

# St. John the Evangelist Church

## Baptism of the Lord

January 9, 2021



This last week, we experienced the *Epiphany of the Lord* as He was manifested to the whole world as all of us are included in God's plan of salvation. We celebrate *Jesus's Baptism* by John in the River Jordan this weekend. These two feast days and solemnities are important cornerstones within the Life of Jesus as a child and as an adult and are critical to our lives made holy in Christ. We can examine these wonderful days in the Christmas Season in light of one of the readings from the new Testament taken from a letter of St. John to his community of faith.

*Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God;  
everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.  
Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love.  
In this way the love of God was revealed to us:  
God sent his only-begotten Son into the world  
so that we might have life through him.*

1 John 4:7-9

God sent, "gave," us His only Son as gift. The Lord above sent us His love so we can live with Him forever. The Son of God, Jesus, dwells among us as He teaches us how to love God and love one another through His own self-giving in imitation of the Father. As mentioned in the prior message last week, in parts of Europe and in the Latin countries the *Epiphany of the Lord* is heralded in a special way as Christ is seen as revealed, not only as hope and salvation made as a promise to Israel but the Messiah as revealed to all, including the Gentiles, to all of us. The above Icon was brought to us from Puerto Rico in which the Magi bring their gifts to the Christ Child in thanksgiving for the precious Gift that God gave to us in the Son from His love for us whom He created. The gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh can correspond to the three roles of the mission of Christ – *gold* for His Kingship, His shepherding of us and taking care of His people, *frankincense* for His Priestly role, His holiness and divine Sonship, and *myrrh*, a spice often used for preparing one for burial, as the prophets proclaimed the Paschal Mystery of Jesus' life, death and Resurrection to new life. As we celebrate the *Baptism of the Lord* this weekend, we embrace the Mission of Christ as Priest (His divine and holy life), Prophet (the Word made flesh), and King (Good Shepherd of us all).

We are also to assume these roles as Baptized Catholics. In order to live out our Mission in Christ, what gifts do we bring to Our God as we become an Epiphany, a manifestation of the Lord to the world around us? In the image above, we see only two Magi, two kings, not three. Why did this artist only depict the two persons giving their gifts rather than the three that we have also known them to be? Perhaps, we are to take on the role as one of the Magi (Wise Ones), the third King not in the picture. As we see the little Lord Jesus in the painting touching the head of one of the magi, let us see this as the Lord Jesus blessing us like He did on our Baptism. As He anointed us on that special day to bring His mission of Priest, Prophet and King to the world and manifest Him in our lives -- what do we now offer in response? Let us offer Gold (the precious gift of self), as we become shepherds to take care of each other; let us offer Frankincense, the incense of our prayers, words and deeds that we offer as a priestly, good people as we move toward the Light of Christ to become more like Him. And, let us offer our gift of Myrrh, as we remember the life, death and Resurrection of Our Lord as prophets of His teachings and life giving ways. In doing so, may we become a living sermon of unveiling the mysteries of God in our lives to others when we follow St. John's words above. Let us be heralds of God's love so all can experience life through Him Whom we adore and Whom we know in our very soul, is Love itself.

*Stay tuned next week as we explore our participation in the Epiphany of the Lord, Part III through the graces of Baptism.*

Blessed and Happy New Year,



Pro & Respect Life Ministry



## Reflection for Feast of the Baptism of the Lord: Jan. 9, 2022

Saturday January 22 3:30 pm

Inspiring  
Peaceful  
Vibrant

YOUTH RALLY, MARCH AND MASS FOR LIFE with Bishop Fisher



### Schedule of Events

3:30 pm Rally in the St. Greg's Ministry Center

4:15 pm March begins

5:30 pm Mass for Life with Bishop Fisher

All are welcome to attend. We ask for parental oversight to help with safety. Face coverings are required. Dress appropriately as we will be marching outside regardless of the weather. Everyone is encouraged to make signs.

Come and witness the power of the Rosary and support all life!

[www.stgregs.org/youth-rally-march-mass-life/](http://www.stgregs.org/youth-rally-march-mass-life/)

St. Gregory the Great Parish  
200 St. Gregory Court, Williamsville, NY 14221  
716.688.5678



For more information about the Pro & Respect Life Ministry or how you can get involved, please contact Jennifer Forney, [jenforney@yahoo.com](mailto:jenforney@yahoo.com)

## Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

Good and gracious God,  
you blew into our nostrils the breath of life.  
You are the One to whom we owe our very existence.

