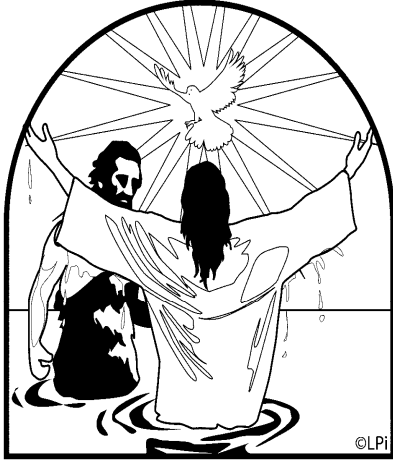


HEAVEN WAS OPENED AND THE HOLY SPIRIT  
DESCENDED UPON HIM. - LK 3:21

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

St. Mary's Church of the Immaculate Conception  
*Our Lady of Fatima Parish*  
134 South Washington Street—Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701 — 570-823-4168



# Baptism of the Lord

JANUARY 9, 2022

## THIS SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

ISAIAH 40:1-5, 9-11  
ACTS 10:34-38  
LUKE 3:15-16, 21-22

## NEXT SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

ISAIAH 62:1-5  
I CORINTHIANS 12:4-11  
JOHN 2:1-11

ALMIGHTY GOD,  
YOU ANOINTED JESUS  
WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

*(second reading)*

AND DECLARED HIM  
YOUR BELOVED SON,  
*(gospel reading)*

IN WHOM  
WE WOULD BECOME  
YOUR DAUGHTERS  
AND SONS.

THROUGH OUR BAPTISM  
WE, TOO, HAVE BECOME  
YOUR CHOSEN ONES;

*(first reading)*

MAY WE FOLLOW HIM  
IN OBEDIENT LOVE,  
ENTHRONING HIM  
IN OUR LIVES  
AS KING FOREVER.

*(responsorial psalm)*

**FACE MASKS**—The Diocesan guidelines continue to strongly recommend vaccinated and non-vaccinated individuals to wear masks inside for Mass and other indoor gatherings in order to protect the health and safety of all in attendance. We have also been asked to make sure that we have appropriate signage on our entrances. We are most grateful for the cooperation regarding the mask request with our goal of protecting our neighbors. You are reminded to continue to maximize the use of space as much as possible.



Hand washing and sanitizing is essential in preventing the spread of the virus. It is highly recommended that everyone takes advantage of the sanitizers located at the entrances of the church and parish center. The Sign of Peace will be extended without physical contact.

## GOSPEL MEDITATION ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

January 9, 2022 — *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.*



## Sacrificial Giving

### WE ARE A STEWARDSHIP PARISH God's Plan For Giving

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INCREASED OFFERINGS

#### DECEMBER 26, 2021

Sunday Offering	\$	2,577.00
Sunday Loose	\$	565.00
12:10 Masses	\$	48.00
Christmas—Plate	\$	13,023.00
Christmas—Loose	\$	576.00
Parish Membership	\$	349.00
Diocesan Charity	\$	74.00
Catholic Education	\$	33.00
Diocesan Priest Health	\$	21.00
Human Services	\$	636.00
Insurance	\$	35.00
Christmas Flowers	\$	70.00
Retired Religious	\$	20.00
Thanksgiving	\$	1.00
Campaign for Human Dev.	\$	10.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>18,038.00</b>

#### JANUARY 2, 2022

Sunday Offering	\$	2,065.00
Sunday Loose	\$	162.00
Parish Membership	\$	2,683.00
Diocesan Charity	\$	21.00
Christmas	\$	1,676.00
Christmas Flowers	\$	110.00
Catholic Education	\$	89.00
All Saints	\$	2.00
Diocesan Priest Health	\$	139.00
Human Services	\$	124.00
Immaculate Conception	\$	17.00
Retired Religious	\$	15.00
Initial	\$	413.00
Insurance	\$	183.00
Solemnity of Mary—Plate	\$	660.00
Solemnity of Mary—Loose	\$	136.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>8,495.00</b>

#### 2021 FINANCIAL STATEMENT REQUEST

Please make your requests by filling out this form below and returning it. Thank you.

Envelope Number \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Please drop this Form into the offertory basket or mail to the Parish Office: 134 S. Washington Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701.

