

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.

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"The chief service I owe you, O God, is that every thought and word of mine should speak of you."

St. Hilary

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

#### Emergis from the Lectionary for Mass 00001, 1998, 1970 CCDL

### PARISH OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OFFICE HOURS

Caribou Office: 31 Thomas Ave. P.O. Box 625 Caribou, ME 04736 498-2536 or 498-2537 \*Hours: Mon. -Thurs. 9 AM - 3:30 PM. Closed Friday Presque Isle Office: 6 Roberts St. Presque Isle, ME 04769 768-3671 or 764-8644 \*Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 9 AM - 3:30 PM Closed 12-1 PM for Lunch. Closed Friday

#### PASTOR

Rev. David R. Raymond 'Fr. Dave' david.raymond@portlanddiocese.org

#### **PAROCHIAL VICAR**

Rev. Selvaraj Kasi 'Fr. Raj' selvaraj.kasi@portlanddiocese.org

#### DEACON

Rev. Mr. Carl Joseph Gallagher 'Deacon Carl' carl.gallagher@portlanddiocese.org

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SANCTUARY LAMP	64Ce-2960	BULLETIN MEMORIALS	alered a
	In Loving Memory of DALE CORBIN & MICHAEL POISSON by Sharon Corbin & Families	In Memory of ALBAN & CARMEN THIBODEAU by The Thibodeau Family	in Loving Memory of SHAWN BERNARD by His Dad, Charles
Holy Rosary Church Reginald Ouillette by His Wife, Teresa Ouillette	In Loving Memory of KENNETH G. MURCHISON, SR. by the Murchison Family	In Loving Memory of REGINALD OUILLETTE by His Loving Wife Teresa	in Loving Memory of ALBERT POWERS by His wife, Lorraine & Family
St. Denis Church In Prayerful Memory of Dick Levesque by his Family	In Loving Memory of GILBERT GUERRETTE by his Loving Wife & Family	In Loving Memory of LAWRENCE, HILDA & PATRICIA BOSSE By Jim & Nancy Chandler	In Loving Memory of LINDA PAGE by Norman & Family
<b>St. Mary Church</b> <b>For the Health of</b> <b>Our Family</b> <i>by Riola Morin &amp; Family</i>	in Loving Memory of LIONEL, DORIS & RAYMOND BLANCHETTE by Their Children	In Loving Memory of MACKENZIE CHAMBERLAIN & THE BEAUPRE FAMILY by Elaine & Dean	in Loving Memory of NAPOLEON & ANNA BOUCHARD & PETER & ALICE JACQUES by Rena & the Grandchildren
OUR LADY LAMP	In Loving Memory of SANDRA BEAUPRE by her Loving Husband Gordon & Family	In Loving Memory of ARLINE ST.PETER by Her Husband, Alphy & Family	In Loving Memory of CLARE HITCHCOCK & MICHAEL ROBERTSON by Alan & Sherry
Reginald Ouillette	in Loving Memory of SONIA & DANIEL LABBE by Donna Labbe	Maurice and Anita Soucy and Loved Ones By Their Loving Family	In Loving Memory, DEPUTY SHERIFF MATTHEW LONG by Mom, Julia & Nieces
by His wife, Teresa Ouillette			

## Group Prayer & Devotions Are Suspended Unless ( $\sqrt{}$ ) Check marked.

## HOLY ROSARY, CARIBOU

#### Thurs:

- 6:30 p.m. ACTS-Women: \*No Meeting 7:00 p.m. Burning Bush Group \*No Meeting
- √ 1st Friday: Adoration & Confession
- 6:00 p.m. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 7:15 p.m. Prayers & Benediction

## 1st Saturday:

### 9:30 AM-12:00 PM Followers of the Cross-**Parish Center**

9:30-10:15 Rosary & Confession 10:15 Mass 3:00 p.m. First Saturday Devotions & Rosary Sunday:

 $\sqrt{6}$  PM Women's Faith Sharing Group—Parish Center

#### ST. MARY'S, PRESQUE ISLE $\sqrt{}$

Confession is offered after Daily Mass.