Give us the courage to take that unpopular position  
of protecting those who have no voice,  
the unborn child in the womb  
to the person taking his or her last breath.

The life you have given us is a gift beyond measure.  
Embolden us to speak the truth  
about protecting the child, the elderly,  
and the one without a voice in the public square.

With thankful hearts,  
we ask all this of the One God,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

**(Isaiah 40:1-5; 9-11):** This passage was written as a beacon of hope during troubled times for Judah. The Babylonian empire had captured Jerusalem, conquered and occupied their land and destroyed the Temple in Jerusalem. Many of the people had been exiled to Babylon and Egypt and were enslaved. Undoubtedly, the people were feeling depressed, discouraged and afraid. The prophet relates that the Lord is ordering him, out of tender and gentle mercy, to comfort God's people by sharing with them a message of encouragement. Jerusalem is assured that the debt or punishment due to the people because of their sins, has been carried out and accomplished. Like a parent who has just had to discipline His child, God has never stopped loving His people, like a gentle, loving Shepherd. The saddened people are given a message of hope and joy about the imminent coming of God to rescue His people and to re-enter into a loving, nurturing and protective relationship with them, once again.

**(Psalm 104: "O Bless the Lord, my soul."):** The message of hope and encouragement of the first reading is followed by this psalm of praise, glorifying God for his power and greatness. The psalmist marvels and voices awe over God's power and rule over nature and the elements; sky, earth, wind and fire. In the third stanza, the author expresses further wonder over the vast diversity of creatures and living things which God has created. Next, the psalmist proclaims how faithfully and generously God provides for and cares for His creations. This might be seen as another reassurance that our God will always care for His suffering people. Lastly, the psalmist contemplates God's complete rule over both life and death; generating and sustaining the living and taking breath away from the dying. The tone of the psalmist is that of conceding to God's absolute control over us all.

**(Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7):** Now, we read a proclamation of God's love and benevolent grace in sending us Jesus as our teacher, Savior and Redeemer. Jesus is teaching us to reject sin and self-centered worldly attachments in favor of temperance, charity and efforts to promote justice, peace and the common good of all. The Salvation offered by Jesus is proclaimed here for what it truly is; a merciful and undeserved gift of our Most Blessed Trinity and NOT a reward for any achievement of our own. Our baptisms, through water and the Holy Spirit are alluded to, here, as our baptisms confer on us our blessed status as adopted children of God and heirs to the Salvation for us, won by Jesus' own Sacrifice of His life.

**(Luke 3:15-16; 21-22):** In this brief, but powerful passage, we have both a needed clarification and a revelation. This passage clarifies that John the Baptist is not the long-awaited Messiah or "the Christ," "the Anointed One." The revelation, given at the baptism of Jesus, by John comes partly from John, who announces that "One" is coming after him, who is greater than him (John). The concluding message of this "revelation" comes from God, the Father, Himself: Jesus is His own beloved Son, in Whom, He (the Father) is well-pleased. Thus, Jesus' status and authority as the Son of God is proclaimed, publicly, through a direct message from Heaven. Ponder this week, that even after the Heavens were opened and the very voice of God was heard, there were still people who didn't believe! Do we believe that Jesus is our Savior? Do we behave accordingly?

Ponder that!

Reflectively,

*Deacon Matt*

Mass Intentions for the Week
<b>Saturday, January 8 -</b> - 4:30 pm Vigil of the Baptism of the Lord
† <b>Francis Wiley</b> - <i>Dan Veno &amp; Family</i>
<b>Sunday, January 9 -</b> - 9:30 am Baptism of the Lord
† <b>Paul Cashimere</b> - <i>Jim Lee and Brian &amp; Judy Suda</i>
† <b>Larie Gortaire</b> - <i>Joseph Gortaire</i>
<b>Monday, January 10 -</b> - 8:00 am
† <b>The Cashimere Families</b> - <i>Cindy Karl and Bernadine Anderson</i>
<b>Tuesday, January 11 -</b> - 8:00 am
† <b>Maryann Sirianni</b> - <i>Jerry &amp; Gloria Dzuoff</i>
<b>Wednesday, January 12 -</b> - 8:00 am
† <b>Chuck Clarke</b> - <i>Theresa Budzinski</i>
<b>Thursday, January 13 -</b> - 8:00 am St. Hilary
† <b>Carmalla Sgro</b> - <i>Anv. - Family</i>
<b>Friday, January 14 -</b> - 8:00 am
† <b>Kathleen Wheeler</b> - <i>Skipworth - Mary Ann Loskey</i>
<b>Saturday, January 15 -</b> - 4:30 pm
† <b>Chuck Kwiatkowski</b> - <i>Jim Lee and Judy &amp; Brian Suda</i>
† <b>Marie Anastasia</b> - <i>BR - Dave and Lena</i>
<b>Sunday, January 16 -</b> - 9:30 am 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
† <b>John &amp; June Ksionzyk</b> - <i>Paul &amp; Diane Ksionzyk</i>
† <b>Nancy Finley</b> - <i>BR - Peggy &amp; Steve Reitz</i>

