

I HAVE BAPTIZED YOU WITH WATER;
HE WILL BAPTIZE YOU WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT.

MARK 1:8





PARISH DIRECTORY

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MUSIC MINISTRY & CHOIRS

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- Mr. Patrick H. McNabb, *School Principal*
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- Little Saints & Scholars Program.....886-0742



**THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD
 JANUARY 10, 2021**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9

Mass of Anticipation for the Baptism of the Lord
 4:00PM Rose Gnadt—Birthday Remembrance

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10

The Baptism of the Lord
 7:30 AM Josephine & Michael DeNittis—Memorial
 9:00AM Louis A. Bruno—Month's Mind
 10:30AM Ray & Edna Levesque—Memorial

MONDAY, JANUARY 11

Weekday
 7:30AM Special Intention

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12

Weekday
 7:30AM Jeanette Carreau—Memorial

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13

Weekday; St. Hilary, Bishop & Doctor of the Church
 7:30AM Special Intention

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14

Weekday
 7:30AM Lilo Federici—Memorial

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15

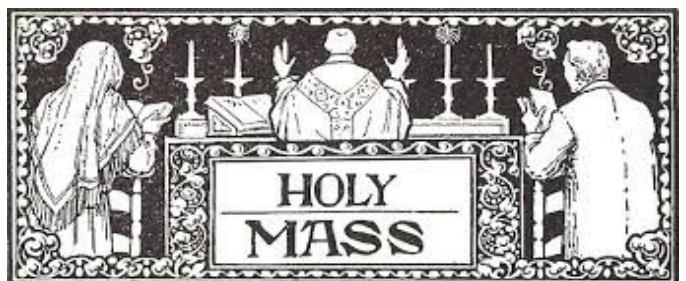
Weekday
 7:30AM Evelyn & Fred Buoro—Memorial

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16

Weekday; BVM
 8:30AM Norman Murtha—41st Anniversary
Mass of Anticipation for 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
 4:00PM Ellen Simms—Memorial

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17

The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
 7:30 AM Evelyn & Michael Simon—Memorial
 9:00AM John P. Ponte—30th Anniversary
 10:30AM Matthew Cawley—Memorial





Dear Parishioners:

The Feast of the Lord's Baptism we celebrate this weekend has been celebrated as a separate feast for many centuries. Initially, it was the primary mystery celebrated on January 6 (Feast of Epiphany), but it was separated and assigned a different day over time.

Thus it has always been a "Christmas" feast, celebrated within the Christmas cycle. However, it may seem a little strange to have the baby Jesus in the manger still and commemorate a moment during his adult life.

Yet, it is entirely fitting when reflecting on the central mystery of Christ commemorate his baptism. For both, the feast of the Nativity and Baptism of the Lord highlights the humility of Jesus Christ. In both instances, he displayed his desire to become one with us to raise us up with him.

Jesus not only assumed our flesh at the Nativity but became like us in all things except sin. He was baptized by his cousin, St. John the Baptist, even though he did not need baptism.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI explains this in his sermon on the Baptism of the Lord:

"Jesus shows his solidarity with us, with our efforts to convert and to be rid of our selfishness, to break away from our sins in order to tell us that if we accept him in our life, he can uplift us and lead us to the heights of God the Father. And Jesus' solidarity is not, as it were, a mere exercise of mind and will. Jesus truly immersed himself in our human condition, lived it to the end, in all things

save sin, and was able to understand our weakness and frailty.

For this reason he was moved to compassion; he chose to 'suffer with' men and women, to become a penitent with us. This is God's work which Jesus wanted to carry out: the divine mission to heal those who are wounded and give medicine to the sick, to take upon himself the sin of the world."

With the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord, the Christmas Season officially ends. And with it the Christmas trees, wreaths, flowers, lights, and the crèche are all taken down. They are put away until next year, and we return to the Season of Ordinary Time with its green vestments and simpler decorations.

