



Church
of the

Holy Spirit

3700 Harvey Lake Rd, Highland MI 48356

January 9, 2022 - The Baptism of the Lord

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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The Baptism of the Lord

The feast of the Baptism of the Lord marks the end of the liturgical season of Christmas. These weeks of Christmas have been a time in which we have celebrated the amazing grace of God coming into our world being born into our human family! In the mystery of the incarnation, we learn that our God is a God who is among us, in our midst; that our God is Emmanuel: God with us.

So, as our cultural calendar marks the beginning of a new year, this feast of the Baptism of the Lord marks the end of the Christmas season and the beginning of the liturgical season of Ordinary Time. And with the start of Ordinary Time, we encounter an event in Scripture that marks the start of the public ministry of Jesus. So, as we prepare to tell again the story of our salvation in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus throughout Ordinary Time, our church gives us readings this day that teach us who Jesus is as he begins his mission and public ministry on earth.

From our readings this day, we hear that who Jesus is, as was foretold by the prophet Isaiah, is a bearer of justice who will do so quietly: "not crying out, not shouting, not making his voice heard in the street." With Jesus, the message is not shouted out, not forced upon us (as many leaders in the world might do), but his message is cultivated from within us. As Jesus is "God with us," he will bring about justice by being just; by living justly; by showing us how to live justly and so showing us what is possible when we follow his example. The lived message of Jesus is meant to quietly call us to change our hearts by living justly.

Who Jesus is is also demonstrated for us in Luke's account of Jesus' baptism. As a humble servant, Jesus submits himself to the baptism of John whereby we learn by the opening of the sky, the descent of the Spirit like a dove, and the voice speaking from above that Jesus, the humble servant, is (as God with us) the new way for humanity to connect with and to be in relationship with God. Also, by Jesus submitting to the baptism by full immersion in the Jordan we see, by symbol, God's full immersion into our humanity in the person of Jesus.

Our Scriptures this day on the feast of the Baptism of Jesus give us a clearer vision and understanding of exactly who "God with us" truly is. As God's servant and son, we are reminded this day that the mission of Jesus is not about powerful words of persuasion or about loud displays of intimidation. Rather, we are reminded that Jesus' mission was about living a life that cultivates justice and peace, a cultivation directed toward the conversion of the hearts of all who encounter Jesus.

By living justly, by performing acts of love and mercy, by speaking (not shouting) words of hope and promise and peace, the mission that Jesus began at his baptism is his demonstration to the world of what it means to live in a world where "God is with us." Life with Jesus, God with us, is a life that brings light to our eyes and our hearts to liberate us from the blindness that impairs us and that only causes separation and division. In the mission of Jesus, God with us gives us a guiding light of justice and love that sets us free from our imprisonment to the dark dungeons of hatred, violence, and all forms of caustic and toxic ways of thinking and acting. Living life with "God with us," as we learn from Jesus, is living our lives with a purpose and direction in life that heals, unifies, forgives, and liberates.

On this feast day, ours is an invitation given to us by God to follow Jesus' example, and so come to experience in our lives the joys of living life with God with us!

Rev. Thomas Gaughan, CSC

Holy Spirit Church

Calendar at a Glance

Monday, January 10

Office Hours 9am-3pm
11am-AA

Tuesday, January 11

Office Hours 9am-3pm
10am-Women's Prayer Group
5:10pm-Elementary FF
7pm-Men's Club

Wednesday, January 12

Office Hours 9am-3pm
9am-Morning Mass
6:30pm-Elementary FF
6:30pm-Middle School FF

Thursday, January 13

Office Hours 9am-3pm
9am-Morning Mass
6:30pm-2nd Grade Reconciliation

Friday, January 14

9am-Morning Mass

Saturday, January 15

5pm-Mass

Sunday, January 16

9am-Mass
11am-Mass



BAPTISM OF THE LORD



Parish Vision: To Be Christ to All.

Our Mission Statement: Led by the Holy Spirit, we accompany others to encounter Jesus, to give witness to Him, and to grow as missionary disciples.

