

The Catholic Communities of Crown Point & Moriah



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

Parish Staff: Pastor: Rev. Albert J. Hauser Secretary: Dorothy McDevitt
Religious Education: Louise von Brockdorff Maintenance: Michael Slattery
Music: *Moriah* – Vaughn Watson *Crown Point* – Joanne Betit
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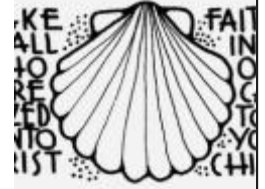


The Baptism of the Lord

Jan. 9, 2022

Because of his mercy God saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.

Titus 3:5



LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday Jan. 8	3:30 PM (SP) Confessions 4:00 PM (SP) Bernie Podres by Joanne & Family Pat Nephew by Richard & Sue Hoskins
Sunday Jan. 9	9:00 AM (SH) Mary Mazurowski by Marlene Gadway 11:00 AM (SP) Louis & Barbara Velsini by the Garnica Family 1:00 PM (SP) <i>Traditional Latin Mass</i>
Mon. Jan. 10	8:30 AM (SP) For All the People of the Parish
Tues. Jan. 11	8:30 AM (SP) The Russom - Burke Family
Wed. Jan. 12	8:30 AM (SH) All Souls Intentions
Thur. Jan. 13	8:30 AM (SP) Joyce McAllister & Family
Fri. Jan. 14	<i>No mass: Fr. Al away</i>
Saturday Jan. 15	3:30 PM (SP) Confessions 4:00 PM (SP) Donna Cook by Jim & children Jim Fernandez by Norma & Family
Sunday Jan. 16	9:00 AM (SH) Lyudmyla Hunter by JoAnne & Greg Betit 11:00 AM (SP) Stanley Wojewodziec by Lorraine Josephine Yelle by her family 1:00 PM (SP) <i>Traditional Latin Mass</i>

Weekly Offering

Dec. 25-26 2021

CROWN POINT	
Envelopes (21)	\$ 890.00
Christmas (23)	\$1,533.00
Plate + other	\$ 23.00
Total	\$2,446.00
Last Year (15)	\$2,142.00
MORIAH	
Envelopes (49)	\$2,178.00
Christmas (65)	\$2,828.25
Plate + other	\$ 396.98
Total	\$5,403.23
Last Year (50)	\$5,407.00



WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?

It is a question people asked as they witnessed him preach, heal the sick, and work other wonders. It is a question people have asked through the centuries as they studied the gospels and tried to pattern their lives on his example of self-giving love. If we are to be his followers and pass on the good news to the next generation of believers, it is a question we must constantly ask ourselves. The gospel for today's feast teaches us that Jesus is the Messiah and the Son of God.

First, Jesus is the Messiah, the Christ, which means "Anointed One." Throughout their history, the people of Israel have awaited the one anointed by God to lead them to freedom. This anointing meant that he would save them not by his own power, but by God's. At his baptism, the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus in the form of a dove. The Heavenly Father was anointing Jesus with power to preach the good news, to give sight to the blind, and to bring freedom to captives. Jesus received this anointing to make it clear that he is the Messiah.

What does that mean for us today? It means that we have no other Savior than Jesus Christ. If we are to find true and lasting freedom, it is only through him. If we are to experience true and lasting justice and peace it can only be through Jesus Christ. As St. Peter declares in the Acts of the Apostles, *No other name is given to us in heaven or on earth by which we are to be saved.* In everything we do, we must look to Jesus if we are to find what our hearts yearn for.

Secondly, Jesus is the Son of God. After the Holy Spirit descends on Jesus, God's voice from heaven is heard, *You are my beloved Son.* To call Jesus, "Son of God" means, not that he is like God, or that he is very close to God, but that Jesus IS God. As we say in the Creed, he is God from God, Light from Light, True God from True God. He is eternal. There has never been a time when he has not existed. He is All-Powerful. There is nothing he cannot do. And he is All-Knowing. He knows the future and knows our hearts. There is no limit to his power. For this reason, we do not only revere Jesus as a great man, but we worship him as our God. We bow our heads when we hear his name. We kneel when he appears before us in the Eucharist. We pray to him, entrust our needs to him, and praise him.