#### PARISH MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one:

I am new in the parish & wish to register

Change of Address

Moving out of Parish

Please drop Membership Form into the offertory basket or mail to the Parish Office: 134 S. Washington

#### MISSION STATEMENT

*WE, THE CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, ARE CALLED TO A FOUR\*FOLD MISSION:*

- *TO PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION REVEALED IN JESUS CHRIST;*
- *TO WORSHIP GOD IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH;*
- *TO BE TRANSFORMED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT IN A COMMUNITY OF FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE;*
- *TO BRING GOD'S JUSTICE AND PEACE TO OTHERS THROUGH SERVICE.*

#### EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

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

## **Masses For The Week**

### **MONDAY— JANURARY 10 (WEEKDAY)**

St. Nicholas 6:30AM *Catherine Dougherty Doyle*  
St. Mary's 12:10PM *Lillian Royal*

### **TUESDAY— 11 (WEEKDAY)**

St. Nicholas 6:30AM *Joseph Pudiosky*  
St. Mary's 12:10PM *Stella Marie Gugliotti*

### **WEDNESDAY— 12 (WEEKDAY)**

St. Nicholas 6:30AM *Helen Hastings*  
St. Mary's 12:10PM *Mary Koons*

### **THURSDAY— 13 (WEEKDAY/ST. HILARY)**

St. Nicholas 6:30AM *Edward Waskevich*  
St. Nicholas 8:00AM *David Thomas*  
St. Mary's 12:10PM *Ann Marie Rowles*

### **FRIDAY— 14 (WEEKDAY)**

St. Nicholas 6:30AM *Charles Loftus*  
St. Nicholas 8:00AM *Frederick Pape, Sr.*  
St. Mary's 12:10PM *Michael McLaughlin*

### **WEEKEND SCHEDULE**

### **SATURDAY— JANUARY 15**

St. Mary's 4:00PM *Vigil Mass*  
St. Nicholas 5:00PM *Carl Ott*

### **SUNDAY— JANUARY 16**

St. Nicholas 8:00AM *Charles Rider, Jr.*  
St. Mary's 10:00AM *Mass*  
St. Nicholas 10:00AM *Gerald Edukaitis*  
St. Mary's 12:10PM *Mass*  
St. Nicholas 12:15PM *Living and Deceased*  
*Members of the Parish*  
  
St. Mary's 12:10PM *Mass*  
St. Mary's 7:00PM *Mass*

### **THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

At St. Nicholas Church—Mondays: 5PM—6PM.  
For Confessions in Spanish,  
please call Father Fidel at 570-823-7736.

### **I NEED A SPONSOR CARD !**

To serve as a sponsor for Baptism, Confirmation or Marriage, a person needs a Certificate of Eligibility from his/her Pastor testifying to the fact that the person is a practicing Catholic. Active membership is determined by: regular attendance at Mass, registration at the parish for at least six months, use of your parish envelopes (only accurate way to know your attendance) and participation in parish activities. Certificates cannot be issued unless you are previously registered with the Parish.

### **ST. NICHOLAS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION**

Let's make 2022 a great year for credit unions and members. Make sure you know all of the rules and regulations that apply to your credit union membership.

A Bus is being coordinated by Pennsylvanians for Human Life, to the March for Life in Washington, D.C., Friday, January 21st. Departure will be from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, 116 Hughes Street, Swoyersville, Pa. 18704. The cost (Bus and Dinner) is \$65.00, and for students \$35.00. For those wanting to sponsor a student, checks should be made to PHL and can be sent to this Parish. For further information, call Chris Calore @ 570-824-5621. Thank You.



*Thank you to those who helped to decorate the Church for Christmas — Fr. Mark, Barbara Mullan, Alice Rodgers, Sean and Karen McHale, Chris and Matt Maciejczyk, and Melissa and Jeremy Lee. Also a Thank You to the Joan Harris Dancers.*

**Why is this Synod taking place?**

Far from being a temporary or one-time experience in calling the Church to participate in the Synod process, Pope Francis is reminding us that the very mission of the Church requires the entire People of God to be on a journey together, with each member playing his or her crucial role, united with each other. The Holy Father's hope is that the experience of this unique world-wide opportunity will bring about a new springtime for listening, discernment, dialogue and decision-making in our Church, so that the whole People of God can better journey together with one another and the entire human family, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

*(From Bishop Bambera's Letter to the Faithful, October 4, 2021)*

**What is my role in this Synod?**

By calling for the 2021-2023 Synod on Synodality, Pope Francis is inviting the Church to gather and to listen to each and every Catholic to find the Church's path forward at this time in our history. This is a moment for the voice of God's people to be heard to give voice to the direction of the Church. Pope Francis is providing the opportunity for this ancient and tested model to find relevance in light of today's challenges and opportunities.

The Holy Father seeks to hear every voice. Prayerfully consider participating either in your parish's in-person consultation session or through the online survey or by calling the Synod Phone Line: 570-591-5024.



**Please check the Diocesan Website to take a survey concerning the Synod. Your input is very important.**

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