

St. William Parish Community



Walled Lake, Michigan 48390

January 2, 2022

www.stwilliam.com



Have you noticed that the secular world seem to think that the Christmas season begins at Thanksgiving—or before—and ENDS on Christmas Day? It's hard to find a radio station or cable music channel that plays Christmas carols on December 26.

People with religious backgrounds tend to know better, but still, a lot of Christians probably believe that the Christmas season ended last Sunday on the feast of the Epiphany. However, these folks—who may be smugly smiling at you because *they've* already taken down their Christmas decorations and you haven't—are mistaken. The Christmas season actually ends this weekend, **on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord**, one week after Epiphany. (Ordinary Time begins on Monday, January 10.) We still get to sing Christmas Carols in Church this weekend! Amuse and amaze your friends with this bit of sophisticated knowledge.

Historically, for a number of centuries, the Church celebrated the “manifestation” of Jesus to the world—the “revealing” of Christ to the world—as his “epiphany”. But as I was explaining in last week's column, Christ's epiphany was always meant to include more than just the day that we have come to associate with Wise Men and their gifts—it also included both the **birth** of the Lord **and his baptism!**

Remember, at his baptism in the Jordan all the Gospels describe the Holy Spirit coming upon him, and the three Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) mention the voice that *reveals* him as the beloved Son. That revelation was another “epiphany”, as much as the birth itself or the visit of the wise men. In later years, the Western Church (i.e., the Church above the western half of the Mediterranean Sea), gradually began to focus more on the *birth*. The Eastern Church tended to speak

(Continued on page 3)



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

Evangelii from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1988, 1975 CCO

GLJF

PARISH CLOSED

Friday, January 14TH

All parish and school offices and facilities will be closed. The offices will reopen on Monday.

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 4:30 pm .
Sunday *10:00 am (*also Live-streamed)
and Sunday 12:30 pm
Tues., Wed. & Thur., 8:00 am



Follow us on Facebook,
@stwilliamparishwalledlake

Office Hours

Monday through Thursday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Many issues can be taken care of with a phone call, 248-624-1421.

Registration

For many reasons it is important to be formally registered as a parishioner. Contact the rectory for friendly help. Ext. 341

Baptism

To begin the preparation process for Baptism please call 624-1421. Baptisms are normally scheduled the first and third Sundays of the month.

Marriage

To celebrate a valid marriage Catholics must have the help of a priest or deacon. Call at least six months in advance.

Funeral

Please contact the parish office to make arrangements.

Ministry To The Sick

We are happy to visit the sick and provide anointing. Please contact the Parish Office at 624-1421.

RECTORY

Email: Rectory1@stwilliam.com
531 Common Street (248) 624-1421

Pastor	Rev. Michael G. Savickas	Ext. 346
Deacons	Rev. Mr. Bob Dreyer Rev. Mr. John Liddle	Ext. 345
Pastoral Assoc.	Mrs. Kim Kaye	Ext. 306
Business Office		Ext. 341
Business Manager	Mrs. Deborah Diviny	Ext. 349
Administrative Asst.	Mrs. Lisa Geoffrey	Ext. 342
Pastoral Assistant	Mrs. Karen Sommers 248-624-8870	Ext. 344
Maintenance: Supervisor	(248) 669-5522 Mr. Dave Colby	Ext. 312

EDUCATION CENTER

135 O'Flaherty Street

Office of Faith Formation		(248) 624-1371
Pastoral Assoc.	Mrs. Kim Kaye	(248) 956-8236
Youth Ministry	Mrs. Karen Trojniak	Ext. 308
Music Ministry Dir.	Mr. Bill Richard	Ext. 310
Administrative Asst.	Mrs. Lisa Geoffrey	Ext. 342
School Office		(248) 669-4440
Principal	Mrs. Betsy Gabrish	Ext. 303
Secretary	Samantha Wren or Tammy Hobbs	Ext. 302

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Legion of Mary

If you would like to enrich your spiritual life & would like to help others, we need you in Legion of Mary.

Meetings are in the St. Paul room every Tuesday evening after 6:30 PM rosary. Come join us and say the Rosary and see what we're all about.

Contact Sherri Szepletowski, 248-957-8244, if you have any questions.

Contribution levels are still below average due to lower Mass attendance due to COVID concerns.

If you are in a position to help, automatic giving can be easily arranged online. Go to Faithdirect.net, or follow the link from our website, www.stwilliam.com.



Offeritory Report

(The fiscal year begins July 1)

	Collected	Budgeted*	Over/(Under)
As of Nov., 2021	*\$443,974	\$512,498	(\$68,524)

*This does NOT represent *needed* income, but only the amount we expected would actually come in.

