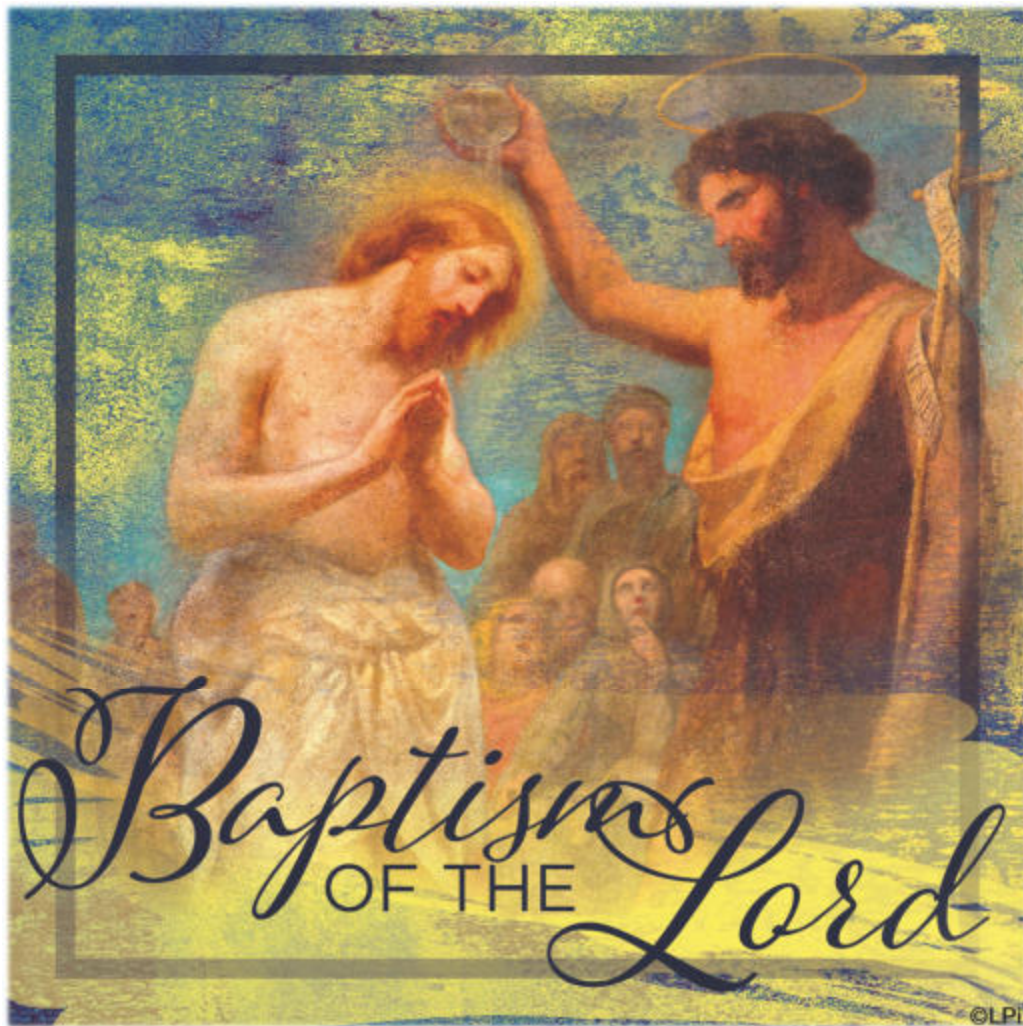


Saint Mary's Parish



"The heavens were opened and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, listen to him."

—Mark 9:7

Christmas 2021

Reverend Fr. A. Edward Gretchko, Pastor

Weekday Mass Times: 6:30 p.m. Monday; 8:15 a.m. Tuesday-Friday

Weekend Mass Times: 4:30 p.m. Saturday; 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sunday

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MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 8 — The Vigil of The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

4:30 p.m. The People of the Parish

Sunday, January 9 — The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

(Readings: 21: Is 42:1-4,6-7/Ps 29:1-2,3-4,9-10/Acts 10:34-38/Luke 3:15-16,21-22)

8:00 a.m. The People of the Parish

10:30 a.m. +Betty Burse (*Dave & Linda Miller*)

Monday, January 10 — Monday of the First Week in Ordinary Time

(Readings: 305: 1 Samuel 1:1-8/Psalm 116:12-13,14-17,18-19/Mark 1:14-20)

6:30 p.m. +John & Amelia Higgins (*daughter*)

Tuesday, January 11 — Tuesday of the First Week in Ordinary Time

(Readings: 306: 1 Samuel 1:9-20/(Ps) 1 Samuel 2:1,4-5,6-7/Mark 1:21-28)

8:15 a.m. +Julia Glosser (*Judy Longworth*)

Wednesday, January 12 — Wednesday of the First Week in Ordinary Time

(Readings: 307: 1 Samuel 3:1-10,19-20/Psalm 40:2,5,7-8a,8b-9,10/Mark 1:29-39)

8:15 a.m. +Donald Zorger (*Maureen*)

Thursday, January 13 — St. Hilary, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

