



January 10, 2021 Baptism of The Lord

UPCOMING DATES

Jan 20, Finance Committee meeting 4pm
Jan 24, St. Colman Guild meeting 12pm

READINGS

Is 55: 1-11
Is 12: 2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 (3)
1 Jn 5: 1-9
Mk 1: 7-11

PRAY FOR OUR BROTHERS & SISTERS

Who are ill or in pain: Carlos Lopez, Rey Rodriguez, Mary Barry, Diane Alvarez, Larry, Gary Carver, Rose Rodenberger, Francine Korn, Paul Aguilar, Jim Jennaro, Sonja Falero, Carolyn Falero Young, Bill Hatch, Cathy Olsen, Kim Warburton, Bill Harmon, Mike Hogan, Hernan Enrique Caceres, Veronica Natalia Chavez, Maria Sol Montel, Veronica Rodriguez, Luz Alejandra Bringas, Carolina Silvia Brizuela Perez, Rodolfo Martin Arruabarrena, Dorothy Maceira, Jack Burger, Charlotte & Neil Berry, Raul & Iris Bisbal, Frank Falero, Guillermina Hernandez, Gabe Snodgrass, Thomas Gregory, Nini Johnston, Don Creech, Nilda Falero, Don Schaffert, Ed Copeland, Andrew Cebalo, Nina Cantacessi, Posie, William Donnellan, Ernest Souder, Robert Cebalo, Kathleen Sheridan, Sister Gabrielle, David Cross, Helen Johnson, Billy Henthorn, Mary Crowther, Lorelie Fulwider, Fr. Andrew Metcalf, JoAnn Coules, Dinah Smith, Lorna Marie Hastings, Laverne Jones, Joanne & Bill Rodgers, Linda Schmidt, Michell Jackson, Jim Ward, Nini Sanchez, Jacqueline Donovan, Art McNulty, Terry Devlin, Mary Hall Smith, Stan Moorman, Maggie Nelson, Stella Dunne, Nina Cantacessi, John Hoffman, Mary Tamargo, Sarah & David, Ed Fulwider, Vicki Gonzalez, Jesus Chavez Torres

Who have been called to Eternal Life: Virginia Loosli, Steve Arcia, Renee Snodgrass, Ruben Montano, Robert D. Goudy, Bart Strady, Frank Danzart, Nettie Herbert, Don La Plante, Lee Torr IV, Helen Mik, Len Heinz, Emilio Porta, Allan Barich, Despo Pullaro, Claudette West, Susan Manick Dodge, Dana Couey-Harmon, Allo Castano, Cecilia Heinz, Lawrence Peterson, Evelyn Shuster, John Seymour, George Ayoob, Charlie Marbach, Joe Mercieca, Elaine Benson, Suzi Schaffert, Janet Guidotti, Doris Porras, Helen Leseberg, Bette Campbell, Margaret Maher, Carole Williams, Fr. Philip Ryan, Joseph Kobler, Janine Bekker Carrig, Matthew Gonzalez, Billy Ferree, Tom King, Tom Kelly, Axel Avera, Victor Theander, John Sanchez

St. Elizabeth Guild Meeting 1st Wednesday, 1 pm
Finance Committee Meeting 3rd Wednesday, 4 pm
St. Colman Guild Meeting 4th Sunday, 12 pm

St. Hubert Hall Canceled until further notice
St. Hubert Hall January 20
St. Colman January 24

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 4 pm: For peaceful transition of new elected president
Sun 11 am: For peaceful transition of new elected president
Sun 12:30 pm: For the healing of the nation

PASTOR'S DESK

A popular television character from the 1970s [*Archie Bunker*, "All in the Family,"] was once asked what his definition of faith is. He said, "Faith means believing something that nobody in their right mind would believe."

There is an element of profound truth in his perception of faith. *Faith is not a mere attitude.* As believers, the Presence of God in our lives is an awesome, wondrous, life-giving experience affecting our total being. In today's Gospel Lesson, Mark describes this "Baptism in the Spirit" with dramatic force: "In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And when he came out of the water, immediately He saw the heavens opened and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove; and a voice came from Heaven, 'You are My beloved Son, with You I am well pleased'" (Mk.1:9-11).

This is but one of many Gospel episodes in which the sacred authors tell us that the essential being of God was fully embodied and revealed in Jesus of Nazareth at a certain time and place in history. "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God ... In him was life, and the life was the light of men ... and the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us" (Jn. 1:1,4,14).

In the early days of World War II, *King George of England* delivered a radio address to the world in which he recited a few lines of poetry:

"And I said to a man who stood at the gate of the year: 'Give me a light, that I may tread safely into the unknown.'