Note: For clarity and accuracy, this report now shows reconciled month-end balances.

The "One-Hour Challenge!"

To have a *happy, peaceful life*, it is important that we have our lives in order, with our grateful response to God for his gifts being our top priority. That is how a disciple responds in the areas of *prayer, family, finance, and service*.

If you need help to put balance in your life, take the "one-hour challenge": Each week, spend at least...

- One hour in prayer and worship.
- One hour, special, focused on your family or other important relationship.
- One hour's wage (if you have a job) for the Lord. No job? Then give what seems right for you.
- One hour in service. (Helping another, or working for some cause.)

It's important to be *specific* in what steps to take in order to ensure that each "hour" actually happens!

May God bless you!

(Continued from page 1)

about the Baptism of the Lord as his "Epiphany". But if we're to understand the meaning of Christ's coming into the world—of the Father revealing his love in Jesus—all three events, birth, epiphany, and baptism, are important. You could also add that, in the Gospel of John, Jesus "revealed his glory" by performing the first of his signs at the wedding in Cana. And let's not forget that the greatest epiphany or all was the Resurrection. In any case, the Church today still chooses to end the Christmas season by recalling the baptism of the Lord.

I'm glad it does, because this feast challenges us to reflect on the meaning of baptism, including our own baptisms. Baptisms aren't static events that "happened" once; they are "beginning" events that demand that we continue to live out the meaning of those baptisms. In the same way, the feast of the Baptism of the Lord isn't simply a static "end" of a season. It's a "transition", moving us from celebrating the *beginning* of our salvation (the Christmas Season), into accepting the challenge of joining the Savior in the *ongoing* work of the Gospel.

You see, one of the root meanings of the word "baptism", carries the sense of "being immersed". After his baptism in the Jordan, Jesus became immersed in the Father's work; and by our baptisms, we, too, are supposed to be immersed in the work of the Lord. So we should "plunge right in" now that the Christmas season is over.

I guess it makes some sense, then, that next weekend is referred to as the "Second Sunday in Ordinary Time". (Wait. What happened to the *First* one?)

It may sound a bit confusing, but it helps to think of Sunday as standing at the head of the week, rather than at the end. We're already in the first week of the "ordinary" season right after the Baptism of the Lord. The following Sunday, which we call "the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time", but maybe we should call it more accurately "the Sunday (first day) of the Second Week in Ordinary Time", we've already made the transition into the normal activities of our lives.

If you're still confused, I suppose it could be because all transition times are somewhat confusing. Whenever we are in transition—besides the inevitable changes, which in themselves tend to be somewhat upsetting—there is often a lot of activity going on to add to the confusion. Perhaps that's one of the reasons the Church refers to so many Sundays as "ordinary": because the ordinary life in a parish is often confusing, semi-controlled chaos with lots of activity

going on to add to the hilarity.

Far from being distressing though, it can be kind of exciting. After all, doing the work of the Lord—which should be the "ordinary" work of the baptized Christian—is, in fact, quite extra-ordinary! That's how parish life should be, and your individual lives as well: *exciting!*

"Prayer, Nurturing Family Relationships, Sharing our Treasures, and Giving of Service" are four strong pillars on which we build an exciting and fulfilling Christian Life. To these I need to add: "our desire to share the Good News with others"—and we've got a pretty good picture of what a parish full of disciples should be all about.

As we approach the "Second Sunday in Ordinary Time", my observation is that the ordinary life of our parish is...actually, pretty extraordinary.

In Jesus,
Fr. Michael

Parish Goal: *"To become an Amazing Parish that fosters discipleship and equips disciples to share the good news."*

Parish Mission: *"To live the Good News so joyfully, that we can't help but proclaim it!"*



POINSETTIAS

St. William is a great parish family!!!

Thank you so much to all of you who supported the Christmas poinsettia drive. It was wonderful witnessing everyone pulling together to purchase the poinsettias and helping to place them in the church and even watering them as needed. You should all be so proud that the church looked so beautiful for the Christmas season.

Thank you so much to each and all of you. I sincerely hope that you have a blessed, prosperous and healthy new year!!!

Joan Dolder

*Note: Beginning after the 12:30 PM Mass this weekend you can pick up your poinsettia if you donated one.



Rosary Altar Society

Our next meeting will be on February 2nd at 6:30 pm in Lower Zepf Hall. We are looking forward to seeing you.

Our next Bake Sale will be on February 12th and 13th after all the Masses.

