

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

13 JANUARY 2019

Readings for Sunday, January 13: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7; Luke 3:15-16, 21-22.

Jesus is the beloved Son of the Father. He is the light of the nations and Lord of all creation. To him be all glory and praise! On Jesus, the beloved of the Father, the glory of the Lord has been revealed. Salvation is offered to all, and the earth is renewed!

Readings for Sunday, January 20: Isaiah 62:1-5; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; John 2:1-11.

St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish Special Day of Prayer is Monday.
Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament: Monday after 9:00 A.M. Mass to 4:00 PM in the Chapel.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

<u>Date</u>		<u>Intention</u>	<u>Requested By</u>
14 Jan.	MON. 9:00 AM	Marylou Bruno	St. Gabriel Women's Society
16 Jan.	WED. 9:00 AM	Valentino Rulli	Bruce & Patti Pollock
17 Jan.	THU. 9:00 AM	Earl Keck	Wife, Cathy
18 Jan.	FRI. 9:00 AM	Joseph A. & Martha Shemansky	Daughter, Cathy
19 Jan.	SAT. 4:00 PM	People of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	
20 Jan.	SUN. 9:00 AM	Frederick Messer	Hegedus Family



ETERNAL REST grant unto them, O Lord. May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.
PRAY FOR THE SICK AND SUFFERING of the parish especially those in homes and hospitals.
REMEMBER OUR TROOPS: Pray that God will bless and protect our young men and women in the military.



SECOND SUNDAY HOSPITALITY on Sunday, January 13 in the social hall after the 9:00 AM Mass. Come and enjoy a cup of coffee and juice and some light pastries. Free will offering accepted.

HELP NEEDED to take down the Christmas decorations in church on Sunday, January 13 after the 9:00 AM Mass.

POINSETTIAS on the Altar are available for anyone to take after Masses this weekend, January 12 and 13.

MAGNIFICAT BOOKS - Those who purchased the Magnificat can pick up their FEBRUARY issue at the parish office.

THE PARISH OFFICE will be closed on Friday, January 18.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE - January 19/20:

4:00 PM Mass

Lector - Phyllis Villano
 Extraordinary Ministers - Vincent Tamaro, Mara Tamaro, Terry Donnelly, Helen George
 Altar Server - Maeve Donnelly
 Greeters - Patty Wade and Monica Bauer

9:00 AM Mass

Lector - Jack Bucciaglia
 Extraordinary Ministers - Jim Bucciaglia, Denise Bucciaglia, Chris Gerasimowicz
 Altar Server - Domenic Gerasimowicz
 Greeters - Jack and Lori Carr

REFLECTIONS FROM THE DESK OF FR. GREGORY J. HICKEY

Baptism of the Lord

The Baptism of John the Baptist was a baptism of repentance. Jesus was God's Son, human like us in every way, except He was without sin. Why would He present Himself for Baptism by John? If you are confused about the baptism of Jesus, you are in good company. The early Church was confused and somewhat uncomfortable about it. St. Matthew reports John saying to Jesus: "I ought to be baptized by you, yet you come to me." St. Luke hardly mentions the baptism itself. St. John in his Gospel makes only an indirect reference to it. Yet all the gospels as well as the Acts of the Apostles knew that it happened, but they struggled to understand it.

Jesus did not have sin to repent of, so John's baptism had no relevance in this regard. One approach to understanding this event is to see it as a clarification of who Jesus is. He is God's Son, his beloved, with whom the Father is well pleased. There would be no question about Jesus' identity. Jesus' identity had already been revealed to us in Luke's gospel when the angel told Mary at the Annunciation that she would conceive a child through the power of the Holy Spirit, and He would be holy, and would be called Son of God. Jesus' identity was also revealed when Jesus was lost in the temple for three days and when He was found He said to his parents: "Why were you looking for me? Didn't you know I must be in my Father's house?" However, His identity was hidden from everyone around them. It was only when Jesus was baptized and God announced to the world, "This is my beloved Son" and the Spirit came down upon Him that the world was to know who He was.

Our baptism gives us our identity too. It tells us: we are God's child, sharing God's life, beloved by the Father, and called to live our lives in a way that is pleasing to our heavenly Father. The advertising media is constantly telling us we don't measure up, we're not worthwhile. We're not as beautiful, as shapely, as energetic, as stylish, as popular, as successful, as wonderful, and as happy as we should be. The ads tell us the product they happen to be promoting will make everything better. It will solve our problems and make us over into someone worthwhile.