**Please keep the following in your prayers for healing:**



*Remember Our Sick*

Ralph Aloia  
Shawn Anastasia  
Kathy Baker  
Beverly Blakeslee  
Daniel Brogan  
Mike Chizewick  
Mary Jill Coon  
Gail Crowley  
Carmen DeGiglio  
Jeff Dembowski  
Dave Fidurko  
David Frey  
David Hettrick  
Sr. Dana Hollis  
Thomas Jonak  
Janet Jones  
Carol Kielar  
Alyssa Magro

Colt Matz  
Paul Mountain  
Jean Nolan  
Thomas Nolan, Sr.  
Richard Peterson  
Gene Robak Jr.  
Ann Rogozinski  
Jennifer Sauter  
Jan Schichtel  
Colleen Spencer  
Rob Umberhour  
Jeff Veno



*All the Hospice, Nursing Home and Hospice Patients and their caregivers.*



*Our parish extends its condolences to the Tri-Catholic community families of*

Helen Monachino, Linda Coletti, Anne Kloc, Louis Frungillo Susan Morris Polk, Jean Hannon, Charles Bretzin, Brian O'Connell, Mary Lou Irons, and Tracy Veno

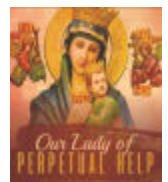
*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them.*

We life up in prayer each day those who are serving our country, especially those in harms way and who cannot be with their families this Christmas Season



Our Lady of Perpetual Help burns Jan 1-15 for the glory of God and in honor of

**Chuck Clarke**  
*By: Carol Moses*



Our Sanctuary Lamp burns **January 1-15** for the glory of God in the Remembrance of **Susie Noonan**  
*By: Ron & Marlene Anastasia*

**Would you like to offer a Mass Intention?**

It is a holy and noble custom to have a Mass said for a living or deceased person(s) or for a personal intention. We are happy to schedule your Mass intention. The Diocesan stipend is \$15. Please call 716-372-5313 or email kbarber@sjteolean.org to schedule



## *Christmas Flower Memorials*

*Frank & Mary Loskey, Ray Caya,  
Marian Bradley, John & Frances Wheeler  
and Kathleen Wheeler-Skipworth  
By: Mary Ann Loskey*

*Fred & Joan Oliva  
Vince Oliva, The Lisi Family  
John & Betty Droney & George Moses Sr.  
By: Mike & Mary Droney*

*John & Mary Ann Hirliman  
  
Rosemary Germano Crandall,  
William Sorokes, Alex Kryzak,  
Deceased members of the  
Germano, Cronin, Chokrach &  
Sorokes Families  
By: Ann, Jay, Clare & Matt Sorokes*

*Francis "Bud" & Mary Pezzimenti  
By: Family*

*Bill & Mary Adams  
By: Fr. John*

*John & Anna Adams, John & Teresa Ragan,  
Ann "Anka" Matthias, John Zebbens, and  
The deceased members of the  
Adams & Ragan Families  
By: Fr. John*

*Loren & Alice Sweet  
Lynn Sweet*

*Ralph G. Meinzer  
David R. Grucello  
By: The Plesac Family*

*Sara Neeson  
By: The Neeson Family*

*George J. Moses, Sr., Fred & Joan Oliva,  
Debbie Ralston, and  
Donna, Larry & Betty Scordo  
By: Carol Moses*



*Lois & Robert Lyons, Sr., Robert Lyons Jr.,  
Dan Scanlon, Marian, Jack & Stephen Miller  
By: James & Marilyn Lyons*