Grow Your Faith + Friendships with Small Faith Groups

"They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers."

- Acts 2:42

Interested in:

- Supporting Discipleship of others?
- Learning and Growing in your Faith?
- Accompanying others in the journey?
- Creating a small community?
- Charitably challenging each other to be the best version of ourselves?

Join a small faith group (SFG) at St. William! SFGs are forming around common interests and experiences to help members bridge their spiritual and everyday lives. The SFG Leadership team will support groups by providing content suggestions and assistance with facilitation and technology needs. Meeting schedules and locations (even virtual!) are flexible based on your group's needs. If you're interested in participating in growing as a Disciple, online sign is available through SignUpGenius. Scan the QR code to the right with your phone's camera to go right to the link.



RAFFLE TICKETS

The Knights of Columbus are pleased to announce the "The Knights of Columbus/Ushers Memorial Scholarship raffle tickets are on sale now. They can be purchased from any knight or usher. Tickets cost \$20. Drawings will be held once a month during the year. January—November the prizes will be \$100, \$75 and \$50. The grand price drawing will be held in December and the prizes will be \$1,000, \$500 and \$250. Tickets that are drawn are placed back in the bucket for next month's drawing so one ticket gives you a chance to win three times each month—that's 36 chances!!! Proceeds from the ticket sales will fund college scholarships for St. William high school seniors. Your past and future support of this program is truly appreciated. Thank you and God bless you.



Right to Life — Lifespan More Babies Lost

The CDC and Michigan's own reporting indicate that the number of abortions in the US has increased over the past year. This is being attributed to more women taking the abortion pill --alone, at home, with no support. The report does not include the increase in the number of ER visits due to complications from this pill. What a cruel "choice" for women.

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops - *Word of Life*

"When we encounter Christ, experience his love, and deepen our relationship with him, we become more aware of our own worth and that of others. His love for each person is cause for great joy, and growing understanding of this priceless treasure motivates us to share his love with others. Our lives are often changed by the witness of others; so too, others' lives may be changed by our witness and authentic friendship with them."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
"How to Build a Culture of Life"
(respectlife.org/culture-of-life)



K of C Sunday Breakfast – February 6th

The Knights of Columbus appreciate everyone who has supported our Breakfasts since we brought them back in September. Your donations have really helped St. Vincent de Paul in their work. Last year we were able to donate **\$1,253.00** to them, money they will put to good use!

Our next breakfast will be on February 6th, once again after the 10:00 Mass. Our usual fare will be offered, hopefully with Nino's doughnuts this time! We're going to keep the 'Free Will' donation again for this Breakfast with net proceeds once again going to St. Vincent de Paul! We hope you'll join us!



St. Vincent de Paul Society The Baptism of the Lord

After Jesus was baptized, he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and a voice was heard "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." As we give to the poor, we also can hear these same words.

As you help those who are suffering, know in your heart the truth of the words "you are my beloved with whom I am well pleased."

A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Baptism of the Lord

In today's gospel Jesus was publicly AFFIRMED by his Father: "You are my beloved son, with you I am very pleased." As parents we can become so focused on misbehaviors we overlook the good behaviors. Jesus needed AFFIRMATION and so do our children.

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

RISE Detroit 2022 –

A gathering of High School Youth the Archdiocese of Detroit is hosting a brand-new event for high school students in the spirit of Unleash the Gospel—RISE Detroit 2022. All 9th through 12th graders are encouraged to attend with their pastor, youth minister, campus minister, or parents! The event will take place on Sunday, February 6, 2022, from 8:15 am to 7:15 pm at Mercy High School in Farmington Hills. The theme is "Named," based on Isaiah 43:1: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine!" The speakers include Dr. Bob Rice, the Culture Project, Bishop Cepeda, and Fr. Patrick Gonyeau. Activities include keynotes, powerful praise and worship experiences, two workshop opportunities, small group discussion, and Liturgy!

Tickets are \$35/participant. If you are interested in attending, please contact Karen Trojniak at ktrojniak@stwilliam.com by Jan. 23.

Coming up in Youth Ministry

Jan. 8, 2022 – Confirmation Candidate/
Sponsor Workshop

Jan. 14, 2022 – Youth Ministry Games Night,
7pm, MS and HS youth

Jan. 22, 2022 - PBJ Ministry to the
Homeless, 5:30-10am, MS and HS youth
and families

Jan. 23, 2022 – Confirmation Candidate
Workshop 1, 6:30-8:30pm

Feb. 6, 2022 – RISE 2022 High School Youth
Conference, 8:30am – 7:15pm

What You Do For the Least of My Brothers . . .