God has already made us someone worthwhile. He first made us in His image and likeness. More than that, He has given us His life. He has made us His beloved son or daughter. Archbishop Tutu, the Anglican Bishop from South Africa, says he always preaches one message to his people there. His message is simple and he repeats it over and over again. It is that "God loves you." "I tell them that," he says, "because the entire culture tells them that they are unloveable, and I have to give them the message of who they really are, because God loves them."

Through baptism we have been defined forever as God's children and the only one who can deface or destroy that dignity that has been given to us is we, ourselves.

Jesus' baptism not only clarified for the entire world who Jesus was, but it also gave Jesus His mission. He was to be a covenant of the people and a light for the nations. He was especially called to establish justice on the earth. Justice here means "righteousness," fidelity to God, goodness, living up to what we know God wants of us. Who we are should define how we live. If a person is a policeman, he or she is to work to uphold the law. If a person is a doctor, he or she has a concern about people's health. If a person is a teacher, he or she is oriented toward helping people grow in wisdom and knowledge. If we are God's child, we are called to live up to that dignity. And in trying to live up to that dignity, who better could we imitate than the perfect Son of God, with whom the Father was well pleased.

As we celebrate Jesus' baptism, may we at the same time celebrate our own. May we rejoice in God's gift of love and life given to us, and may we live up to the high dignity that the Lord gave us on the day we were baptized. The next time you attend a Baptism, think and reflect on the great gift you have been given.

Have a good week!

Fr. Hickey

9 DAYS FOR LIFE - Nine days of Prayer, Penance and Pilgrimage, January 14-22, 2019. Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap., encourages the clergy and faithful of the Archdiocese to pray with the Bishops of the United States to end abortion. Information on the "9 Days for Life" is posted on the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website at www.9daysforlife.com. The centerpiece of this prayer effort is a simple novena with different intercessions, brief reflections and suggested acts of reparation that can be received directly each day through a variety of electronic forms. The novena prayer also spans the March for Life and can be a way to participate spiritually with the thousands of pilgrims who will travel to Washington, DC on January 18. *Our prayers and sacrifices make a difference, and do make a tremendous difference in the face of the culture of death with our real hope for a culture of life.*

Parish Support

WEEKLY BUDGET..... \$5,000
 DEPOSIT FOR DECEMBER 30, 2018..... \$13,388
 Regular Sunday Collection - \$4,382
 Parish Giving - \$85
 Christmas Collection - \$8,866
 Christmas Flower Collection - \$55
 WEEKLY SURPLUS..... \$8,388

Year to Date Budget..... \$135,000
 Year to Date Collections..... \$117,754
 Average per week Collection..... \$4,361
 Year to Date Deficit..... (\$17,246)
 Average per week Deficit..... (\$639)

DECEMBER 31, 2017

Deposit..... \$11,022
 2017-2018 Deficit to Date..... (\$14,307)
 Difference from previous year..... (\$2,939)
 Christmas 2017 Collection..... \$7,754

WEEKLY BUDGET..... \$5,000
 DEPOSIT FOR JANUARY 6, 2019..... \$5,823
 Regular Sunday Collection - \$4,285
 Parish Giving - \$140
 Solemnity of Mary Collection - \$1,398
 WEEKLY SURPLUS..... \$823

Year to Date Budget..... \$140,000
 Year to Date Collections..... \$123,577
 Average per week Collection..... \$4,413
 Year to Date Deficit..... (\$16,423)
 Average per week Deficit..... (\$587)

JANUARY 7, 2018

Deposit..... \$5,292
 2017-2018 Deficit to Date..... (\$14,015)
 Difference from previous year..... (\$2,408)

“ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK”

POTTSTOWN ORAL & MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY
 610-326-7880

“CONSIDER REMEMBERING YOUR PARISH IN YOUR WILL.” For further information, please call the parish office.

MASS ATTENDANCE for December 29/30:

4:00 PM Mass - 208
 9:00 AM Mass - 126
 Total Attendance - 334
 Mass Attendance for December 30/31, 2017 - 315

MASS ATTENDANCE for January 5/6:

4:00 PM Mass - 198
 9:00 AM Mass - 132
 Total Attendance - 330
 Mass Attendance for January 6/7, 2018 - 340



Raffle Drawing

PARISH LOTTERY RAFFLE TICKET based on the PA Pick 3 Evening Number.