(Readings: 308: 1 Samuel 4:1-11/Psalm 44:10-11,14-15,24-25/Mark 1:40-45)

8:15 a.m. +Charles Tabellion (*daughter, Deb*)

Friday, January 14 — Friday of the First Week in Ordinary Time

(Readings: 309: 1 Samuel 8:4-7,10-22a/Psalm 89:16-17,18-19/Mark 2:1-12)

8:15 a.m. +John "Bill" Hynd (*family*)

Saturday, January 15 — The Vigil of The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:30 p.m. +Helen Schott (*family*)

Sunday, January 16 — The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

(Readings: 66: Isaiah 62:1-5/Psalm 96:1-2,2-3,7-8,9-10/1 Cor 12:4-11/John 2:1-11)

8:00 a.m. +Sister Rose Mary Schmidt (*Ray & Judy Schmidt*)

10:30 a.m. The People of the Parish

FOCUSING ON THE GOSPEL BY SISTER VERNA HOLYHEAD, SGS

Reprinted from "Living Liturgy" by Liturgical Press

Key words and phrases: "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."

Jesus joins us to him in baptism. The Trinity is on full display here, as Jesus, beginning his public ministry, is baptized *by the Holy Spirit*. Jesus receives his baptism through John, who, it is worth noting, is not God. Not only do we witness Jesus participating in an act that will become the cornerstone of the Christian faith, but we see it facilitated by a human whose divinity is as precarious as our own.

It is through Jesus's humanity that we are saved. He is both fully human and fully divine, and in this scene, his humanity is on display for us. He receives the sacrament of baptism, and thus participates in the act that our own lives require to gain entry to heaven. He's God. Why should Jesus bother getting baptized, if he is one with the Holy Spirit already? Because the very act of God entering humanity is to participate in it fully, unto death, and thus dignify human life and make it worthy of heaven.

SANCTUARY LAMP INTENTIONS

Candles Burning in Loving Memory of:

I. Barbara Chapis

(*Jerry & Anita Gray*)



In Remembrance

Please keep in your prayers the following parishioner who received the Rites of Christian Burial from our parish this week.

David Friedrichsen

THIS weekend is our second collection for our parish St. Vincent de Paul Society. Thank you for your continued generosity!



MUSIC FOR THE WEEKEND

The Baptism of the Lord

January 8th & 9th, 2022

Readings begin on page 55 of the Missalette

Entrance Hymn:

When John Baptized by Jordan—M 297

Song During the Preparation of the Gifts:

Jesus Christ the Long Awaited—M 228

Communion Processional Hymn:

Draw Near—M 246

Sending Forth Song:

Songs of Thankfulness & Praise—M 324

H—Hymnal M—Missalette

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Monday, January 10

6:30 p.m. Mass & Miraculous Medal Novena (C)

Tuesday, January 11

8:15 a.m. Mass & Miraculous Medal Novena (C)

6:30 p.m. Bingo (S) (Doors open at 4:00 p.m.)

Wednesday, January 12

9 am to 4 pm Eucharistic Adoration (PC)

Thursday, January 13

7:00 p.m. PSR First Reconciliation Meeting (PC)

Friday, January 14

8:15 a.m. School Mass Grades K-4 (C)

Saturday, January 15

11:00 a.m. Confessions (C)

Sunday, January 16

9:15 a.m. PSR Classes (S)

C-Church PC-Parish Center LC-Labbe Center S-School

YEAR-END CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Statements of your 2021 contributions to St. Mary's are available for your records. If you would like one, please call the parish office.

PATRIOTIC ROSARY

All are invited to come and pray the Patriotic Rosary on Saturday, January 15th at Noon at St Barbara Parish in Massillon. Come and pray for our country and its leaders.



ARE YOU REGISTERED?

Are you and your family registered parishioners of our Parish? Are you over the age of 18 but are still registered with your parents? **Please don't assume you are registered, just because you attend Mass.** If you have not called the Parish office or stopped in, we do not have record of you. Please call the parish office to register. Don't forget to notify the parish office if you have changed your address or phone number. This helps the office keep updated records. Thank you for your help!

WHAT GOES UP, MUST COME DOWN

This weekend marks the official end of the Christmas season in the Catholic Church, We'll be taking down the Christmas decorations TODAY (Sunday) following the 10:30 a.m. Mass. Any help is greatly appreciated! Thanks again to all those who worked so hard to decorate!

OFFERTORY INFORMATION

December 26, 2021.....\$10,520.00

January 2, 2022.....\$10,364.00

The Christmas collection will be reported at the end of the month. Thank you for your continued support!

St. Mary's Parish uses WeShare for collection of electronic contributions. This system also allows parishioners to manage their giving with an online account.

SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK

This sacrament of mercy is provided to all in need of God's healing presence. Keep in mind that this sacrament is not necessarily "The Last Rites." Anyone who is terminally ill or facing major surgery may also receive this sacrament. Please contact Father Ed for an anointing.

YEAR-LONG AND WEEK-LONG CANDLES



Are you looking for a nice way to honor your loved ones, living or deceased? You might consider honoring them with a candle here at St. Mary's Parish.

