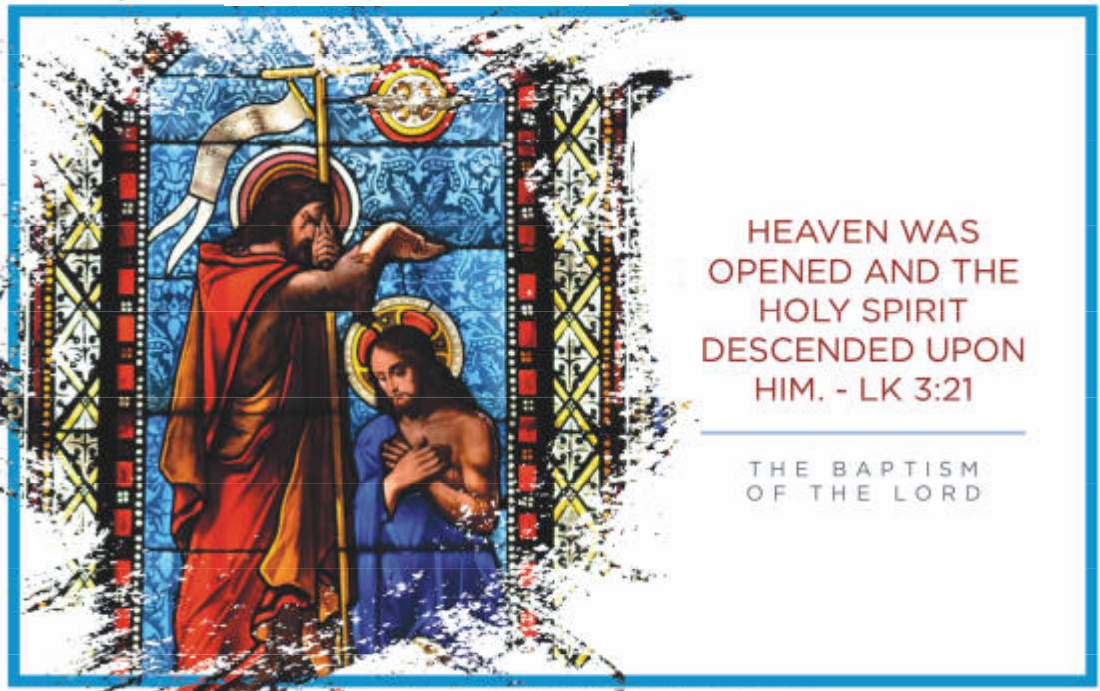


BAPTISM of the LORD

ST. BENEDICT CATHOLIC CHURCH

January 9th, 2022



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

THE BAPTISM
OF THE LORD

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY - FRIDAY

8:00 a.m.

SATURDAY

5:00 p.m.

SUNDAY

8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

OFFICE HOURS

9:00am - 2:30p.m.

CONFESSION

SATURDAY

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Pastor: Fr. Ryszard Stradomski (Fr. Richard)

Parish Staff

Frederick Oberst

Administrator

Noreen Pagano

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Marianne Duncan

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Maintenance

Tony Moser — Dean Smith

Music Ministry/Choir Director

Vicki Raney

Accompanist

Jason Joseph

R.C.I.A.

George Dluhy

Sacristan

A.J. Gogan



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MONDAY - THURSDAY
9:00 A.M. - 2:30 P.M.



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<http://stbenedictcrystalriver.com>

Mass Intentions

For The Week of
The Baptism of The Lord
January 8 — 16, 2022

Saturday, January 8 Christmas Weekday

5:00pm †William Zukas by Loving Children

Sunday, January 9 Baptism of The Lord

8:30am †Sean Hryc
by Peter and Marylou Magrino
10:30am †George L. Marra by Daughter Sandy

Monday, January 10 Weekday

8:00am †Mary Virginia Bathon
by Mary Frances McCown

Tuesday, January 11 Weekday

8:00am †Stanley Stankiewicz
by Harry and Marilyn Chisholm

Wednesday, January 12 Weekday

8:00am †Loretta Raman by Loving Family

Thursday, January 13 St. Hilary, bishop

8:00am Living and Deceased Members of
St. Benedict Council of Catholic Women

Friday, January 14 Weekday

8:00am †Timmy Leary by Sally Miller

Saturday, January 15 Weekday

5:00pm †Denise Murphy by Mesker boys

Sunday, January 16

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30am †Thomas Breedlove
by Pete and Marylou Magrino
10:30am Parishioners of St. Benedict



Pray for our People...

Our Sick...