"And he replied: 'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than the known way.'"

In other words, **walk by faith and not by sight.** Put yourself in contact with the Divine Mind and the Divine Will -- the great unknown.

If you put your trust in your connections with the known, which is always in the past, each new day will be like the one

before; more of the same. But if you "put your hand into the hand of the Infinite God," you will discover the meaning of His promise, "Behold, I make all things new" (Rev. 21:5). As the Apostle Paul has written:

"If any one is in Christ, he is a new creation; The old has passed away, behold, the new has come" (1 Cor. 5:17).

And again, "Put off your old nature which belongs to your former manner of life ... and be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and put on the new nature, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness" (Eph. 4:22,23-24).

Each new midnight can be more than a moment in time for us. Each new day can represent a faith commitment to a new beginning -- a fresh opportunity to put our hand in the hand of the God who makes "all things new." Each new encounter with another human being can be a unique experience in putting off our "former manner of life" and putting on the "new nature, created after the likeness of God."

"He saw the heavens opened and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, 'You are My beloved Son; with You I am well pleased.'" For the modern unbeliever, it is difficult to accept the image of God as "Father." The modern unbeliever is disturbed by the picture science has painted of humankind lost in space's immensity. The modern unbeliever feels like a grain of sand in the desert. The modern unbeliever's lost sense of destiny can be likened to this quote by a famous philosopher as he lay dying: *"Let down the curtain," he said, "the farce is over. There is no reality in life; it is a farce."*

[*Francois Rabelaes*]

On the contrary, "Raise the curtain of your heart," the Gospel writers implore us. Lo, the heavens are open to us, and the dove is descending upon us, and the Father is speaking to us: "You are My beloved sons and daughters; with you, I am well pleased because you are singers of life."

Peace and blessings!
Fr. Luis

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are happy to announce we now have a year-round See's Candy store - <https://tinyurl.com/yaqhmwpix> as well as a Valentine's Day Store <https://tinyurl.com/ycxuk2u6>. Both links are on the homepage of our website. We understand that many of you do not shop online, so Michele McDonell has very kindly ordered a selection which will be available after the mass on Jan. 24, 2021. She has also offered to pre-order for people. The Valentine Day store closes on Jan. 29, 2021 but we will continue to sell candies after the masses thru Valentine's Day, which is a Sunday. Pick up a flier and order on line or talk to Michele! Thank you for your support!

How can I help during these hard times?

You can now easily donate online by using the donate button at rchurches.com. Another great way to help is by selecting us as your charity when shopping online at Amazon -a small percentage of each purchase will benefit our parish. Just visit smile.amazon.com/ch/82-4690577 to get started! Please also remember St. Elizabeth Parish in your will and estate planning.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

by Anne Osdiek, St. Louis University

First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 or Isaiah 55:1-11

1. What are some things that you can work hard to acquire but that don't satisfy? How much time, effort and money can you spend trying to get them? What is the one thing you must do to attend the sumptuous banquet provided by the Father?
2. "For my thoughts are not your thought, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord." According to Is 55:1-11, What should do to align our ways to God's ways? What are ways you can help "establish justice on the earth"?

Second Reading: Acts 10:34-38 or 1 John 5:1-9

1. Compare Peter's words in Acts, "He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil." with Isaiah's, "I formed you ... to open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness." What was Jesus' mission? What is the Church's mission now?
2. Based on Pope Francis' following statement, what is your mission now?

As soon as Jesus was baptized in the River Jordan, the heavens were opened and the Holy Spirit alighted on him like a dove, as a voice from heaven said: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased" (Mt 3:17). We rediscover our own Baptism in the Feast of the Baptism. Just as Jesus is the Beloved Son of the Father, we too, reborn by water and the Holy Spirit, know we are loved children—the Father loves us all!—the object of God's satisfaction, brothers and sisters of many brothers and sisters, assigned with a great mission to bear witness and proclaim the Father's boundless love to all mankind.

Pope Francis, Angeles, Jan. 12, 2020

Gospel: Mark 1:7-11

1. John the Baptist was the middleman. He pointed back to Isaiah and forward to Jesus, connecting the whole plan. What or who are the "middlemen" who connect you with God? In what way are you a middleman?
2. John saw "the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him." Compare and contrast this baptism scene with the Spirit hovering over the waters in Genesis 1:1 Does the Spirit ever "tear open" the barriers you create in order to tell you things? Explain.

PARISH DONATIONS

Jan 5	1 st Collection	2 nd Collection
St. Elizabeth	\$983.00	\$441.00
St. Catherine	\$0.00	\$0.00
St. Colman	\$170.00	\$60.00
<i>Thank you for your generosity!</i>		\$1,654.00