Jesus Christ is the Messiah, the Son of God. We look to him to save us and we worship him as Almighty God. Just as John the Baptist pointed to him, so we must point him out to others as the only Savior of the World. Just as John the Baptist led others to him, we are to lead our family and friends to recognize him as the Messiah our hearts long for. Just as God from heaven declared that he is the beloved Son, so we are to declare to others that Jesus is the God we should follow and obey.

- Douglas Sousa



From the Pastor

God saved us, not because of any righteous deeds we had done but because of his mercy.
Titus 3:5

Jesus' Baptism. The feast of Epiphany celebrates three events in the life of Christ that can be referred to as epiphanies (revelations of His divine glory): the visit of the magi, the baptism in the Jordan, and the wedding at Cana. In the visit of the Magi, Jesus is revealed to the Gentiles; in Christ's baptism in the Jordan He is revealed to Israel; and by changing water into wine at the wedding of Cana, Christ is revealed to His disciples.

Today's gospel depicts the second of the three great mysteries of epiphany: Christ's manifestation as Son of God anointed by the Holy Spirit at his baptism. We celebrate this feast as the close of the Christmas season, even though many years intervened between the two events.

At Christmas the Lord was born a man; today he is reborn sacramentally. Then he was born from the Virgin; today he is born in mystery. When he was born a man, his mother Mary held him close to her heart; when he is born in mystery, God the Father embraces him with his voice when he says: *This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased: listen to him.* The mother caresses the tender baby on her lap; the Father serves his Son by his loving testimony. The mother holds the child for the Magi to adore; the Father reveals that his Son is to be worshiped by all the nations.

Why, we might ask, did Jesus go to John to be baptized? Why did he want his sinless body to be washed with Jordan's water? Christ was baptized, not to be made holy by the water, but to make the water holy, and by his cleansing to purify the waters which he touched. For when the Savior is washed all water for our baptism is made clean, purified at its source for the dispensing of baptismal grace to the people of future ages.

Christ is the first to be baptized, then, so that Christians will follow after him with confidence. By our baptism he cleanses us as God's own people, gives us rebirth as beloved sons and daughters of God and makes us heirs of eternal life, as we hear in today's 2nd reading: *Jesus Christ gave himself for us to cleanse for himself a people as his own, eager to do what is good. He saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life.*

Envelopes & Contribution Statements.

Thank you to all who picked up your 2022 offering envelopes. Contribution statements for 2021 will be mailed out near the end of the month to all regular contributors by envelope or check.



Thank you again for your faithful support of our parish.



The Sanctuary Candle burns this week at St. Patrick's Church in loving memory of **Bernie Podres** at the request his wife Joanne.

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? If impulse takes control and we choose based solely on emotion and desire, it can often get us into trouble. But if I know who I am and understand what is really important and of value, the likelihood of kneejerk impulsive choices diminishes. In baptism God claims us as His own and so provides us with the identity and purpose we need to properly live life.

If we embrace God's choice, we no longer have to wonder about the purpose of our lives or struggle to find our way. The answer to who we are has been given to us by God. 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 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.

VOCATION CORNER

You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased. Are you considering making known the love of our Heavenly Father as a priest, deacon, sister or brother?



Talk to Fr. Al or Fr. Chris Carrara, ccarrara@rcdony.org or Sr. Mary Eamon at (315) 393-2920, ext. 1345 elyng@rcdony.org or www.myvocation.net.

Please pray for our sick: Robert Ross, Pam Wagner, Dano Miller, Ann Dedrick, Lucille Trow, Jodi Whalen, Bill Prew, John Belcastro, Amy Allen, Mark Frame, Jim Connors, Kennie Anderson, Bob Mildon, Diann Gerling, Albert Cutting, Louise von Brockdorff, Bev Baker, Julie Goodspeed, Nappy Marcotte, Mary Reiland, Caleb Yakalis, Celia Diefendorf, Marie Allen, Kathy Henry, Noah Benoit, Thomas Catillaz, Margaret Parah, Susan Nephew, Bevie Anne Kelly, Bill Scribner, Mary Bryant Danuta Wermuth, Patricia Frank, Lara Brehm, Milt Tesar, Clement Jackson, Annette O'Neil, Wendy Wojcik, Cathy Belisle, Christine Boest, John & Doris McGinness, Christine Wilson, Mary Veenker, Gerard Power, Denise Hawk, Eugene Barcomb, Bob Hughes, Stacey Drake, David Malbon II, Keegan McCray, Tom Neddo, Kristy Porter-Fosco,

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