St. William Youth Ministry continues to serve with P.B.J. Outreach, Inc., a non-profit organization focused on feeding and clothing the poor and marginalized living in the Detroit metropolitan area. The organization unites volunteers and equips them to obtain, prepare, and distribute food and clothing to those in need. Volunteers from various organizations or as individuals, meet every Saturday to prepare food, and then head to various locations in Detroit to serve it. Our experiences have shown us what is more important than the food that we serve to these wonderful people, is the sharing of a smile, handshake or hug, and offering a few words of hope.

We will be joining P.B.J. Outreach again on **Saturday, January 22**. We meet at 5:30am in St. William parking lot and car pool to Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, home to P.B.J. Outreach, Inc.

After serving our homeless guests at 8:00am, we go out to breakfast and talk about our experiences. Middle and High School youth are invited to join us. Youth permission slips can be found in the email reminder.

Youth Ministry Games Night



Group games, board games, or card games will make up the events for the evening! St. William Youth Ministry invites all Middle and High Schoolers to a Games Night on Friday, January 14, from 7 – 8:30pm in Upper Zepf Hall. Bring a snack to share, and plan to join in the fun! Bring some friends, because as the saying goes, "The more, the merrier!"



OUR MISSION

“We exist to provide a school environment in which Christ is encountered and Discipleship is fostered through the teaching and practice of Catholic Tradition, values and doctrine, while challenging each student to academic excellence.”

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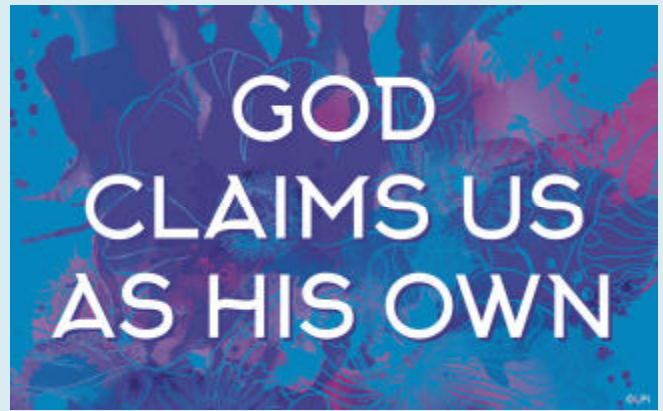
The Baptism of the Lord

"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.

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Calendar of Events

Monday January 10th

6:15pm Rel. Ed. Classes

Tuesday January 11th

8:00am Mass

6:30pm Rosary

7:00pm Legion of Mary, Church

7:00pm Scouts Mtg., Upper & Lower Zepf

Wednesday January 12th

8:00am Mass

Thursday January 13th

8:00am Mass

7:00pm St. Vincent de Paul Mtg., RGR

7:30pm AA Mtg., Lower Zepf

Friday January 14th

PARISH CAMPUS CLOSED

Saturday January 15th

4:30pm Mass

Sunday January 16th

10:00am Mass

10:15am Rel. Ed. Classes

12:30pm Mass

Sharing the Gospel

Your Dad says, "Wash your hands, please. It is almost time to eat." After you wash your hands really well, your Dad smiles. He says, "That's my boy. You did a good job!" In today's Gospel, it was time for Jesus to be baptized. After his baptism, Jesus talked to God his Father in prayer. Jesus did everything his Father asked. God was happy with his Son and said, "I'm pleased with you."

Prayer

God, I want to make you and my parents happy.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of God telling you, "Good job!"

Mission for the Week

Find out what makes God happy. As a family, read John 15:9-12.

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Kid's Corner

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

JOHN
MESSIAH
BAPTIZING

WATER
POWERFUL
SANDALS

HOLY SPIRIT
FIRE
JESUS

A	J	T	U	A	R	B	Y	W	E	N
H	O	L	Y	S	P	I	R	I	T	O
E	H	A	I	T	O	S	U	F	A	M
J	N	E	G	Y	W	A	T	E	R	E
I	Y	B	E	H	E	U	P	L	M	S
H	S	I	N	U	R	M	O	A	Y	S
J	U	P	A	W	F	I	R	E	C	I
E	M	O	Z	T	U	Y	M	S	U	A
S	A	N	D	A	L	S	E	O	T	H
U	D	Y	T	O	E	A	N	G	E	D
S	O	B	A	P	T	I	Z	I	N	G

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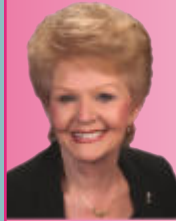
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