



“I AM BAPTIZING
YOU WITH WATER”

LUKE 3:16



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Mass Intentions
 for the Week
©JFPC

**THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD
 JANUARY 13, 2019**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12

The Mass of Anticipation for the Baptism of the Lord
 4:00PM Ellen Simms—8th Anniversary

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13

The Baptism of the Lord
 7:30 AM Carole A Estabrooks—Memorial
 9:00 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church
 10:30AM Bernard St. Jean—Memorial
 5:00PM Eric Bruce Peterson—Birthday Remembrance

MONDAY, JANUARY 14

Weekday
 7:30AM Betty Readey—Birthday Remembrance

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15

Weekday
 7:30AM Fred & Evelyn Buoro—Memorial

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16

Weekday
 7:30AM Norman Murtha—39th Anniversary

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17

St. Anthony, Abbott
 7:30AM Special Intention

FRIDAY, JANUARY 18

Weekday
 7:30AM Claire Sharpe-1st Anniv. & Betty Readey-B-Day

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19

Weekday: BVM
 8:30AM John, David, & Louise Kiernan—Memorial
The Mass of Anticipation for 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time
 4:00PM Michael Alix—Memorial

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20

The Second Sunday of Ordinary Time
 7:30 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church
 9:00 AM Bernard St. Jean—Memorial
 10:30AM Special Intention
 5:00PM Janet Fabry—Birthday Remembrance





Dear Parishioners:

With the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord, the Christmas Season comes to an end. The Church recalls Our Lord's second manifestation or epiphany which occurred on the occasion of His baptism in the Jordan.

Jesus descended into the River to sanctify its waters and to give them the power to beget sons of God. The event takes on the importance of a second creation in which the entire Trinity intervenes.

Christ did not need the baptism of John. Although He appeared in the "substance of our flesh" and was recognized "outwardly like unto ourselves", He was absolutely sinless. He conferred upon the water the power of the true Baptism which would remove all the sins of the world: "*Behold the Lamb of God, behold Him Who takes away the sin of the world*".

Many of the incidents which accompanied Christ's baptism are symbolical of what happened at our Baptism. At Christ's baptism the Holy Spirit descended upon Him; at our Baptism the Trinity took its abode in our soul. At His baptism Christ was proclaimed the "Beloved Son" of the Father; at our Baptism we become the adopted children of God. At Christ's baptism the heavens were opened; at our Baptism heaven was opened to us. At His baptism Jesus prayed; after our Baptism we must pray to avoid actual sin.

On the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord a few years ago Pope Emeritus Benedict XV spoke to the parents of the children he would baptize that

day in the Sistine Chapel. His words offer a profound reflection for all of us on this feast. He states:

"In Baptism, the Heavenly Father also repeats these words for each one of these infants. He says: 'You are my child'. Baptism is adoption and admission into God's family, into communion with the Most Holy Trinity, into communion with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. For this very reason, Baptism should be administered in the Name of the Most Holy Trinity. These words are not merely a formula; they are reality. They mark the moment when your children are reborn as children of God. From being the children of human parents, they also become the children of God in the Son of the living God.

These children of yours, whom we will now baptize, are not yet able to collaborate, to manifest their faith. For this reason, your presence, dear fathers and mothers, and yours, dear godfathers and godmothers, acquires a special value and significance. Always watch over your little ones, so that they may learn to know God as they grow up, love him with all their strength and serve him faithfully. May you be their first educators in faith, offering together with your teaching also the examples of a coherent Christian life. Teach them to pray and to feel as living members of the concrete family of God, of the Ecclesial Community."

On this important feast we are reminded of our own baptism and those of our children and godchildren. How are we living up to our baptismal resolutions to lead lives of faith

and holiness? Is Christ the center of our lives? Are we faithful to the sacramental life by attending Mass faithfully each week and regularly going to Confession? Do we offer good example of Catholic life to our children and godchildren?