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD



Make us Holy

Loving Father,
 you sent the gift of the Spirit
 upon your beloved Son
 on the banks of the Jordan
 long ago.
 And upon each of us,
 the Spirit called upon the waters,
 making them holy.
 Strengthen us in that same Spirit,
 make us holy, set us apart,
 that we answer your call.
 Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

January 9, 2022

In You I Am Well Pleased



Today's readings: Isaiah 42, 1–4 or Isaiah 40:1–5, 9–11; Psalm 29:1–2, 3–4, 3, 9–10 or Psalm 104:1b–2, 3–4, 24–25, 27–28, 29–30; Acts 10:34–38 or Titus 2:11–14, 3:4–7; Luke 3:15–16, 21–22. John the Baptist pointed away from himself and toward Jesus. He spoke God's Word to the people and baptized those who came to him, but he knew that he was not the messiah, the one who will baptize "with the holy Spirit and fire." And then one day, Jesus came to him to be baptized.

The heavens opened and the Spirit came down in the form of a dove. "You are my Beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." The Holy Spirit descended bodily, making

Jesus ready for his public ministry. What joy John must have felt to see the fulfillment of God's promises to him and to the people of Israel! It was the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, in which he preached the kingdom of God but also revealed it in everything that he did.

On the day of our baptism, we receive the same Holy Spirit that descended on Jesus two thousand years ago. It is the beginning of our own vocation to reveal the kingdom of God in our words and our actions: to be like Jesus. How is God calling you today? You are God's beloved child, in whom God is well pleased. How will you carry the joy of that revelation into your life beyond the Christmas season?

Meditations for January 9
LUKE 3:15-16, 21-22

He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit. (Luke 3:16)

Now that’s a promise worth remembering: Jesus wants to baptize us with his own Holy Spirit! But what does this mean?

Let’s look first at Jesus’ experience of the Spirit. Luke tells us that at Jesus’ baptism, “the Holy Spirit descended upon” him (3:22). On that day, Jesus received the Spirit in a new way—a gift from God that would empower him and set him on the path of ministry, service, and ultimately death and resurrection. Though Jesus was already fully God, the Spirit of God still came upon him.

Luke includes a small but important detail in his account. As the Spirit descended on him, the Father called out, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased” (Luke 3:22, emphasis added). He spoke directly to Jesus. He told him how delighted he was in his Son’s obedience, humility, and trust in him. Baptized, or immersed, in water, Jesus was also immersed in the Holy Spirit that day.

When you were baptized, the Holy Spirit came upon you, and God claimed you as his beloved child as well. He entered into a new, unbreakable relationship with you, and you became a new creation in Christ (see Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1279).

But God doesn’t want to fill you with his Spirit only at your baptism. He wants to baptize you—immerse you—in his Spirit again and again so that you can be filled with his love and equipped for the work God has for you. Again and again, he wants to tell you, “You are my beloved child. I love you. I am pleased to have you in my family.”

Even if it has been decades since you were baptized, God still wants to fill you with his Spirit. So don’t be afraid to ask for more: more of his love, and more of his power in your life.

“Jesus, fill me with your Spirit. Let me know your love in a new way today!”

Prayer
REQUESTS

The names of the sick will be removed in 6 weeks. To re-list, or to add a name, please call the parish office at 248-887-5364.

- | | | |
|--------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Martha Abercrombie | Suzanne Farnum | Keri Mueller |
| Debbie Adams | Richard Fish | Diane Nightengale |
| Greg Azzoli | Ruthie Glover | Jamie O’Brien |
| Jeannine Aubry | Lisa Grunwald | Nancy Ochoa |
| Bob Behmer | Dominic Guzzardo | Don Owens |
| Kathy Bergen | Richard Haviland | Aalyhi Phelps |
| Loren Bloetcher | Wendy Heibert | Josephine Polcyn |
| Dale Bretz | Juliann Heidt | Michael Polcyn |
| Jerry Bretz | Scott Hoensheid | Anthony Pilarz |
| Brooklyn Bridson | Carol Johnson | Michael Pino Jr. |
| Carol Burke | Jim Johnson | Kathy Rakowski |
| Jim Byrnes | Jim Kelly | Christine Rejniak |
| Amanda Burger | Tracy Kelly | Paula Reynolds |
| Kevin Burger | Mike Konopnick | Rhett Richardson |
| Stephanie Byrne | Ken Kost | Kelly Rodgers |
| Doris Cameron | Bob Kotulak | Kit Schatz |
| Margaret Chenier | Rick Kowal | Betty & Ken Simmons |
| Harry Cole | Karen Law Family | Phil Thomas |
| Mary Cole | Marty Levin | Courtney Thompson |
| Nancy Cooper-Bass | Pete Lillemoen | Tom Torode |
| David Crockett | Maurie Luther | Martin Tufts |
| Ed Deaton | Roberta Luther | Linda Tudman |
| Gene Demey | Tom Mitch | Vicki Wheeler |
| Steve Demey | Robin Motley | William Zelony |
| Sue Deming | Ed Meyer | James Zelony |
| Renee Dubiel | Jeff Mummary | Carole Ziegler |
| Nancy Duzzie | | |
| Kathy Edwards | | |



