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Heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him

January 13, 2019 • The Baptism of the Lord

In today's Gospel according to Luke, when John the Baptist clarified that he was not the expected Messiah, the Christ, he distinguished his baptism with water from the baptism "with the Holy Spirit and fire" that would be offered by Jesus.

John's baptism with water signified the surrender of one's own agenda and the opening of one's heart to God. The baptism with fire and Spirit describes God's power entering and transforming the human heart. When Jesus was baptized in water, he publicly displayed his own full commitment to following God's path for him. When the Spirit descended upon Jesus, he was empowered to begin his work. In effect, Jesus received both kinds of baptism described by John. He would go on to "baptize" those whose hearts were open through his ministry, death, and resurrection. Later, at Pentecost, the new community received a "baptism" of Spirit with tongues of fire.

TRINITY AND BAPTISM

This week's Gospel not only tells of Jesus' baptism, but dramatically describes God as the Holy Trinity: Jesus in prayer, the Holy Spirit descending, and the Father's voice from

heaven. The nascent church linked its earliest understanding of God as Trinity to Baptism as the initiation into Christian life and community. New Christians were baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Spirit.

Jesus was proclaimed Beloved by his Father, and empowered by the Holy Spirit to begin his mission. Mission is a sending; to accept a mission is to be sent. After his ministry, death, resurrection, and ascension, Jesus' mission continued through the Spirit beginning at Pentecost. The Father sent the Son and Spirit, who together now send the church into the world. Baptism, then, is the sending of the newly baptized to join the Trinity in this mission. We the baptized are empowered to proclaim that all are God's beloved. Our triune God is already ahead of us in the world, inviting our participation.

Today's Readings: Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 or Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30; Acts 10:34-38 or Ti 2:11-14, 3:4-7; Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

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Confession: Saturdays 4:00 to 4:30 pm

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Confession: Saturdays 4:00 to 4:30 pm

MASS SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

Saturday—January 12	5:30 PM	✠ Don Smith by Mary Lou Smith
Sunday— January 13	9:00 AM	✠ David Ferland by the Knights of Columbus
Monday	NO MASS	
Tuesday	NO MASS	
Wednesday	NO MASS	
Thursday	NO MASS	
Friday	NO MASS	
Saturday—January 19	5:30 PM	✠ John Peter VanGeertury by Sandra & Family
Sunday— January 20	9:00 AM	✠ Michael Smith by Mary Lou Smith

PRAYERS: PLEASE PRAY FOR MELVIN PAMMENT, - JIM CARBARY, (FATHER OF MAGGIE SAYLES), - KEVIN PLATTE, OLIVER WASHINGTON, - LINDSEY KING (GRANDDAUGHTER OF GEORGENE KING), - GERRY PACE, - PAT SIMPSON, - RAY DOYLE, - BEN SINIARSKI, - KYLE WALLER, - TYLER KING (GRANDSON OF GEORGENE KING) - JUDITH MARTELL (MOTHER OF TERESA PICKENS), - TERRY MILLER, - JIM (MAYO) HURST, - CHARLES OLENICZAK (BROTHER OF BARB WRIGHT), - PAT ROWLEY (SISTER OF JIM ROWLEY), - BRUCE CHANDLER (BROTHER OF MARTI ROWLEY), - JIM OLENICZAK (BROTHER OF BARB WRIGHT), - NICHOLAS SCOTT (SON OF VERONICA SCOTT), - ROSE MORRILL, - JULIE STONER (DAUGHTER OF GENE & BARB STONER), - JOHN MARTINEZ, - FRANK LUNDIE, - JANET ARTHUR, - KIM (KOONTER) BALCARCEL, - PAM DELONG, - SUSAN DELONG, - MARY CHADWICK, - LEAH ZAMARIPA, (COUSIN OF JESSE ANGUIANO), THERESA HEEG (DAUGHTER OF JOHN & SANDY VANGEERTRUY), - BETH MUSELLA (COUSIN OF ANITA LEATHERS), - ALBERTO ZAMARRIPA (RELATIVE OF JESSE ANGUIANO).—PATRICK MCMONAGLE (SON OF BOB & TERRY)

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Anyone interested can take a poinsettia, or a few, home this weekend after both Masses.

OFFERTORY

January 5 & 6, 2018

48 Adult Envelopes	\$3,462
Loose Collection	\$332
2 Children's Envelopes	\$2
Total Weekly Offertory	\$3,796

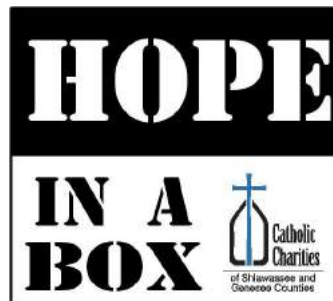
ELECTRONIC OFFERTORY ONLINE

Don't forget St. Isidore Church offers Electronic Offertory. All systems are safe, secure and confidential. Gift amounts will be withdrawn from your account twice per month. Electronic Offering Enrollment & Authorization Forms will be available in the back of church or by contacting the office.