Clarence Redd, Michael Bottichio, Gordon Gould, Irene Cmar, Michael Grivois, Julia Covert, Maria Canale, Steven Doyle, Don Miller, Ann Darling, Dan Clymer, Marvin Long, Kevin Terrell, Linda Fusco, Chris Grivois, Annetta Wieczorek, Ralph Esposito, Doug Sheppard, Agnes and Michael Ross, George Williams, Frank Polash, Cole Eskay, Barbara and Fred Born, Eugene Janusz, Una Lewis, Randy Sailor, Ron and Mary Guadagnini, Joan Turcotte, Dayden Floyd, Tiffany Nickel, Diane Clemmer, Michael Celentano, Bill Obermeier, Roman Jakubowski, JoAnn Dunton, Vincent Smith, Doug Raney, Smirna and Ed Velez, Luella Eggenberger, Barbara Brackin, Sigmund Sobiesiak, Elliana Deane, Angelina Jesselli, Joel Scime, Michael Hembree, Alma Stephens, Matthew McCown, Lindsay Longo, Mary Jane Eggleston, John Kilduff, Ann Boakes, Isaac Black, Josh Rodgers, Elizabeth Trepanier, Lorraine Fricke, Paul Fulton, Carolyn Darling-Sullivan, Louise Williams, Judy and Atlas Pierce, Fawn Aungst, Lydia Ehrman, Randy Heasley, Hank Stankiewicz, Gail Rosenow, Peggy Dorman* and Mary Lou Shersty

The sick list and active duty needs to be updated!

If there is a name that needs to stay on please call and let the office staff know. If we do not hear from you we will assume all is well and remove them from the list.

Active Duty...

Those protecting us at home and afar..

Anna Bily, Chandra Walton, Steve Sunstrom, Sean Ross, Ian Ross, Christopher Dergosits, Kevin Knudsen, Billy Keating, Cody Albritton, Lucas Zobel, Dadrian Ruiz, Michael Turcotte, Robert J. Milan Jr., Matthew and Michael Zarek, John Kelley, Ron Casasanta Jr., Butch Tonnessen, Boyer Kornfeind, Matthew Baker, Chris Grillo, Dakota Giles, Tim Dottillis, Todd Vanderbogart, Garrett Gibson, Gage Gibson, Richard J. Surowiec, Blake Leibach, and Dylan Ludec

Our Deceased...

The Lord has chosen to call **August Vorwerk** to come back home with him. May he rest in the arms of God. As we pray for him, we extend our heartfelt sympathies to his family and friends.

Send your prayer request to our prayer warriors through Anne at aschukne@tampabay.rr.com

Reading 1 — [IS 40:1-5, 9-11](#)

Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service is at an end, her guilt is expiated; indeed, she has received from the hand of the LORD double for all her sins. A voice cries out: In the desert prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low; the rugged land shall be made a plain, the rough country, a broad valley. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken. Go up on to a high mountain, Zion, herald of glad tidings; cry out at the top of your voice, Jerusalem, herald of good news! Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah: Here is your God! Here comes with power the Lord GOD, who rules by a strong arm; here is his reward with him, his recompense before him. Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom, and leading the ewes with care.

READING 2 — [TI 2:11-14; 3:4-7](#)

Beloved: The grace of God has appeared, saving all and training us to reject godless ways and worldly desires and to live temperately, justly, and devoutly in this age, as we await the blessed hope, the appearance of the glory of our great God and savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to deliver us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for himself a people as his own, eager to do what is good. When the kindness and generous love of God our savior appeared, not because of any righteous deeds we had done but because of his mercy, He saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he richly poured out on us through Jesus Christ our savior, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life.

ALLELUIA — R. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

GOSPEL — [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."

RECEIVING COMMUNION

Until local health conditions improve significantly, our preferred method of distributing and receiving the Eucharist remains *in the hand*. At communion time you are asked to sanitize your hands.

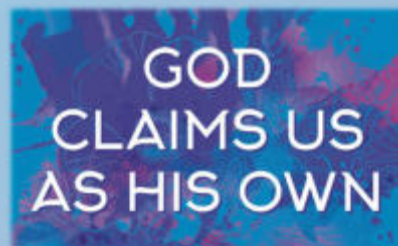
The Baptism of the Lord

"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.



Tax Man Cometh

To receive a letter verifying your contributions for 2021 please fill out this form and return it to the parish office. We can only send letters to those who use their envelopes.

Envelope # _____ Phone # _____

Name _____

Address _____

KNIGHTS **BEEF STEW DINNER**

The Knights of Columbus Beef Stew Dinner will be served after the 5:00pm Mass. With proceeds shared with several charities including the new kitchen. Bring a **BIG** appetite and plan to attend this post-holiday feast!

Saturday, January 15th

\$9.00
Per Person

- ◆ Beef Stew Dinner
- ◆ Salad
- ◆ Cornbread
- ◆ Desserts
- ◆ Variety of Beverages

A sign-up sheet is posted at the main door of the church for attendance planning.

Stewardship

January 2nd

St. Benedict is totally dependent upon the generous stewardship of our parishioners. The use of envelopes, regardless of the amount of the contribution, makes possible our many parish activities and services.