Weekly Offertory Collection

Date	Actual	Budget	Over / (Under)
12/26	\$ 5,036	\$ 10,200	(\$ 5,164)
01/02	\$ 10,612	\$ 10,200	\$ 412
Christmas	\$ 90,034	\$ 90,000	\$ 34
Y-T-D	\$344,367	\$375,600	(\$31,233)

This report is based on the Offertory Collection line in the budget. It includes weekly envelopes, loose and children’s collection, holy day collections, and online giving. It does not include Christian Service, fuel, or kitchen fund envelopes, the Christmas collection, Parish fundraisers, grants received, CCE tuition and fees, or other miscellaneous income. It is based on a yearly budget where we anticipate the expenses of the Parish. Just because there may be a deficit here, it does not mean the Parish is operating at a deficit. Feel free to direct questions to the Parish Finance Council.

Readings for Sunday, January 16
Is 62:1-5 | 1 Cor 12:4-11 | Jn 2:1-11



Explore the Gospel

The Preaching of
John the Baptist & The Baptism of Jesus
LK 3:15-16, 21-22

The people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ.

John answered them all, saying, "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."

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. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

Take Time to Chat

1. John was a powerful preacher filled with the Spirit of God. Share a time when you've met someone that has inspired your faith.
2. God sent John the Baptist to prepare the people for his coming. If Jesus were coming to your house today. What would you do to get ready to receive him?
3. What does it mean to be baptized with the Holy Spirit and fire? What makes baptism so special?
4. St. Francis Xavier learned the languages of the native people he visited. What language would you like to learn?



On behalf of the Holy Spirit Family, we would like to extend our deepest sympathies and prayers to the family and friends of:

Joan Stewart

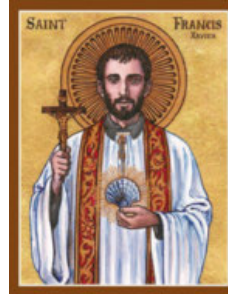
Christian Service Corner

We are in need of the following items:

Laundry Detergent, Mayo, Toilet Paper, 2qt Juice
All Purpose Cleaner (spray bottle), Paper Towel

**Due to COVID we can no longer take plastic or paper bags and we cannot accept expired food.*

Meet Our Extended Family



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

April 7. 1506 -December 3. 1552

Francis was the youngest child born to a noble family in Northern Spain. He met Saint Ignatius of Loyola while studying at university and they became good friends. Francis was one of the first people to be ordained as a priest in Saint Ignatius' religious order, the Society of

Jesus. His ministry took him to India, present-day Indonesia, and Japan, where he worked to help the poor and preach the Gospel.

Like John the Baptist, Francis was passionate about sharing God's love with others. He evangelized in different ways for different people, always looking for new methods that spoke to the culture of the people he wanted to help. Wherever Francis travelled, he tried to learn the native language of the people who lived there.

While he wasn't much of a linguist, his priestly vocation was very fruitful; he baptized 30,000 people in his lifetime!

Please Prayerfully Consider Adoring in Our Chapel

Hours needing to be immediately filled.

