

# The Baptism of the Lord

## MASS INTENTIONS

Wed. Jan. 12th, 10:30 a.m., Care Center: Deacon Don Sparling  
Fri., Jan. 14th, 8 a.m.: Betty Jo Voss, by Tom & Joyce Laird  
Sat. Jan. 15th, 4 p.m.: For the Parish  
Sun., Jan. 16th, 10 a.m.: Bob Mertens, by Michael & Sheri Mertens

## LITURGICAL ROLES

Sat., Jan. 15th, 4 p.m.: Lector - S. Heine; Usher - B. & C. Zipfel;  
Eucharistic Minister - K. Fahey  
Sun., Jan. 16th, 10 a.m.: Lector - T. Blacharczyk; Usher - T. Beshoar,  
Volunteer Needed; Eucharistic Minister - E. Ohlau



## PLEASE PRAY FOR ...

Frank DiCarlo, M. Dawes, Tom Lewis, Beulah Robert,  
Nursing Home Residents, Homebound Parishioners  
*Names remains for 4 weeks. Call the rectory.*

## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Kind words can be short and easy to speak,  
but their echoes are truly endless. (Mother Teresa)

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Just before Christmas break, exams were held at the local college. Joe turned in an exam paper across which he had scrawled, "Only God knows the answers to all these questions. Merry Christmas!" His teacher's reply, written across the top of the paper: "God gets an A. You get an F. Happy New Year!"

## POPE FRANCIS SPEAKS TO OUR HEARTS

(Do We Act in Accordance with God?) When we say that a Christian is a spiritual being, we mean just this: the Christian is a person who thinks and acts in accordance with God, in accordance with the Holy Spirit. But I ask myself, and do we: do we think in accordance with God? Do we act in accordance with God? Or do we let ourselves be guided by the many other things that certainly do not come from God? Each one of us needs to respond to this in the depths of his or her own heart.

## REMINDER TO THE 2ND GRADE PARENTS

First Reconciliation for the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade will be held on Sunday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1:30 p.m. Please mark your calendar and plan to come as a family to celebrate this special sacrament of forgiveness and healing.

## GIVE TO GROW: AN AUCTION TO GO

Join us for this year's hybrid Auction on Feb. 19th from 4-8 p.m. in the school gym. Pick up a catered meal and dessert to-go, preordered from two entrée choices. Walk through the gym to view the Auction items and bid online. Buy chances for our raffles and 50/50 drawing. Contribute to the "Make it Happen" campaign. Check out and pick up your won Auction items that night till 9 p.m.

Here are a few ways you can help make the Auction a success:

1) Be an Event Sponsor at the Gold, Silver, Bronze or Friend of SJB level; 2) Purchase an ad at the Premier Post or Standard Post level; 3) Donate an Auction item (items must be turned in by Jan. 21st.) As always, we appreciate your support!

For more information, please pick up flyers at the entrances of church or call the school at 282-3215.



## READINGS

### 1st Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

"Comfort, give comfort to my people." Isaiah prophesies that "the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it."

### 2nd Reading: Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7

Through the grace of God's appearance, we have been saved "through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit...through Jesus Christ our savior."

### Gospel: Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

When Jesus was baptized, the heavens opened and a voice said, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

## FROM THE DESK OF FR. DENNIS

In the Sacrament of baptism, God claims us for God's self. In today's gospel when Jesus was baptized a voice from heaven said, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." God says the same thing to us at our baptism: "You are my beloved sons and daughters; with you I am well pleased." When we realize we are chosen by God, we come to see that we are a special people. From the moment we recognize this we are charged with the responsibility to become who we are meant to be. It is one thing to simply say, "I am beloved," but it is an entirely different reality to embody those words and truly make them our own. Belovedness is not about superiority or acclaim. Rather, it is a humble acknowledgment that God lives and moves in each of us. In the reading from the Acts of the Apostles, Peter tells the community that Jesus "went about doing good and healing all those oppressed." We share the same call by virtue of our common baptism. This universal call to holiness, grounded in God's love for us, is the duty of each and every Christian. We pray that we can tear down any forms of division among us, for as Peter says, "God shows no partiality." This is true even within the Church. While our lives may take different directions and forms, all of us share a common call.

As the New Year marches on, I want to say thank you to all for your Christmas greetings and gifts. Your thoughtfulness is deeply appreciated. God Bless you all!

Remember, don't worry so much and know that you are loved.

~ Fr. Dennis



## HAPPENINGS THIS WEEK

Sun.: Feast of the Baptism of the Lord  
Mon.: Help is needed to take down the Christmas decorations at 9 a.m.  
Tues.: Bible Study at 8:30 a.m. in Church; School Board meeting at 7 p.m. in Church  
Wed.: 10:30 a.m. Mass at the Care Center; PSR Classes 6:45 p.m. in School; PSR classes at 6 p.m. in Sparta  
Thurs.: 8:30 a.m. Mass in Sparta  
Fri.: 8:00 a.m. Mass followed by Adoration until 9:30 a.m.  
Sun.: Liturgy Committee mtg. after the 10 a.m. Mass in the Sacristy

## LITURGICAL ROLES

The next round of schedules will cover Sat., Feb. 5th through Sun., May 29th. Please have conflicts for these dates to Rhonda (rhondaj@htc.net) by Mon., Jan. 17th. Thank you!