Many have asked about the annual parish calendar normally distributed during Christmas. Due to the COVID Pandemic, the calendars were not available this year. We thank the Caparco Family of Hill Funeral Home, who always sponsor our beautiful parish calendar. We hope that they return once again next Christmas to hang in our homes and offices.

Important dates to note on the Church Calendar in 2021 are Ash Wednesday on February 17, Palm Sunday on March 28, Easter Sunday on April 4, Ascension Thursday on May 13, and Pentecost on May 23. Be sure to put them on your calendar.

The OLM School students were back at in-person classes this past week. They return after a long Christmas break that began with the big snowstorm in December. We

welcome them back along with our dedicated faculty and staff, who work hard to make our parish school outstanding.

Before Christmas, the Rectory boiler died. After over fifty years it finally gave out. We had hoped it would last until the spring, but alas, it didn't. So we began the process of replacing the boiler the week after Christmas. Thankfully we had a plan in the works, and we could start right away.

AA Wrecking and Asbestos Abatement removed all the asbestos from the boiler room. Once done with asbestos, the old boiler and hot water tank, originally installed in the 1960s, had to be demolished and removed.

New England Boiler Works, who did such a superb job installing the new boilers in the convents this past fall, is installing the new rectory boiler. We hope to complete the entire project very soon.

In the meantime, we keep warm with electric heaters in the Rectory. Thankfully we have hot water, so we're a bit chilly but very clean! The project is costly and funded by your generous support of the capital campaign. We thank you for this support and we are most grateful as it truly warms us and our hearts!

Stay safe. Be well. Do good. Welcome back and New Year Blessings for the OLM School students and faculty! God Bless.

Father Healey

Ask Father

Why do we Baptize?

Every Sacrament originates from Christ, whether through his acts or words. The Church, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and by the authority given it by Christ, declares that there are seven Sacraments. Many of a certain generation no doubt remembers this definition: A Sacrament is an outward sign of inward grace, instituted by Christ for our sanctification.

This Sunday we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. It commemorates Christ's baptism by John the Baptist. This event inaugurated Christ's public ministry and serves as one proof for His divinity. Jesus did not need baptism. Later Jesus commands His Apostles, and therefore His Church: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." By His words and His example, we celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism.

Baptism is the doorway into the spiritual life. Once baptized, a person can suitably receive the other six Sacraments. Baptism restores sanctifying grace in our souls, which we no longer have due to Original Sin. Christ accomplished the forgiveness of Original Sin and the restoration of humanity through His death and resurrection. The effects of that event are transmitted to us today through Baptism. Baptism unites us with Christ crucified. It makes us sons and daughters in the son. Without sanctifying grace, a person cannot enter heaven.

Baptism not only forgives sin but divinizes us. This divinization includes the reception of faith, hope, and charity. As the name implies, these theological virtues do not come naturally to us. They are gifts, not to be confused with merely natural faith, hope or love. Instead, these gifts enable us to act like God.

Finally, Christ did not establish a religion of "one". He founded a Church. Fortunately, we do not need to wait in line, pay a great fee, or have the right pedigree to become a member. Baptism incorporates us into the Church.

Weekly Collection

December 27, 2020

Weekly.....	\$8,524.00
EFT.....	\$3,485.00
	Total=\$12,009.00
Outreach.....	\$374.00
Christmas Collection.....	\$20,089.00
Christmas Flowers.....	\$2,457.00

December 25, 2019

Christmas Collection.....	\$25,468.00
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Weekly for December 29, 2019

Weekly.....	\$12,316.00
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January 3, 2021

Weekly.....	\$14,879.00
EFT.....	\$4,105.00
	Total=\$18,894.00
Outreach.....	\$5,659.00
Mary, Mother of God Holyday.....	\$1,259.00
Building & Grounds.....	\$810.00
Annual Collection (to date).....	\$121,528.00