Tues:

- 1:00 p.m. Prayer Group
- 2:30 p.m. Rosary Team
- Weds: 9:00 a.m. Rosary making
- $\sqrt{*First Friday Adoration}$  is now being held at St. Mary's after the 8:30 AM Mass on the First Friday of each month. 9:00 a.m. Cenacle of the Marian Movement of Priests.
  - Sat: 2:30 PM First Saturday Devotions & Rosary.



## **ST. DENIS, FORT FAIRFIELD**

- ✓ Confessions Every 3rd Sunday after Mass and after Thursday daily Mass. Weds. 9:30 a.m. Cenacle of the Marian Movement of Priests.
- Thurs: 9:00 a.m. Faith Sharing 2nd Fri. at 3:00 PM-Adoration & Confession
- √  $\sqrt{}$ Sun: 10:15 a.m. Rosary

## ST. MARK, ASHLAND

- Tues: & Fri: at 9 a.m. Rosary
- $\sqrt{}$ Weds. 2 PM Faith Sharing—Church Hall

## **OUR LADY OF THE LAKE, PORTAGE**

Sun: 8:30 a.m. Rosary before Mass

#### Tues: 6:30 p.m. Rosary **SACRED HEART, NORTH CARIBOU**

## Weds: 10:00 a.m. Rosary

 $\sqrt{}$ Sat: 5:15 p.m. Rosary before Mass



## Mass Schedule

### Saturday, Jan 8: The Baptism of the Lord #881 4:00 PM Holy Rosary \*\* Perley & Cindy Chassie by Leona Chassie 4:00 PM St. Mary \*\* Carroll & Kenneth Dickinson by Carmeline Dickinson 4:00 PM St. Theresa \*\* Sunday Celebration in the Absence of a Priest 5:30 PM Sacred Heart \*\* Sunday Celebration in the Absence of a Priest 6:00 PM St. Catherine \*\* For the People 6:00 PM St. Joseph \*\* Steven J. McDowell by His Mother, Eleanor Grow Sunday, Jan 9: The Baptism of the Lord #881 9:00 AM Holy Rosary \*\* Carolyn Riley by The Murchison Family 9:00 AM Our Lady \*\* Sunday Celebration in the Absence of a Priest 9:00 AM St. Mary \*\* Brian Cloukey by Bert & Carol Cloukey 10:30 AM St. Mark \*\* Sunday Celebration in the Absence of a Priest 11:00 AM St. Denis \*\* Scott Fields by Rosaire & Anne Theriault 11:00 AM St. Louis \*\* Wayne Spink by Joseph & Margaret Underwood Monday, Jan 10: 8:30 AM Holy Rosary \*\* Followers Of The Cross 8:30 AM St. Mary \*\* Jean Rivard by Gary & Ginette Tuesday, Jan 11: 8:30 AM St. Denis \*\* Louise & Kenneth Knight by David Bernard & Family Wednesday, Jan 12: \*\*NO MASS\*\* Thursday, Jan 13: St. Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church 8:30 AM St. Denis \*\*NO MASS\*\* 6:00 PM Holy Rosary \*\* In Prayerful Memory of Elizabeth & Lawrence Beaulieu by Alphy St. Peter Friday, Jan 14: 8:30 AM Holy Rosary \*\* Juliette Bard by Norma Haines 8:30 AM St. Mary \*\* Brother Robert Robinson by Barbara Hale 3:00 PM St. Denis \*\*Adoration & Confession Saturday, Jan 15: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time #933 4:00 PM Holy Rosary \*\* Irene Labrie (Mother of Fr. Jean-Paul Labrie)

sary \*\* Irene Labrie (Mother of Fr. Jean-Pa by Bob & Yvette Lagassie

4:00 PM St. Mary \*\* **Sunday Celebration in the Absence of a Priest** 4:00 PM St. Theresa \*\* Ada Plourde by Gil & Jeanine Morneault 5:30 PM Sacred Heart \*\* Sandra Beaupre by Sister Pat & Bud Casperson 6:00 PM St. Catherine \*\* Jan Brewer (30th Anniversary) by Dee & Sheena 6:00 PM St. Joseph \*\* **Sunday Celebration in the Absence of a Priest** 

<u>Sunday, Jan 16</u>: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time #933 9:00 AM Holy Rosary \*\* Bert Ouellette by Don & Cindy Blanchette