**ROLLING ROSARY**

The Knights of Columbus invite you to join us on January 22, for a Rolling Rosary for March for Life. We will be saying a Rosary at Evansville KC Hall at 8 a.m., St. John the Baptist at 9 a.m., St Agatha's New Athens at 10 a.m., Our Lady of Lourdes Sparta at 11 a.m., and Chester KC Hall at 12 p.m. Join us in Red Bud, or all of the stops.



**THE MESSENGER**

Make *The Messenger* a part of your New Year's Resolution! *The Messenger* brings you the stories of real people quietly living their faith through compassion and good works. Inspirational stories that show our Catholic faith is alive and well in southern Illinois.

**SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS**

Larry's Electric ~ Full Service Auto Electrical Shop

**YOU'RE INVITED!**

You're invited to a Pampered Chef Quarter Auction on Sun., Jan. 30th from 1-4 p.m. at the Prairie du Rocher American Legion. Lunch stand opens at 11 a.m. Sponsored by St. Joseph's Church.

**PARISH CENTER CREW**

We are in need of a set-up/tear-down crew for our parish center rentals. Duties include setting up the tables/chairs prior to an event, cleaning tables/chairs if necessary after an event and putting them away, cleaning the floor, and cleaning the restrooms. For more information, payment amount, etc., please contact the rectory.

**2021 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS**

If you would like a copy of your 2021 Contribution Statement, please send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the rectory (you can drop off at the office, drop in the collection basket, mail in.) Contribution Statements will be processed on Friday mornings ONLY; please plan accordingly. Thank you!



**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS**

In memory of Don Robert, Denny Robert, Claude & Rosa Simpson, Henry & Ethel Robert, Peggy Hayes ~ by Beulah Robert

**FISH FRY**

Fish Fry at the Prairie du Rocher American Legion on January 21st from 4:30-8 p.m. Enjoy three kinds of fish, chicken strips, and sides (fries, slaw, baked beans, mac & cheese, stewed tomatoes.) Plates: \$11; kids 6-11: \$5; sandwich: \$5; extra sides: \$2.50. Fish sold by the pound. Info: 284-9509.

**CASEY'S REWARDS**

We're excited to share that our school is participating in Cash for Classrooms, part of Casey's Rewards. This opens up St. John the Baptist Catholic School to new funding opportunities to help improve learning environments for students. The best part? Donations don't come out of your own pocket. When you buy from Casey's and use their rewards program you can simply turn your points into a donation to our school. Help St. John the Baptist Catholic School make the most of this program and learn more at [casesys.com/schools](http://casesys.com/schools).

**MASS FOR LIFE**

Please join Bishop Michael McGovern for Holy Mass on Sunday, January 16, at 10:30 a.m. at Holy Trinity Church, 505 Fountains Parkway, Fairview Heights, IL. We are especially mindful in the month of January of the tragic anniversary of Roe v. Wade. Together we need the power of prayer and God's grace to build a culture where every human life is cherished and respected from conception until natural death. All are invited to draw strength from the power of Christ's holy word and the gift of the Holy Eucharist. For more information, contact Judy Hoffmann at (618) 722-5003 or by e-mail at mail to: [jhoffmann@diobelle.org](mailto:jhoffmann@diobelle.org)

**GIBAULT NEWS**

**Winter Play: Failure: A Love Story**, Jan. 27, 28, 29 at 7:00 p.m.; matinee on Jan. 30, 2 p.m. in the Auditorium.

**Apply to be Part of our Class of 2026!** Application can be found at <https://bit.ly/GCHSApply>.

**Raffle-Mania!** With a \$25 ticket, you are entered for: \$30 Daily Drawings on Mon.-Fri., Jan. 1-May 31; \$100 Bonus Winner the last day of each month (Jan.-Apr.); Grand Prizes in May for \$2,000, \$1,000, \$500, and \$250! If your ticket is pulled for a prize, it goes right back in, so you have the chance to win again! Tickets can be purchased online at: [www.bidpal.net/rafflemania](http://www.bidpal.net/rafflemania), by contacting any Gibault student, or by calling the school office at 939-3883.

**MASS ATTENDANCE**

Sat.: 41; Sun.: 156 ~ Encourage someone to come to Church with you!

**YOUR GIFTS TO GOD & PARISH**

12/26/21

Sunday.....	\$2,552.00
Loose.....	\$4,274.00
<b>Total (Goal: \$5,866.00).....</b>	<b>\$6,826.00</b>
Adopt-a-Parish.....	\$30.00
Retired Religious.....	\$5.00
Initial Offering.....	\$20.00
Christmas for the Needy.....	\$608.00
Christmas.....	\$5,370.00
Immaculate Conception.....	\$5.00
Solemnity of Mary.....	\$5.00
Christmas Flowers.....	\$35.00

1/2/22

Sunday.....	\$6,365.00
Loose.....	\$802.00
<b>Total (Goal: \$5,866.00).....</b>	<b>\$7,167.00</b>
Christmas.....	\$945.00
Christmas for the Needy.....	\$40.00
School Endowment.....	\$55.00
Adopt-a-Parish.....	\$95.00
School Support.....	\$325.00
Capital Campaign.....	\$637.00
Initial Offering.....	\$330.00
Solemnity of Mary.....	\$450.00

**BAPTIZED IN CHRIST**

Congratulations to Chris and Jennifer Schield on the baptism of their son, Sam David, this past Wednesday. Also congratulations to Lloyd Allen and Sarah Brown on the baptism of their daughter, Jerzey Marie, last Sunday. We welcome them both to our parish family of faith.