*Guy Benoit, Charles Tillman,  
Jesse & Florence Tillman and  
Helen A. O'Connor  
By: Judith Benoit*

*Robert Dunn, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Warter  
and Mr. & Mrs. Edward Dunn  
By: Esther Dunn & Family*

*Thomas & Joann Handley, Mark Handley,  
Mike Handley, Patty Handley ~ Capra,  
Betty Johnson, Harold Handley  
and Diane Wenke  
By: Rick & Katie Barber*

*Joey Yatzkanic, Mr. & Mrs. A. Franzi  
and Mr. & Mrs. J. Hornyak  
By: The Yatzkanic Family*

*Edward & Gertrude McGinnity and  
Ralph & Rose Palumbo  
By: Grandchildren*

*John & Betty Palumbo  
By: Suzy & Mary Palumbo*

*Kenneth & Marion Haggerty  
Ed & Angela Gleason  
Joan Haggerty  
By: John & Janet Haggerty*

*Nancy Finley, Carl Finley,  
Maynard & Mary Brown  
and Harold & Nancy Reitz  
By: Steve & Peggy Reitz*

*Eddy & Clara Pfeiffer, Tom Routly and  
Kalia, Lucy & Gracie  
By: Gail Pfeiffer*

*Edward & Agnes Dzurhoff and  
Ladimer & Dolores Cerny  
By: Jerry & Gloria Dzurhoff*

**AT OUR PARISH and SMA**



**LIVE Stream**



Sat. Jan. 8	Confession & Adoration - 1:30-2:30pm - SJTE
Sun Jan. 9	Olean Catholic Youth—Life Teen/HS - 6:30-8:30 pm - PLC/SMA
Wed Jan. 12	Confessions and Adoration @ SMA 4:30-5:30 PM
Sat Jan. 15	Confession & Adoration - 1:30-2:30pm - SJTE

**GOOD NEWS**



**Let US KNOW!!!**

Do you know of someone with a special birthday, anniversary, or any Special Occasion!! Please drop me a line so I can share the good news with our Parish Family!!

Call Katie at the office 372-5313 or Email me at [kbarber@sjteolean.org](mailto:kbarber@sjteolean.org)

Pray for Colt Matz who is fighting leukemia. His younger brother Jack donated bone marrow for his brother in November. We are praying for positive results.

Send a card to:  
Colt Matz & Family  
Ronald McDonald House  
780 W Ferry St.  
Buffalo, NY 14222



**Lector Ministry - January 15 & 16**

4:30 pm - Kari Fitzgerald  
9:30 am - Don Scholla

**Ministers of the Holy Eucharist January 15 & 16**

4:30 - Mary Wenke  
9:30 am - Peggy Reitz

**Greeter Schedule January 15 & 16**

4:30 am - Ryan Alberts  
9:30 am - Paul /Diane Ksionzyk and Janine Scholla

**Thank You!**

As we welcomed our new Parish Council Members with the Commissioning held in December, we'd like to take this time to thank **Pat O'Malley** for taking charge of the reception that followed afterwards. Once again Pat did an amazing job and thank you to all the volunteers that assisted her in this reception preparation..

Also, we would like to thank **Carol Lindamer** and **Rita Suda** for taking on the task of labeling and sorting all of the 2022 Church Envelopes.

May you all be blessed for your kindness and gift of labor to our Parish!!

**Attention Altar Servers  
We Need You**



Grades 4 and up. Come and serve at Mass in 2022! Please contact Fr. John or Fr. Peter. Call Katie at the Parish Office at 372-5313

Training will be included

**NYS Mask Mandate reinstated for all counties**



On December 10, 2021, New York State announced a mask mandate for all indoor venues effective December 13, 2021 which will be reviewed January 15, 2022. At this time, masks are mandated for all participants in liturgies held in Catholic Churches and worship spaces located in the Diocese of Buffalo regardless of your vaccination status.

**Road to Renewal:** You may have seen the article prepared from a press release by the Diocese of Buffalo highlighted in the *Olean Times Herald* about the plan for renewal. You have been hearing about the Road to Renewal several months now. It has been determined that we are to be in Phase Two of implementation of our family of parishes in this part of the Southern Tier Vicariate. As you are aware, our "family" includes St. John the Evangelist, the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels and St. Bonaventure. The Administrative Team for this initiative has decided that our date for implementation of the family plan is October, 2023. Please pick up new additional information located at both entrances.

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