Our year-long candles are burning in the Sanctuary on the side altars in front of the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph. The

cost for these candles is \$100 per year. That price includes a candle and a nameplate with your intention printed and placed at your candle.

We also have week-long candles available for purchase. These candles are \$10.00 per week and burn in the sanctuary near the Tabernacle. These candles may burn for any special intention, which is then printed in the bulletin each week. If you are interested in purchasing any of these memorial lights, please call Nicole in the parish office.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptisms are celebrated after the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sundays. Parents must attend a baptismal preparation class prior to baptism.

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GOSPEL MEDITATION

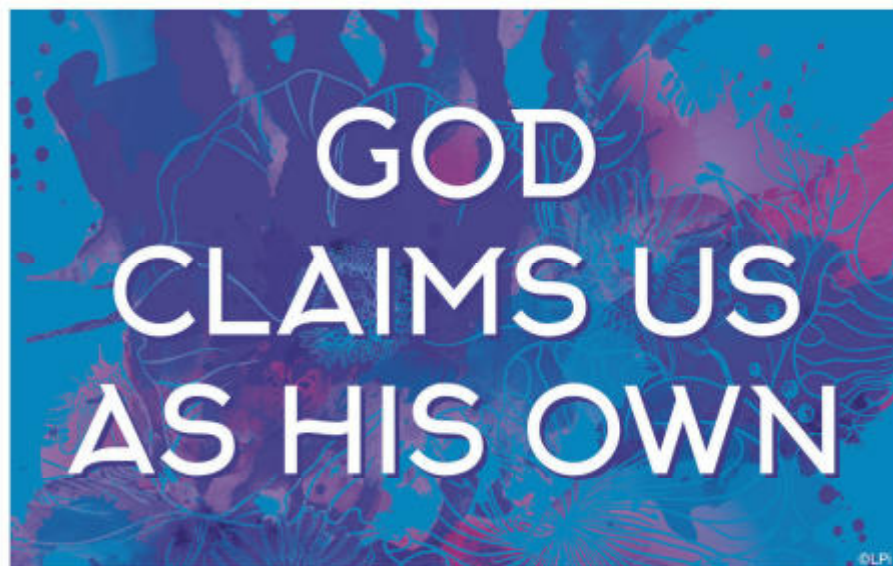
ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

"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.

*"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*

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2002, 1998, 1970 CCD

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Local businesses and sponsors that advertise on bulletins need you now more than ever before. Please encourage and remind others to show their support during this time.

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

AT MY GRANDSON'S BAPTISM, THE PRIEST PUT A BIB ON THE BABY. I DO NOT REMEMBER SEEING THIS BEFORE. WHY IS THIS DONE? IS IT SOMETHING NEW?

When an adult is baptized, there is a part in the ceremony when the newly baptized is vested in a white garment. It is symbolic of the changes that baptism brings in the life of the baptized as they are freed from the bonds of sin and brought into the saving grace of Christ. Realities that are so profound are symbolically

presented so that we might better grasp and understand them.

Infants are often dressed in a baptismal dress, which is the baptismal garment. In some places, the bib is used as a kind of baptismal garment. At the place in the ceremony where the investiture takes place, the bib is used. Some are poncho-like and fit over the baby's head. Others are simply

placed on the baby's chest. If the baby is dressed in a white garment, nothing else is needed. The prayer says it all: "See in your white garment the outward sign of your Christian dignity ... bring that dignity unstained into the everlasting life of heaven." In baptism, we are given our purpose and goal in life as believers, and this is symbolized by the white garment.



ST. MARY'S SCHOOL NEWS

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

St. Mary School wishes you a Happy New Year! Let us live each day in the most loving ways, the God-conscious way. Let us serve all who are in need, regardless of race, color or creed. May your year be filled with peace, prosperity and love. May God's blessings shower upon you and bestow upon each of you a bright, healthy, and peaceful new year.



CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR

We had a wonderful Christmas program this year! The students sang, played instruments, and danced. We are especially grateful to Mr. Corbi, our music teacher, and Miss Adams. They started preparing for Christmas in October, and the students loved it!



HELPING HANDS

The St. Vincent de Paul Society gave food and presents to those who needed a helping hand this Christmas on December 17 & 18. Joining them on both days to help prepare the boxes and pack up cars was our girls' basketball team, along with their coach, Mrs. Murray. Coach Murray said that the team is learning to win not just on the court but by serving others.

UGLY SWEATER CONTEST



On Friday, December 17, the student council hosted an Ugly Sweater Contest; each class chose its winner. Take a look at some of the fabulous sweater winners: Zach (grade 4), Teresa (grade 5), and Rhys (grade 7).

Upcoming Dates

January 10—
Family Night @
Texas Roadhouse

January 11—
PTO Meeting

January 13—
Title 1 Night

January 14—
School Mass grades K-4

January 15—
Grades 3/4 & 5/6
basketball games at the
school

January 17
NO SCHOOL
MLK Jr. Day

January 20—
Faculty Meeting

January 21—
School Mass grades 5-8/
E-Sports Meeting 5-6

January 27—
School First Reconciliation
Parent Meeting



Joe Paquelet



Charlene Paquelet



Bud Paquelet

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