

Dear friends in Christ,

This weekend we conclude the Christmas season with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

Through his baptism, Christ, the sinless one, goes down into the water to make the waters of baptism holy, capable of washing away our sins and conveying his divine life to us. Thus, Christ prepares the font for us so that, through our baptism, we may share in his mercy and divine life. Christ's Baptism is also another epiphany of Jesus' divinity: The voice of the Father, identifies Jesus as his beloved Son, and the Dove of the Holy Spirit descends upon him as he comes up from the water. Pope Benedict summarizes beautifully what has been revealed by the Christmas Season and summed up by Christ's baptism.

The words that the Evangelist Mark recounts at the beginning of his Gospel: "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased" (1: 11), introduce us into the heart of today's Feast of the Baptism of the Lord with which the Christmas Season ends. The cycle of the Christmas Solemnities leads us to meditate on the birth of Jesus, announced by the angels who were surrounded with the luminous splendor of God; the Christmas Season speaks to us of the star that guided the Magi of the East to the House in Bethlehem, and invites us to look to Heaven, which opens above the Jordan as God's voice resounds. These are all signs through which the Lord never tires of repeating: "Yes, I am here. I know you. I love you. There is a path that leads from me to you. And there is a path that rises from you to me". The Creator assumed the dimensions of a child in Jesus, of a human being like us, to make himself visible and tangible. At the same time, by making himself small, God caused the light of his greatness to shine. For precisely by lowering himself to the point of defenseless vulnerability of love, he shows what his true greatness is indeed, what it means to be God.

Christmas, and more generally the liturgical year, is exactly that drawing near to these divine signs, to recognize them as impressed into daily events, so that our hearts may be open to God's love. And if Christmas and

Epiphany serve primarily to render us capable of seeing, of opening our eyes and hearts to the mystery of a God who comes to be with us, then we can say that the Feast of the Baptism of Jesus introduces us into the daily regularity of a personal relationship with him. Indeed, by immersion in the waters of the Jordan, Jesus united himself with us. Baptism is, so to speak, the bridge he built between himself and us, the road on which he makes himself accessible to us. It is the divine rainbow over our lives, the promise of God's great "yes", the door of hope and, at the same time, the sign that that indicates to us the path to take actively and joyfully in order to encounter him and feel loved by him. POPE BENEDICT

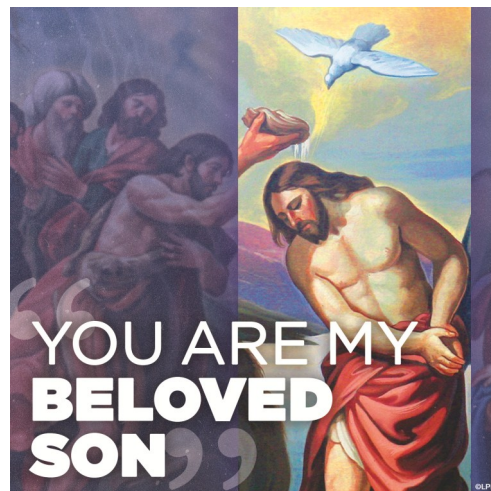
May this feast remind us of the grace and new life of Christ we have experienced through our own baptism. It should remind parents and future parents of the importance of having their children baptized soon after birth. It is in baptism that we first encounter Christ and his saving love. It is the way that we are caught up into the divine life of the Blessed Trinity.

FR RAPHAEL IS ON RETREAT NEXT WEEK

Fr. Raphael will be on retreat next week, so we will have a modified daily Mass schedule. Please pray for him while he is away that his retreat will be fruitful.

Blessings on your week!

Fr. Johnson



WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday, January 12

9:00 AM Daily Mass
10:00 AM Women of Faith
7:00 PM Baptismal Preparation Class

Tuesday, January 13

No Daily Mass
5:30 PM Faith Formation K-6

Wednesday, January 14

8:30 AM Confessions
9:00 AM Daily Mass
7:00 PM House of Prayer
7:00 PM Gospel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 15

No Daily Mass

12:15 PM Steps to Freedom
1:00 PM Rosary Cenacle
5:30 PM Microsoft Mass
6:30 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
7:00 PM OCIA
7:00 PM First Eucharist Parent Meeting
7:00 PM St Vincent de Paul Meeting
7:00 PM Knights of Columbus—
Fourth Degree Meeting

Friday, January 16

9:00 AM Daily Mass
9:30 AM Adoration until 9PM
10:00 AM Guardians & Angels
11:00 AM Funeral for John Strong

Saturday, January 17

3:30 PM Confessions
5:00 PM Saturday Vigil Mass
Wine & Cheese after Mass

Sunday, January 18

9:00 AM Sunday Mass
11:00 AM Sunday Mass
Coffee & Donuts after both Masses
6:30 PM Teen Group

Monday, January 19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
The Church and Parish Office will be closed.

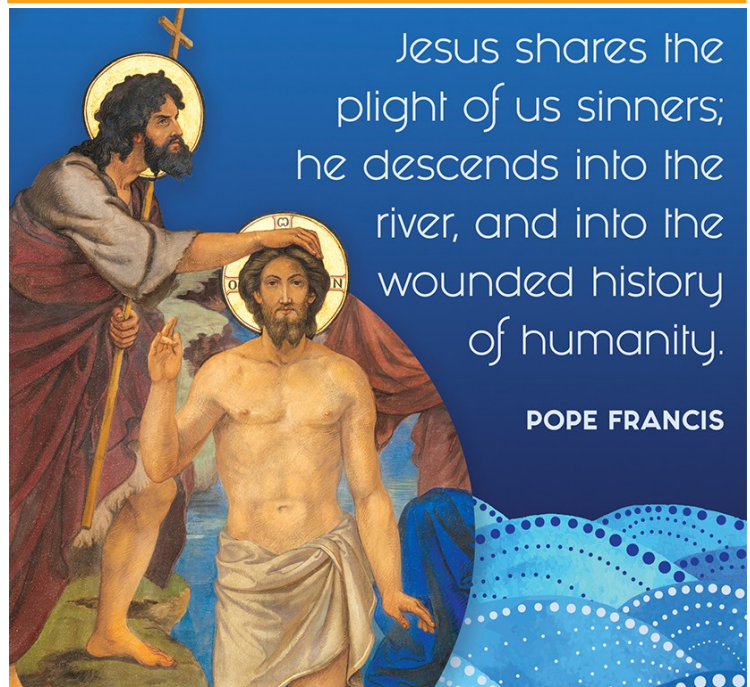
Daily Mass Schedule Change

There will be
no Daily Mass on Thursday, January 15.
You are welcome to join and celebrate
Daily Mass at our sister parish, Holy Innocents
in Duvall at 9AM.



Family Faith Formation
St. Jude Catholic Church

First Eucharist Parent Information Night
Thursday, January 15th 7PM Parish Hall



! Safety Reminder !

With WINTER upon us, we want to remind all our
parishioners that SAFETY doesn't just
happen, it is PRACTICED.

- Use handrails when going down the stairs, especially in inclement weather.
- Get dropped off/picked up at the front door of church, if needed, to minimize walking on slippery sidewalks.
- When walking on icy pavement, tread carefully.
- Accessible Parking is located on the lower level parking lot behind the Parish Hall.
- There is an elevator just inside the entrance to the Parish Hall that goes right up to the church.
- If you see a potential hazard, please inform parish staff.



**PARTNERS
IN THE GOSPEL**

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH FAMILY!

St Jude | Holy Innocents
Mission Church of St. Anthony