9:00 AM Our Lady \*\* For the People

9:00 AM St. Mary \*\* **Sunday Celebration in the Absence of a Priest** 10:30 AM St. Mark \*\* Don Laveway (5th Anniversary) by His Wife & Family 11:00 AM St. Denis \*\* **Sunday Celebration in the Absence of a Priest** 11:00 AM St. Louis \*\* Edmond & Eva King by Shirley King

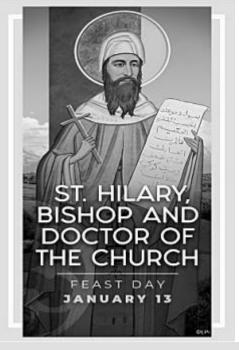


## Readings for the week of January 9, 2022

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





# Saint of the Week

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 Phyrgia 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.

#### BACK TO MASS PROJECT



In an effort to encourage parishioners to return to the practice of attending Mass in person, we will be offering only <u>one</u> Livestreamed Mass per weekend . The location will rotate between Holy Rosary, St. Mary's and St. Denis. Below is a schedule of Livestreamed Sunday Masses for

December & January. Weekday Masses will continue as usual.

#### Livestreamed Sunday Mass Schedule:

Sun., Jan. 9 at 11 AM ~ St. Denis, Fort Fairfield Sun., Jan. 16 at 9 AM ~ Holy Rosary, Caribou Sun., Jan. 23 at 9 AM ~ St. Mary, Presque Isle Sun., Jan. 30 at 11 AM ~ St. Denis, Fort Fairfield Sun., Feb. 6 at 9 AM ~ Holy Rosary, Caribou

I Hope I Am Like Him

"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.

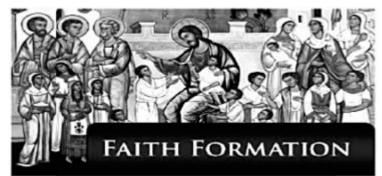
Let's examine our lives in the light of their relativity to Christ. How do we prepare the way? When Christ comes to us, what do we do? How do we leave ourselves open to be actors in God's plan? — Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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Please pray for those who have recently passed away from the Parish especially... Patricia Plourde ~ Our Lady of the Lake, Portage Louis Caron ~ Sacred Heart, N. Caribou



Please pray for the recently married Jory Chamberland & Hillary Albert St. Mary, Presque Isle



#### JANUARY 2022

Jan. 2 – Faith Formation class day Jan. 9 - Faith Formation class day Jan. 23 – Faith Formation class day Jan. 30 – Faith Formation class day

#### FEBRUARY 2022

Feb. 6 – Faith Formation class day Feb. 13 – Faith Formation class day Feb. 27 – Faith Formation class day

**Faith Formation Students** who have completed at least 10 of the 13 lessons for the first semester of Faith Formation will be recognized at Mass the weekend of January 23rd. Please have your Catechist review your workbook and submit your name to your Site Coordinator:

Cindy Gagnon— Holy Rosary, Caribou Stella Carlstrom—St. Mary, Presque Isle Michelle Eastman- St. Mark, Ashland & Our Lady, Portage Edward Schupbach— St. Denis, Fort Fairfield Meagan Malena—St. Louis, Limestone

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

God Bless you in your studies!

The Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry is in need of Cranberry Sauce, Stuffing, Spaghetti and Macaroni. Thank you for supporting our efforts to feed the hungry.



St Mary will be observing **Chalk Up Your Home for Christ** this weekend, **Jan 8-9.** Blessed chalk and directions will be available at entrances/exit. Please return the chalk on the next weekend.