Offertory	\$10,782.00	SJP II School	\$380.00
Maintenance	\$474.00	Daystar	\$118.00
	Total		\$11,754.00

Amount needed Weekly for Operating Expenses: **\$9,765.00**



Mary putting Jesus in the manger.



Santa reverencing Jesus.



After mass singing Happy Birthday to Jesus.

KIDS CORNER

READ THE GOSPEL AND COMPLETE A PUZZLE!

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

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.

MISSION FOR THE WEEK

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



This letter was mailed out to all registered members in November 2021.
Here is a copy if you missed it.

From the Desk of Fr. Ryszard Stradomski...



Dear Parish Family,

Recently, one of our youngest parishioners was talking back to his mother. “Do you behave this way in school?” she asked. “NO!” he loudly declared. “Well, then,” she said, “if you can speak to your teachers with respect, why don’t you do the same at home?” Lowering his voice to just above a whisper, he answered, “They’ve got CAMERAS in school.” (True story!)

Even without a camera, God sees everything. I’m sure He noticed how distraught I was this past Easter. Everything was prepared in the parish hall: the mass, the music, the flowers and, most assuredly, our hearts. Then, at the last moment, members of the parish staff and I were struck by Covid 19. The masses were livestreamed, but we could not allow anyone to be physically present. For me, personally, that joyous feeling that always accompanies the celebration of Christ’s Resurrection was repressed by the absence of you, our parish family.

As a result of the pandemic, other things also came to an abrupt halt, including St. Benedict’s renovation and expansion project. We had the funds to continue but the Bishop placed a moratorium on projects throughout the diocese. Recently, plans to relocate the gas pipe in the kitchen have been completed and, by next summer, the exterior of the extension to the kitchen should be built. Unfortunately, building materials have dramatically increased in price which has raised our total cost to complete the project. I will give you more specific information on that once we have all the details.

By God’s grace, our people have gotten through what, hopefully, has been the worst of the pandemic but not without some suffering and even deaths. During this month of November, we pray especially for all of our departed friends and loved ones as well as for those who are grieving their loss. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you.

Reflecting on all that has happened since the dawn of the pandemic, there have also been some lighter moments that I will remember for years to come. For example, when word of my sadness over celebrating the mass in an empty church reached many of you, you surprised me by filling the empty pews with pictures of your smiling faces! That was awesome!



And how could I ever forget the first Sunday that some of you cleverly waited until I was inside the church before driving in, parking your cars and watching the mass on your cell phones. I had no idea that anyone was out there until you shared the Sign of Peace by honking your horns! I could hear you loud and clear! When I came out at the end of mass, there you were--shouting, smiling, and waving! I was moved to tears.

Finally, during the many months of celebrating the mass in our parish hall, a singing “animal” appeared each week after the end of mass to lighten our spirits. Thanks to all who added to our musical menagerie which served its purpose and put smiles on our faces!

At last, we were able to safely return to the church with some restrictions still in place. As we were preparing for this long-awaited day, I was reminded of the words of St. John Paul II when he said, "Open wide the doors to Christ!" This we did, with great joy! But, sadly, about half of you are still absent from the parish. If you are among them, let me take this opportunity to invite you to come back to your spiritual home, and to the table of the Lord. Jesus is waiting for you and so am I!

These past couple of years have been stressful for everyone. Now, we are faced with the rising cost of groceries, gasoline and just about everything else. Here, in the parish, we have reduced employee work hours and cut expenses to the bare bones; but even with these budget cuts, we have a sizeable shortfall. Our weekly collection has fallen far below our minimum requirement to pay the bills. For this reason, I need your help **now**, more than ever.

I am humbly asking every family, if possible, to increase your weekly offering by a minimum of ten percent (10%). In other words, if you are currently giving \$40 per week, please consider adding \$4 to your weekly offering, making it \$44 each week, and so on. If you can make a larger increase, please do so! If each one of us gives a little more, it will make a big difference.

Secondly, I am asking each family to make an additional offering of **\$100**, over and above your weekly offerings. I understand that this will be a sacrifice for some and maybe impossible for others. For this reason, I am appealing to those who might be able to give more to help us make up the deficit.

If every household in the parish gives **something**, we have hope of covering the shortfall. Donations may be mailed, brought to Mass, dropped off at the parish office, or you may participate in on-line giving.

Trust me when I tell you there is *nothing* I like less than asking you for money. In fact, I hate it! I remember saying, when I first came to St. Benedict's, that I would rather have a tooth pulled than ask you for money. A parishioner took me aside and told me that I needed to keep my teeth, "bite the bullet," and speak up when we need help. So, here I am.....speaking up.

Despite our recent hardships, each one of us has something for which to be grateful this coming Thanksgiving. I am most thankful for the privilege of being your Pastor. Please know that you are always in my heart and prayers.

May Jesus, in the Most Blessed Sacrament, bless you and your loved ones abundantly.

Sincerely, in the love of Christ,



Fr. Ryszard Stradomski
Pastor



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