousin in the wilderness, at the River Jordan. While John baptizes his superior, the voice of God resounds over the waters: “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

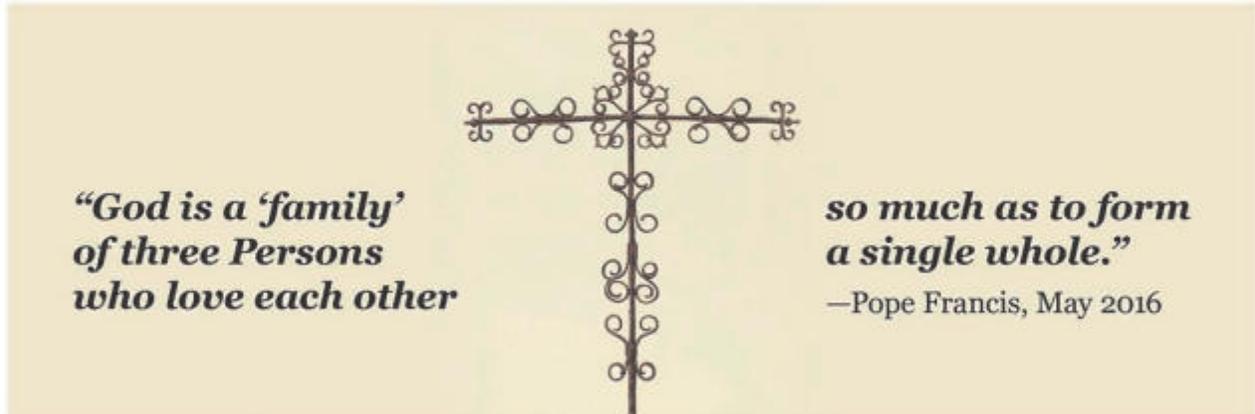
At that very moment, the Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus in the form of a dove. Here, for a brief moment, we glimpse the mystery of one God in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and Holy Spirit. This momentary appearance of Jesus as the Son of God, anointed with the Holy Spirit, is

an epiphany. In fact, in Eastern Catholic churches, the feast of the Baptism of the Lord and the Epiphany (called “Theophany”) are the same.

It is no accident that this revelation of the Trinity happened at the moment of Christ’s baptism. Christian baptism, here instituted by Christ, is essentially different than the baptism of John.

John the Baptist preached cleansing from past sins and a change of lifestyle. Christian baptism certainly involves this but accomplishes much more. It joins us to Jesus, as savior and Lord, and connects us with the power of his death and resurrection. But since in baptism we become one with Jesus, members of his body, all that is his becomes ours. His Father now becomes Our Father, and the Holy Spirit now takes up residence within us.

Baptism does not just wash away sins so that we can escape the fires of hell. It establishes an intimate relationship between us and the three persons of the Trinity. God is no longer a stern monarch, but a loving father, not just Christ’s Father but Our Father. God the Son calls us no longer servants but friends. God in the



*“God is a ‘family’  
of three Persons  
who love each other*

*so much as to form  
a single whole.”*

—Pope Francis, May 2016

Holy Spirit becomes the power within us to make us new people and brings us to the fullness of joy.

The fact that baptism takes place through water is no accident either. Water cleanses, true. But it also is the symbol of birth. Are we not carried in water for nine months in our mothers’ wombs? In baptism, we emerge from the waters of the church’s womb to take up a new kind of life, a holy adventure that opens out into eternity.

But there is another sacrament besides baptism that is instituted at this blessed event. Notice that Peter, speaking of Jesus’ baptism in Acts 10:38, says Jesus was “anointed.” The Greek word for

“anointed one” is “Christ.” And the Greek term for “confirmation” is “chrismation.”

Some wonder why we need the sacrament of confirmation. To some it appears to be an afterthought or anticlimactic. After all, we receive the Holy Spirit in baptism and become children of God. So what else do we get when we are confirmed? That’s simple: We receive our mission and the power to carry it out.

Being a Christian is not just about salvation. It’s about sharing in Christ’s anointing to transform the world. The mission is an essential part of the package, not an option. That’s why we are called “Christians” or anointed ones. Without sharing in the

mission through the special anointing of confirmation, one is not fully incorporated into the church, which is a missionary community.

So the feast of the Baptism of the Lord is not only a revelation of the Trinity and our initiation into a saving relationship with the three divine persons. It is the empowering commission to bring others into the same life-transforming relationship. It is not only Christ’s name day, but the name day of all who glory in the name of being called a Christian.

*D’Ambrosio writes from Texas. He is co-founder of Crossroads Productions, an apostolate of Catholic renewal and evangelization.*

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