## Christmas Flower donations were gratefully received in memory of the following....



Richard & Patricia Chapman by their children: Raymond, Randy, Rodney, Raeleen, Rhonda, Richard, Ricky, Ryan, & Rebecca John Albert Shaw, Pat & Edwina Daigle, Clayton March & Phyllis Getchell, Leo & Melonia Bossie & Family & Joseph & Cecilia Daigle & Family by Jackie Shaw Scott Fields by the Family Annette L. Harmon & Peter A. Harmon by Thomas Harmon Julie & Devan Cyr Hope Pelletier & Willie O. Pelletier by Dick & Andrea Pelletier Elizabeth Caldwell, Andrew Caldwell, Marie Evans, Lenora True, Willam True & Sylvia True by Mary Lou Caldwell Deceased Family Members of Annette & Larry Tardy Mr. & Mrs. Charles Cappa, Donald Meyer I, Donald Meyer II, Francis Beil Sr., by Carol Beil Mike Bernard, Estelle & Willard Bouchard & Effie & Louis Bernard by Roger & Marcella Bernard **Our Loved Ones** by Donna & Charlie Barnes Noel & Germaine LaPlante by Lorraine & Joseph Chamberlain Kathleen & Vyron Chapman, Sr. by Elaine Haines Gilbert Guerrette & Joseph & Alice Guerrette by Madeline Guerrette Joe & Bernice Tardif, Alberte & Muriel Lebel, Leo Tardif, Bill Tardif and John Tardiff by David & Nancy Holabird Clarence & Rollande Lynch, Deb & Connie Beckwith, John Collin Beckwith, Richard Lynch & Jill Beckwith by Chip & Janet Beckwith Kermit Ketch, Corine Lebel, Brad Potter, Duncan (Lawrence) Haines, Aurele & Suzanne Lebel by Mary Ketch Florian Levesque & Deceased Parents by Sandi (Levesque) Staples Mason McGlinn, John McGlinn, Pat & Minnie Green, Laura McGlinn & Margaret Lewis by Amy McGlinn Kenneth Murchison, Sr., & Lewis Murchison by Donna Murchison Kenneth Murchison, Sr. by Marjorie Murchison Kermit Ketch, Corine Lebel & Suzanne Lebel by Kim Ouellette Sally & Susan Peterson, Robert, Irene, Gordon, Clifton, Joan Thibodeau, George & Dorothy Peterson by Robert & Joyce Peterson The Tardif Family, Cummings Family & Sirois Family by Viola Sirois Victor, Verna & Roger Perreault & Gloria Sutherland by Kendall & Debbie Sutherland George E. Theriault by Gloria Theriault Lorraine White by Vaughn, Debbie, Susie & Jane Oneal Labbe, Lucy & Lazare Beaulieu, Raymon Beaulieu and All Deceased Relatives by Velma Labbe Judy & Allan Rossignol, Arthurline Moreau & All Deceased Relatives by Ronald & Janet Gagnon The Beaulieu Family by Anita Beaulieu





# Parish Financial Stewardship

# Financial Blessings

## OFFERTORY DEC. 26, 2021:

Collections Last Week :		
First Collection	\$	14,833
Second Collection	\$	5,150
Total:	\$	19,983
Total Collections YTD:	\$	407,854
Collections Budget:	\$	395,974
+/- Budget	+\$	11,880
Total of Weekly Collections		
this time last year	\$	405,481
Current Weekly Average	\$	15,687
2020 Weekly Average	\$	15,595
2019 Weekly Average	\$	17,696

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

## Up Coming Second/Special Collections:

Jan. 9	Fuel Fund
Jan. 16	Maintenance Fund
Jan. 23	Church in Latin America

The Parish of the Precious Blood has a need for a Sexton at St. Mary Church to help with snow removal and general cleaning and care for the facilities, and a Cemetery Assistant for the parish. Both are part-time positions requiring a valid driver's license.

Applications are available at the rectory office and online at www.theppb.org.

Leave a Legacy ... ...for our Catholic children and grandchildren through a bequest to our Parish Endowment

Perhaps you have already provided for your faith in your will or retirement plan. That is wonderful! If not, consider a bequest to support one of our Parish Endowment Funds. These have been created for long term support of the Parish. The endowment funds are managed by The Catholic Foundation of Maine. The Foundation is a separate organization created specifically to manage & protect your charitable gifts. Contact our Parish Business Coordinator, Parish Pastor, or the Catholic Foundation of Maine for information on how you can support your parish through a legacy donation to one of our endowment funds.

Currently the Parish has seven endowments: Parish of the Precious Blood Endowment Holy Rosary Church Endowment Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Endowment (St. Mary's) St. Denis Church Endowment St. Louis Church Endowment And recent H.O.P.E. and PPB Youth Ministry Endowments A Contribution to any of these is leaving a legacy for the future of our Parish, the vulnerable of our communities and our children's faith.



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