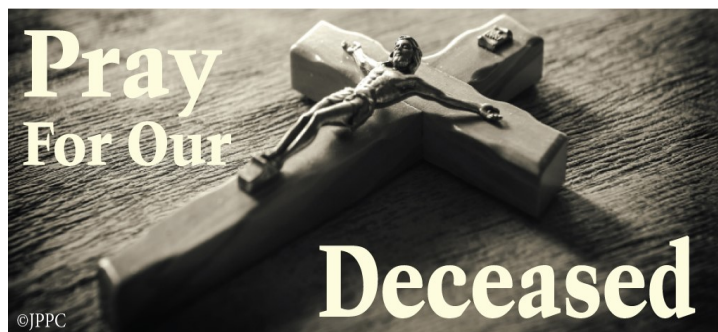
January 5, 2020

Weekly.....	\$14,556.00
Mary, Mother of God Holyday.....	\$4,358.00

Thank You for Your Generous Support!



Please remember Our Lady of Mercy Church in your will or estate.



In your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed especially **Mary Barrow, Gloria S. Capuano, Elizabeth McClintick, and Thomas Souls.**

Outreach Update

• **OLM Food Pantry** is always in need of food and paper goods for the members of our local community. Please place all donated non-perishable foods and paper goods in the box in the vestibule of Church or the box on the porch of Mercy House.

• **We are always in need of Stop & Shop & Walmart Gift Cards** (small denominations only: \$10, \$20 & \$25). Please drop them in the safe located in the vestibule or mail to the parish office.

Thank you for your support!

• For information, please contact the OLM Outreach Director, Doug Green at 401-884-4410 or via email at outreach@olmparish.org



Striving to be Saints & Scholars!

• **Tuesday, January 12:** Weekly School Mass at 9:00am with 7th Grade (no livestream)

Save the Date!!

January 31-February 5
Catholic Schools Week

Student Speakers at Weekend Masses
Virtual Open House & Tour of OLM School

Now Taking Applications for Admission
for 2021-2022 School Year

Discover the OLM Advantage at
www.olmschool.org



First Communion & Confirmation Program **Family Mass & Class**

Sunday, January 17th: Confirmation Class Mass at 5:00PM followed by Class: *"Gifts of the Sacraments"*. Mass & Class is open only to the members of the OLM Confirmation Class & their families.

Sunday, January 24th: First Communion Class Mass at 5:00PM followed by Class: *"Sin and Confession"*. Mass & Class is open only to the members of the First Communion Class & their families.



Pray for Vocations

Baptism of the Lord



The feast of the Baptism of the Lord, our commemoration of the institution of the sacrament of baptism, is the last feast of the Christmas season and is usually observed on the Sunday following January 6.

The calendar sometimes causes it to fall on a Monday, but in its usual Sunday slot, it offers an excellent opportunity for parishes to focus on baptism by using the rite of blessing and sprinkling holy water or to celebrate the sacrament during Mass, especially if this not the usual custom.

The Baptism of the Lord launches us right into winter Ordinary Time with its concentration on the earlier public life and preaching of Jesus.



This bulletin insert was written by Marion Eagen, a liturgist and musician in the diocese of Scranton, Pa. © 2002 Resource Publications, Inc., 160 E. Virginia St. #290, San Jose, CA 95112, (408) 286-8505. All rights reserved.

ST JOHN DAMASCENE
(675-749)
DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH



O LORD,
WISHING
TO FULFILL
ALL THINGS
THAT YOU
ORDAINED
BEFORE
THE AGES,
YOU RECEIVED
THE SERVANTS
OF YOUR MYSTERY,
FROM AMONG
THE ANGELS,
GABRIEL,
FROM AMONG
MEN,
THE VIRGIN,
FROM AMONG
THE HEAVENS,
THE STAR
AND FROM AMONG
THE WATERS,
THE JORDAN,
IN WHICH
YOU
WASHED AWAY
THE SIN
OF THE WORLD.
O OUR SAVIOUR,
GLORY TO YOU.