2019 CONTRIBUTION REPORTS

The Contribution Reports are now available. You can pick yours up in the main entryway to the church along with your **2019 Offertory Envelopes**. If yours is not there please contact the office.



JANUARY NEED OF MONTH THE MONTH

Toilet Paper and Mouthwash



PARISH WIDE

Jan. 13 -Cooking Club—(During REF) 10:15-11:15

High School Youth Group

Sunday, January 6th, 10:15 – 11:30 AM

- FORMED – Session 5: Engaging Moral Relativism

WINGS HOSTS DAVIS PROJECT

WINGS meets Thursday, Jan. 17 at 7:00 pm in the small hall. Host speaker is from the Davis Project. Volunteers give rides to medical appointments for critically ill children and their parents. Drivers give the children bags of individual snacks & other items. Please bring these items when you come to the meeting. All women are welcome!

Suggestions: goldfish crackers, raisins, fruit snacks, fruit juice, granola or breakfast bars, peanut butter crackers, cheese & crackers, etc. Or small Kleenex, hand sanitizers, gloves, wipes, gallon zip-lock bags, small towelettes, small note pad, pen or pencil, etc.



**Annual Men's Retreat -
February 8-10, 2019**

**St. Francis Retreat Center in DeWitt, MI
"From Chaos to Order: A Scriptural Guide"**

Join us to gain new scriptural insights on ways to bring order into your own life and community. The suggested donation for the weekend is \$175 - retreat begins with check in at 6:00 pm on Friday and ends after lunch on Sunday. Men of all ages are welcome! Register with St. Francis at 517-669-8321; registration is also available online at www.stfrancis.ws. Please prayerfully consider if God is calling you to set aside time for this encounter opportunity!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FORMATION (REF)

Sundays—10:15 AM—11:15 AM

Jan. 13—REF Sessions

Jan. 27—REF Sessions

More REF details contact:

Mary Stevens—marystevens@stisidorechurch.org

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

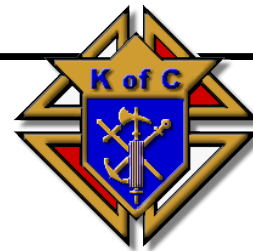
Jan. 9—Business Meeting—7:00 pm

Jan. 20 - Pancake Breakfast

Knight of the Month: - Clare Greene

Family of the Month: - REF Teachers who selflessly guide our children through their spiritual education.

In lieu of the normal fees for **pancake breakfast** on January 20, we will be accepting donations for the New Hope Community Center which supports more than 7000 homeless veterans, adults, and children in the Lansing area. Holy Cross Services recently took over this ministry from Volunteers of America.



MITTENS FOR THE HOMELESS

Monday, January 21

Large Hall—9 am to 2 pm

All ladies are welcome to join us. No sewing skills needed. **Donations needed:**

Thread, Sweaters and Polar Fleece

Please leave donations near office door.



Year of Prayer
Diocese of Lansing

Year of Hospitality
St. Isidore and Holy Family

Notes from Fr. Bob

Dear Friends,

This weekend we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. We shall remember our own baptisms at all masses, and renew our covenant with God, first made by our parents and godparents at our baptism (if we were baptized as an infant). Today's celebration marks the transition from the liturgical season of Christmas into the liturgical season of Ordinary Time.

Our nation is in the midst of a great debate concerning our southern border. While at the gym this past week I watched two news networks side by side— the deep rhetoric on both sides made it seem as if two completely different stories were being told. Regardless of our political leanings, the beautiful heritage of our **Catholic Social Teaching** continually challenges us to inform our conscience in the light of the Gospel. Regarding this most current issue, I echo the U.S. Bishops claim that secure borders and humane treatment of migrants is not mutually exclusive. The Bishops go on to call upon our leaders to create a border solution and end the shut down— "The President and Congressional leaders need to come together and end the shut-down with a solution that recognizes the dignity of work of affected employees, respects the humanity of all regardless of immigration status, and protects the sanctity of human life." The full statement can be found at www.usccb.org.

On the topic of Catholic Social Teaching, I invite all of us to join together in prayer this week for greater **respect for human life** in our country in the days leading up to the anniversary of Roe vs. Wade. Resources on a

special "**9 Days For Life Novena**," prayed January 14-22, can be found at 9daysforlife.com.

Remaining on the topic the social responsibility of Catholics, the only bank in Laingsburg is now closed. I believe this is an injustice that disproportionately affects the elderly, the poor, and local businesses/ organizations. I applaud the efforts of our city council in trying to convince the bank to stay and hope that a local banking solution can be found. In the meantime, may this be a reminder of the importance of **supporting our local businesses**.

I am excited to announce a **pilgrimage to Southern Italy and Sicily** this upcoming **October 15-28, 2019**. This trip is offered through partnership with Collette Travel and in conjunction with Fr. Andrew Czajkowski (St. John, Davison) and myself. Spots are expected to fill quickly so act now if interested. Detailed information can be found in the Small Hall near the library.

This week I will be taking my annual required retreat in a hermitage at the DeSales Center in Brooklyn, MI. I ask that you keep me in prayer this week.

Have a blessed week!

Fr. Bob Bacik

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