

WE ARE GOD’S BELOVED CHILDREN

Today’s Gospel recalls a significant moment in Jesus’ public ministry. There was Jesus, God made Man, who certainly did not need a ritual cleansing, submitting to a baptism by his cousin John. Unlike the other baptisms John must have performed that day, this baptism was a manifestation of Christ’s “acceptance and inauguration of his mission as God’s Suffering Servant”.

Can we imagine standing on the banks of the River Jordan and witnessing the baptism of Jesus? What a sight it must have been! The Holy Spirit descends like a dove. The waters are sanctified by Jesus and by his Spirit. Jesus is “sealed” or anointed by the very presence of the Spirit. As if that weren’t enough, the heavens (once closed by Adam’s sin) are now opened up and a voice calls out You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased. And what was Jesus doing? Interestingly, Jesus was praying – a habit that would mark all the decisive moments of his earthly ministry and our salvation. Surely, this was yet another sign of his humble and trusting commitment to the will of the Father.

As spectacular as the scene must have been, we can relate to it – for a similar scene plays out every time one of God’s children is baptized. As each infant, child or adult is brought to the waters of baptism, the Trinity is there. We do what Jesus commanded us to do – to baptize in his name and in the name of the Father and the Spirit. We encounter Christ, the indelible seal of the Spirit is conferred, and the Father is pleased with his beloved child. From that moment on, we get a glimpse of what heaven must be like.

As Saint Paul reminded Titus, the grace of God has appeared, saving all and training us to reject godless ways and worldly desires and to live temperately, justly and devoutly in this age, as we await the blessed hope. Christ redeemed us and claimed us as a people as his own, eager to do what is good. Similarly, Isaiah prophesied that our guilt would be expiated and that the Shepherd would gather the lambs in his arms. We belong to Christ!

Today, let us not just reflect on the baptism of the Lord. Let us reflect on our own baptism. Let us recall, with great awe and wonder, what happens to us when we are baptized: the cleansing water, the presence of the Trinity, the rejoicing in heaven, and the strength of the grace that still abides with us. Most important, let us be reminded of the great responsibility that comes along with that baptism. God claimed each one of us as his own and gave each of us the grace to overcome the evil in the world.

So, as we celebrate this Eucharist today, let us be transformed by our partaking of Christ’s body and blood so as to go forth and fulfill that baptismal mission.

RCIA

This week the RCIA class will be learning about the Third Commandment with Father Dennis. Please pray for the Catechumens, Candidates and Sponsors as they study the beliefs and traditions of our faith and continue this journey together. If you would like further information, please contact Greg or Penny Payne 228-365-6348.

CCD CLASSES

Happy New Year to all of our CCD/LifeTeen families! All grades K-12 meet on Wednesday evenings from 5:30-6:30 in the Sacred Heart Center, which is directly behind the Cathedral. Any new students are welcome to join us. For additional information please call Barbara Ziz 238-918-9778.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon	Jan 14	Heb 1:1-6, Mk 1:14-20
Tues	Jan 15	Heb 2:5-12, Mk 1:21-28
Wed	Jan 16	Heb 2:14-18, Mk 1:39-39
Thu	Jan 17	Heb 3:7-14, Mk 1:40-45, Eph 6:10-13, 18, Mt 19:16-26
Fri	Jan 18	Heb 4:1-5, 11, Mk 2:1-12
Sat	Jan 19	Heb 4:12-16, Mk 2:13-17
Sun	Jan 20	Is 62:1-5, 1 Cor 12:4-11, Jn 2:1-11



YOUR SUNDAY TITHING AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Regular Collections	\$	11,334.70
Maintenance	\$	430.00
Capital Improv.	\$	430.00
Nativity Elem.	\$	25.00
Aged and Infirm Priest	\$	587.00
TOTAL COLLECTION	\$	12,806.00

Thank you for your generous contributions!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jan 14 Women of Mary, 5:30 p.m.
- Jan 15 Men of St. Joseph, 7:00 a.m. – SHC
BINGO, 5:30 p.m.
RCIA, 6:00 p.m., SHC
- Jan 16 Cleaning Team “B”
CCD, 5:30 p.m. SHC
- Jan 17 Greenbriar Mass, 10:00 a.m.
Adoration, 6:00 p.m.
- Jan 18 Mom’s Bible Study, 10:30 a.m., SHC

BENEFIT FOR LYNN TO COVER MEDICAL EXPENSES

Friday, January 18, 2019, from 4:00 pm until 7:00 pm. Nativity Cathedral’s SHC. Enjoy a special dinner including: spaghetti with meat sauce, garlic bread, salad, desserts and soft drinks! Also, a silent auction with fabulous items. