



# St. Mary Great Mother of God Catholic Church

## We welcome you!

### January 9, 2022

St. Mary  
Great Mother of God  
Catholic Church

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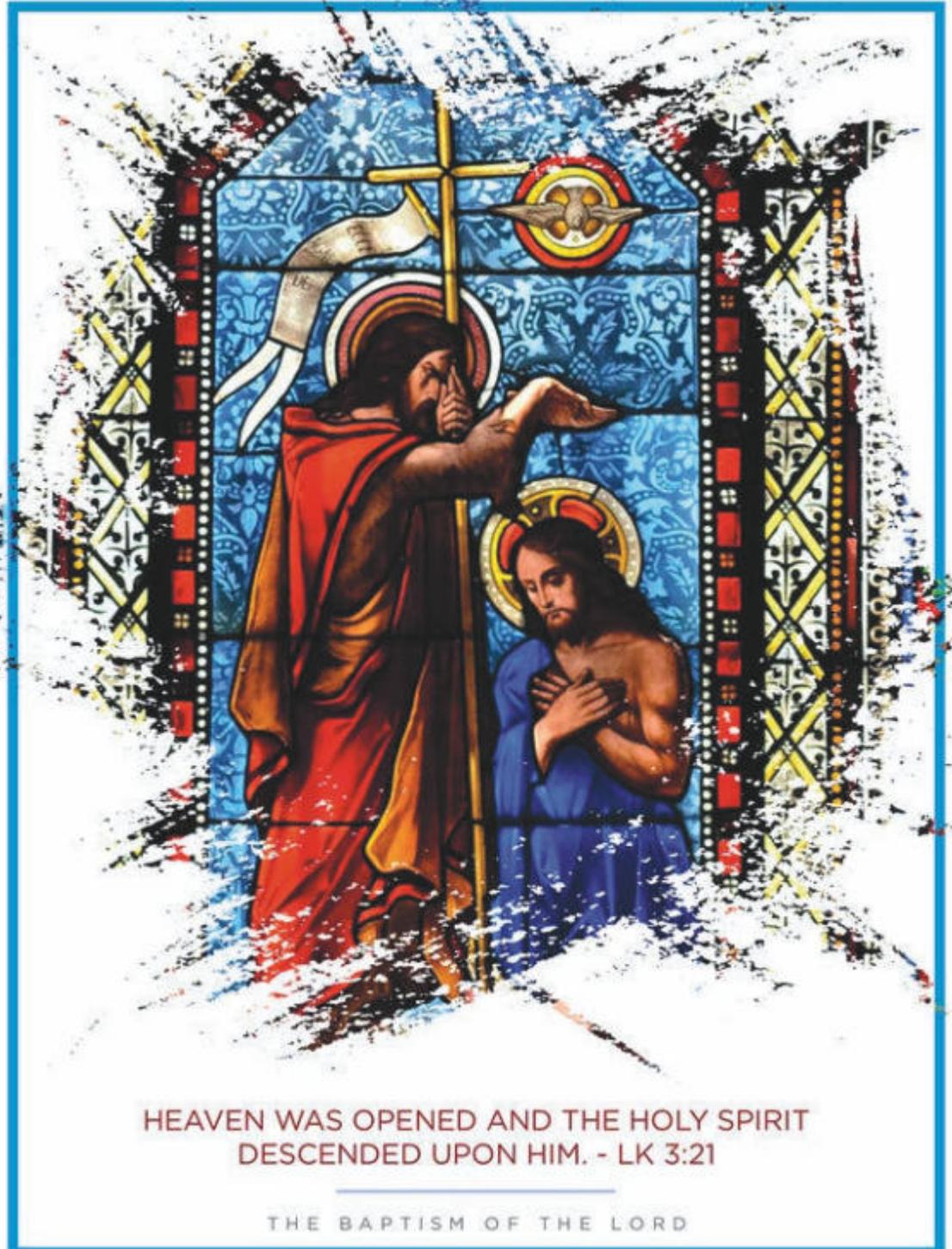
The Parish Office is open  
Monday-Thursday  
8:00 am to 4:30 pm  
Closed for lunch 12-1pm

Daily Mass: 7:45 am  
No Mass on Tuesdays  
Weekend Masses:  
Saturday 8:30 am  
Saturday 5:00 pm  
Sunday 10:30 am

Adoration:  
Wednesdays  
8:15 a.m. to 6:45 p.m.

**Confession:**  
Wednesdays 5-6p.m.  
Saturdays **3-4:30 p.m.**  
Or by appointment

For other Sacraments  
please call the office



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

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

## Masses for the week of January 10, 2022

Mon	Jan 10	7:45 am	Mass -for the repose of the soul of Sam Huston
Tue	Jan 11	<b>No Mass Today</b>	
Wed	Jan 12	7:45 am	Mass--for the repose of the soul of Dean Boston
Thur	Jan 13	7:45 am	Mass--for greater devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus
Fri	Jan 14	7:45 am	Mass-- for the repose of the soul of Julia Rasch
Sat	Jan 15	8:30am	Mass-- for the perseverance of all priests and religious
		5:00pm	Mass-- for the Holy Souls in purgatory
Jan 16	10:30 am	Mass-- for all parishioners	

**“As to the past, let us entrust it to God’s mercy, the future to divine Providence. Our task is to live holy the present moment.” — St. Gianna Molla**

### MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR WEEKEND OF January 15 & 16

	<u>Saturday 5:00 pm</u>	<u>Sunday 10:30 am</u>
<b>Lectors</b>	<b>Mike McDaniel</b>	<b>Eric Pugh</b>
<b>Ministers of Holy Communion</b>	<b>Dr. Jim Reagan</b>	<b>Brigitta Boston</b>
<b>Green Acres/Homebound</b>	<b>Barb Boland</b>	
<b>Flower Schedule</b>	<b>Beth Pfaller</b>	



Knights of Columbus Council 7719 invites all members of the parish and their guests to join us for free pizza following the 6:45 p.m. Benediction on Wednesday evenings after Adoration. Pizza will be served in the PLC until 8pm. All are welcome!

Deposit for 12/26/2021 will be reported next week

Adult Envelopes:	\$ 5873.00
Loose collection:	\$ 3437.00
Children's:	\$ .00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 9310.00</b>



**Needed for Budget \$5500.00**

Are you preparing for marriage or looking into Natural Family Planning (NFP) options? The **Franciscan Life Process Center** invites you to **Introduction to Natural Family Planning (NFP)** on January 22 from 10:00 - 11:30 am at the Grand Rapids campus, 654 Davis Ave., NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504. This one-time session covers the basics of how NFP works and highlights the differences between methods. Cost: \$25/individual and \$40/couple Go to <https://introtonfp.eventbrite.com> to register.

### Happy Birthday to You!

- 1/10 Rachel Mullins, McKenna Altoft, Matthew O'Neill
- 1/11 Daniel Nowak, David Settle
- 1/12 Ming Zou
- 1/14 Ella Halfmann
- 1/16 Melissa Olin



**Rest in Peace-for our deceased & their loved ones;** All of our fallen heroes and the faithful departed. **Support Prayer for comfort & healing to those who are ill or injured, for the homebound & for caregivers and those in the Military;** All those affected by Covid-19 and natural disasters, Kathy Noskey, Rhonda Fitzpatrick, Susan Serne, Bob Graham, Mary DeLiefde, Lisa Zigmont, Vee Sarb, Bob & Barb Hess, Pat O'Connor, Jim Roskamp, Jeff Bowles, Betsy Davidson, Noah Langlois, Donna Roskamp, Dave & Martha Roskamp, Gertrude Zygaj, Anna Organek, the unemployed, Michigan's economy, and war wounded, justice and peace in the world, and for all priests and religious, and the Holy Catholic Church.



# WORSHIP & MEDITATION

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# GOD CLAIMS US AS HIS OWN

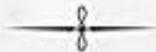
## PSALM

O bless the Lord, my soul. (Ps 104)



## SECOND READING

He saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. (Ti 3:5)



## GOSPEL

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 3:22)

*Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.*



## 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.

# LITURGICAL LIFE

## RESPONDING *to the Call*

### 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

As we begin the new year, it is a good time for me to express my thanks to all who have helped in so many ways over the past year. While in many aspects 2021 was a fairly streamlined and simple year, still there are many who have helped move the year along. Catechists still showed up to teach. Musicians and singers showed up to beautify the liturgies. Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers helped bring Jesus to God's people. Of course, there have been many others helping in even less visible ways.

Thank you to everyone who has served our communities over the past year. There are undoubtedly many things that I don't see or know about that keep our communities moving forward. Thank you to everyone who continues to serve. May the Lord bless you with the abundance of His grace for your service to Him and to His people.

--Fr. Ferris



### WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained:

#### Question:

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?

#### Answer:

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.

# Pray for our Seminarians



Pray for:

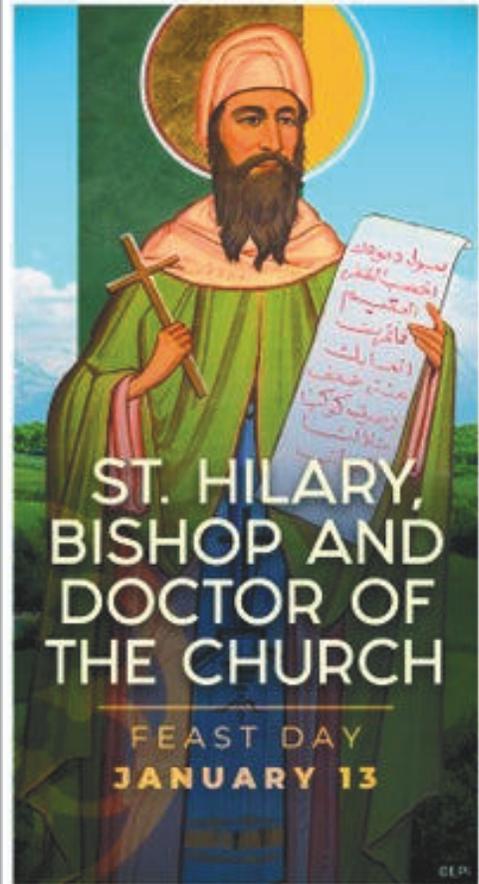
**Charles W. Leidel**

University of St. Thomas  
St. John Vianney Seminary  
2115 Summit Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55105

Heavenly Father,  
We give you thanks and praise for your son,  
Jesus Christ. Send your Holy Spirit to inspire  
holy, faithful men to minister as priests. Lord,  
we pray for our seminarians, especially  
Charles. We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## LIVE THE LITURGY Inspiration for the week

Jesus stood in line with everyone else and was baptized. There is something incredibly humbling about how this must have played out. Then, God did something truly awesome and inspiring. Through a very gentle and simple action he let the world know about the special relationship He shares with Jesus. That's exactly what is so incredible about our baptisms as well! Through those holy waters God announces to the world the special place we also occupy in His heart. We no longer have to wonder about the purpose of our lives or struggle to find our way. We do not need to fumble around, tripping over ourselves and wondering why we are even here. The answer has been given. All we have to do is live out the vocation we have received, to live the Gospel in fidelity to our Creator. There is nothing to fear and worry has no place. Standing in line with other sinners, we have our anchor and God is very pleased.



## SAINT OF THE WEEK

Born a pagan, St. Hilary (c. 315 – c. 367) studied philosophy and the meaning of life, eventually making his way through the bible. He became a convert and was appointed bishop of Poitiers in 353. Sometimes referred to as the Hammer of the Arians, St. Hilary defended the Nicene Creed against a popular heresy, Arianism. He was exiled to Phrygia for opposing Roman emperor Constantius II, who preferred the heresy which denies Christ's divinity. From Phrygia St. Hilary fought with his pen, zealously writing against the heresy.

Eventually he was allowed to return to Poitiers, but did so by a circuitous route, preaching against Arianism all the way. St. Hilary was likely the first writer of hymns in the West, his writings on the Trinity, Psalms and Gospel of Matthew survive today. St. Hilary was created Doctor of the Church, a title given to those who provided important contributions to theology and doctrine, in 1851 by Pope Pius IX.

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