Baptism remains throughout our lives as a gift of God, who has set his permanent seal on our souls. But it can only be lived out with our cooperation and our desire say to "yes" to Christ in our lives. We must joyfully and faithfully offer that "yes" in our daily lives.

Also, as parents and godparents, we must not forget that it is our witness and our example of the Catholic faith, that has the greatest effect on the human and spiritual growth of our children and godchildren. Even in the sometimes frantic daily activities of our lives we must not neglect to pray and to foster prayer at home and at Church. Such a prayerful and sacramental life is the foundation of perseverance of our faith as Catholic disciples.

Since this is the end of the Christmas Season, take a final visit to the crèche this Sunday and ask the Holy Family to intercede for your intentions. We return to the Season of Ordinary Time on Monday and with it goes all the Christmas decorations. So I wish you a final Happy and Holy Christmas and Blessings for the New Year!

Be well. Do good. God Bless. Go Pats!

Father Healey



Why aren't we Jewish?

This very question came up at the Council of Jerusalem in the first century of the Church. We know about this Council because St. Luke writes about it in detail in Acts chapter fifteen. The question arose as to whether Christians had to follow the lifestyle and laws of the Jews. There, we see the inspiration of the Holy Spirit through the first bishops of the Church, particularly through the first pope Peter.

First some history: Before the coming of Christ the Jewish people were under the Old Law. According to St. Paul, the Old Law was meant to be a teacher to prepare a people fit for the coming of the anointed one or the Messiah. The New Law would be a law not written on stone tablets, but written on a person's heart. The prophet Jeremiah predicts this new law when he writes: "I will place my law within them, and write it upon their hearts." This Law would change a person from within, enabling him to live as God originally intended. This New Law is grace, which Christ bestows on us in and through the sacraments.

As we read in the Catechism: "The New Law is called a law of love because it makes us act out of the love infused by the Holy Spirit, rather than from fear; a law of grace, because it confers the strength of grace to act, by means of faith and the sacraments; a law of freedom, because it sets us free from the ritual and juridical observances of the Old Law, inclines us to act spontaneously by the prompting of charity and, finally, lets us pass from the condition of a servant who "does not know what his master is doing" to that of a friend of Christ" (1972).

Church theologians distinguish between the juridical, ceremonial, and moral precepts. The new covenant established by Jesus Christ retained the moral precepts of the Old Law, but not the ceremonial or juridical. The ceremonial and juridical precepts were instituted by God as a gradual way to form a people of his own that would await the coming of the Messiah. Now that the Messiah is here, they are not needed, albeit they are important to know. They were instituted to keep the people from falling into idolatry and other forms of pagan worship. Hence passages such as Leviticus 19:28: "Do not... put tattoo marks on yourselves. I am the Lord," is a ceremonial precept and is therefore not necessarily binding. The Ten Commandments are moral precepts and hence are still binding.

Hence we hear in St. Paul's letter to the Galatians: "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free person, there is not male and female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

Weekly Collection

December 30, 2018

Weekly.....	\$11,193.00
EFT.....	\$1,460.00
	Total=\$12,653.00
Outreach.....	\$548.00
Holy Day Collection.....	\$4,232.50

January 6, 2019

Weekly.....	\$13,309.00
EFT.....	\$1,835.00
	Total=\$15,144.00
Building & Grounds.....	\$3,611.50
Outreach.....	\$1,408.00
Annual (to date).....	\$116,584.00

If you have been away on vacation or visiting another parish, we kindly ask you to please make up your missed budget envelopes. We depend solely upon your weekly support to meet our weekly parish expenses.