Sunday	3-4AM
Monday	9-10AM
Tuesday	8-9PM
Wednesday	2-3AM, 3-4AM, 4-5AM, 3-4PM
Thursday	3-4AM, 4-5AM, 5-6PM
Saturday	5-6AM, 11AM-12PM, 12PM-1PM

Children's Hour - Monday's 11AM-Noon

COVID Cleaning Schedule

Weekdays 12PM-1PM closed for cleaning

We are always looking for substitute adorers. Please call, Jenna Konarzewski 248-891-1623
Or Autumn Woodcox 248-872-6607

Mass Intentions

Lector Schedule

Monday, January 10

1 Sm 1:1-8 | Mk 1:14-20

Tuesday, January 11

1 Sm 1:9-20 | Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday, January 12

1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20 | Mk 1:29-39

9:00 a.m. (PPP) Joe & Nancy Maraj

9:00 a.m. +John Paul Lipscomb II

9:00 a.m. Deceased Members of the
Malik, Ciemiega & Hobbs Families

Thursday, January 13

1 Sm 4:1-11 | Mk 1:40-45

9:00 a.m. (PPP) Joe & Nancy Maraj

9:00 a.m. Intentions of Jim Byrnes

Friday, January 14

1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a | Mk 2:1-12

9:00 a.m. (PPP) Joe & Nancy Maraj

9:00 a.m. +Karen Boyd

Saturday, January 15

5:00 p.m. (PPP) Joe & Nancy Maraj

5:00 p.m. +Steve Parker

Sunday, January 16

9:00 a.m. (PPP) Joe & Nancy Maraj

9:00 a.m. +Chief Che Che White Cloud

11:00 a.m. (PPP) Joe & Nancy Maraj

11:00 a.m. +Louie Weglarz

11:00 a.m. Joseph Helou-Birthday Blessings

Saturday, January 15

5:00 p.m. - Mary Pat Chynoweth

Sunday, January 16

9:00 a.m. - Mike Perrera

11:00 a.m. - Cindie Audia

Church of the Holy Spirit

3700 Harvey Lake Road

Highland, Michigan 48356

248-887-5364 Fax: 248-889-1374

www.holyspirthighland.com

(Vicariate of the Lakes)

Rev. Wayne Ureel, Pastor

Michael Somervell, Deacon

Mass Schedule

SATURDAY - 5:00 p.m., SUNDAY - 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

HOLY DAY - 9:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

CONFESSIONS - Saturday, 4pm or by Appointment

Parish Offices

Business Manager:

Kay Young - Kayoung@holyspirthighland.com.....248-887-5364

Pam Glover - Glover@holyspirthighland.com.....248-889-5888

Fax.....248-889-1374

Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. -3:00 p.m. Mon.-Thur.

Christian Service: Gayle Greene.....248-887-1441

Faith Formation

Director of Faith Formation:

Jillian Peck - Jillian@holyspirthighland.com.....248-887-1634

Youth Ministry & SAGS

Julie Owens.....248-887-0027

Jojo Kind.....248-887-0027

Email.....TAG@holyspirthighland.com

Minister of Music

David Popovits - Text - 810-516-6594

Pastoral Council

Meets the 4th Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Baptisms

Contact Deacon Mike at 248-887-8813

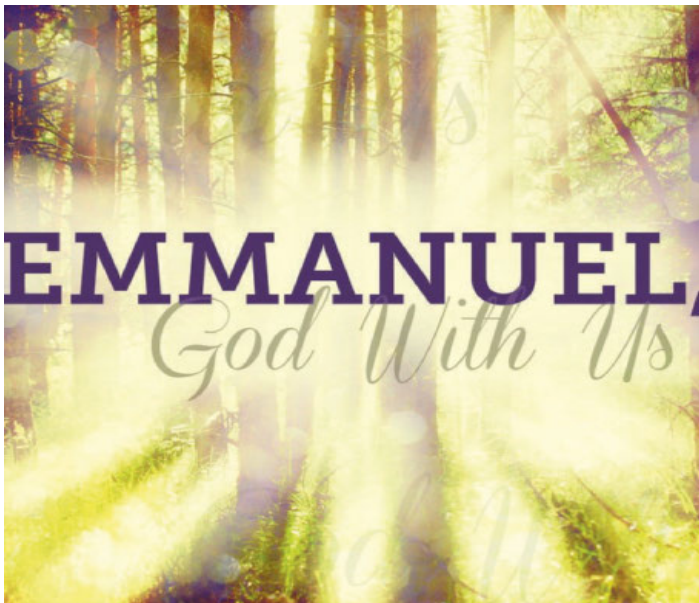
Marriages

Contact Fr. Wayne 6 months before your wedding date.

Bulletin Deadline: Thursday at noon

Changing your address or phone number?

Please notify the office when making these changes.



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