Winning ticket number must be the exact number drawn for the PA Pick 3 Evening

Number. Tickets are \$5.00 each and are sold on a monthly basis. The prize for the winning ticket is \$50.00 on weekdays and \$100.00 on Sundays and one specially-designated weekday. Tickets are available after the Masses on weekends and at the parish office on weekdays. **This is our major fund raiser for the parish. We encourage each family to purchase at least one ticket each month. Your support is greatly appreciated.**

LOTTERY CALENDAR RAFFLE TICKET WINNERS

December 24 - #186 - unsold
 December 25 - #975 - unsold
 December 26 - #120 - Pete Monfort - \$50.00
 December 27 - #693 - unsold
 December 28 - #646 - Jack Carr - \$50.00
 December 29 - #432 - unsold
 December 30 - #345 - Beth Chillot - \$100.00
 December 31 - #648 - unsold
 DECEMBER FIGURES: 318 Tickets - \$1,590.00. Payout to Winners - \$450.00. Cost of printing tickets - \$100.00. Profit for December \$1,040.00.
 January 1 - #202 - unsold
 January 2 - #336 - Donna D’Emilio - \$50.00
 January 3 - #123 - Michael Burke - \$50.00
 January 4 - #570 - Kierstin Hildebrand - \$50.00
 January 5 - #614 - Grayson Arendt - \$50.00
 January 6 - #877 - unsold

2018 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT REQUESTS can be made by email (contact@sgsm62.org) or phone (610-326-5127). Statements are available for registered parishioners (those who receive and use their envelopes). Statements will be available by January 31, 2019.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
 Fulfilling the Church's mission of mercy and the gospel call to love others as we love God, The Catholic Relief Services (CRS) collection funds Catholic agencies that work for the benefit of our brothers and sisters around the world. In providing humanitarian aid, resettling displaced individuals and families, and advocating on behalf of victims of atrocities such as human trafficking, the organizations supported by the CRS collection act from their belief that every individual is an equal heir of Christ's love and care.

The annual Catholic Relief Services collection challenges American Catholics to put their faith into action and to see "Jesus in disguise" in the faces of the poor, and to support ongoing efforts to respond to their needs. The funds collected support vital Catholic programs that share in the Catholic mission of promoting the sacredness of human life. A small amount from the collection is retained by the Archdiocese to help cover local efforts to promote the collection.

The collection will be taken up in the parishes of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia the weekend of January 19 and 20, 2019. The American Catholic community, and the Archdiocese of Philadelphia in particular, have always responded very generously to this annual collection.

I am grateful to you for your compassionate response. May you be blessed for your faithfulness to living the Gospel and recognizing Jesus in those in need.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.
 Archbishop of Philadelphia

UPCOMING WOMEN'S SOCIETY EVENTS

- January - Hoagie Sale and "Souper" Bowl Sale
 - February 23/24 - Meatball and Sauce Sale
 - March 15 - Pizza and Movie Night
 - April 12 - Pizza and Game Night PLUS "Bags and Baubles"
 - April 28 - Ladies Springtime Tea
- Mark your calendars! More details on all events will be published at a later date.

HOAGIE VOUCHERS are on sale in January after all Masses. 8" hoagie vouchers from Valentino's in Stowe will be \$7.00. When you redeem your voucher at Valentino's, you will have your choice of Italian, Ham and Cheese or Turkey Hoagie. Vouchers will not expire until March 31, 2019 so you can begin using them in January and come back for more until the end of January then use them until March 31.

BAGS AND BAUBLES - Ladies, do you have a purse that you are not in love with any more or jewelry you are just plain tired of? Before sending it all to the thrift store, save them for the Women's Society. We will be hosting a "Bags and Baubles" event during our Pizza and Game night. Drop off details will be announced at a later date but start sorting NOW!

2019 MARCH FOR LIFE PLENARY INDULGENCE for those participating in the March. This Plenary Indulgence may be obtained by participating in the events of the 2019 March for Life on January 18 in Washington DC and by fulfilling the usual three conditions: sacramental Confession, the reception of Holy Communion and prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father. Those who would like to obtain the gift of the Indulgence should be truly penitential.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FR. BALLY COUNCIL FREE THROW COMPETITION on January 19 in Begley Hall at St. Aloysius Parish. Registration starts at 9:00 AM; Competition starts at 9:30 AM. Event is free and open to boys and girls from ages 9-14. Those interested should arrive with a parent or guardian and be dressed in appropriate attire. Questions, call 267-625-3377.

"Souper" Bowl Sale

1 Qt. Italian Wedding Soup - \$8.00
 Amount _____ Total _____

1 Qt. Pulled Chicken BBQ - \$10.00
 Amount _____ Total _____

1 Qt. Halusky and 1 lb. Kielbasa - \$8.00
 Amount _____ Total _____

Name _____

Phone _____

For pick up after Masses on February 2 and February 3.

Order by January 27.