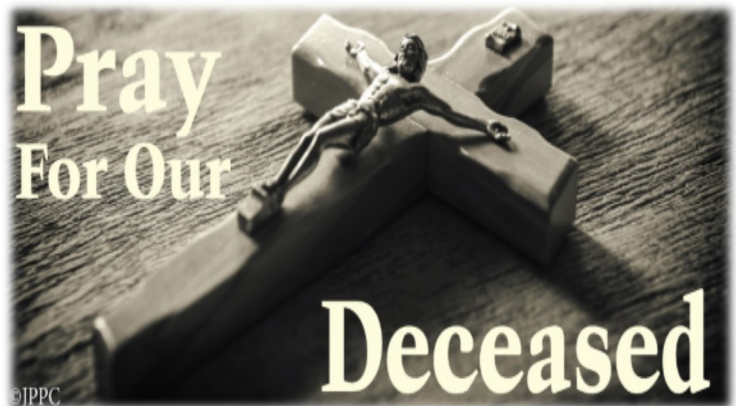
Thank You for Your Generous Support!



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

Second Collections

Next Week: The Church in Latin America

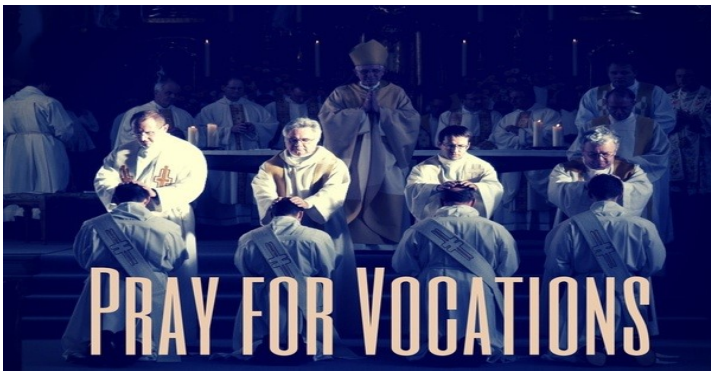


We offer our prayers and condolences to the families of OLM Parishioner **John "Jack" Donnelly** and also **Bishop Robert E. Mulvee** whose Masses of Christian Burial were celebrated last week.



- **Tuesday, January 15, 2019:** OLM School weekly Mass at 8:15am. All are welcome to join us!
- **Friday, January 18, 2019:** Popcorn Spirit Day and OLM School Dance
- **Monday, January 21, 2019:** No School in observance of the MLK Day Holiday

Discover the OLM Difference!
www.olmschool.org



BASEBALL COACHES NEEDED

OLM Middle School is looking for a head coach and assistant coach to instruct its 6th thru 8th Grade baseball team for the months of April and May.



Responsibilities to include four practices and games per week.

Compensation based on experience.

Please contact Dean Burdon at 401-487-8784 for more information.



January 13, 2019

All Classes meet this week!

RE Classes for Grades 1-5:

10:00am—11:00am

RE Classes for Grades 6-8:

6:00pm—7:00pm

● **NO RE Classes next weekend, January 20, 2019** in observance of the Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday.

● **NO AM RE Classes on January 26, 2019** due to OLM School Open House. RE Grades 6—8 will meet on January 26th.



● **OLM Food Pantry** is always in great need of non-perishable food items. Please leave items in the Food Box in the vestibule.

● **OLM Bereavement Group Meeting:** Thursday, January 17th at 4pm in Mercy House. All those experiencing grief or loneliness are invited to join us for support, prayer and discussion.

● **For more information about OLM Outreach,** please contact OLM Outreach Director, Doug Green at 884-4410 or by email at outreach@olmparish.org

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.

Best Wishes to our newly baptized



Evelyn Grace Rainville,
and her parents, Richard and Kerri.

Addison Michaela Maher,
and her parents, James and Lauren.

Henry James Cleary,
and his parents, Ryan and Erin.

*"Dearly beloved, these children have been reborn in baptism. They are now called children of God, for so indeed they are."
— The Rite of Baptism*

OLM Women's Book Group

All women of OLM are invited to join our new OLM Women's Book Club. We will be meeting once a month on the last Friday of the month, starting January 25th from 6:30PM to 7:45PM. The book we will be reading is called: *'The Friendship Project: The Catholic Woman's Guide to Making and Keeping Fabulous Faith-Filled Friends'*. Meetings will take place in a private home. For more information, please contact Tricia Weekers via email at twweekers@gmail.com or by phone at 401- 885-8213.

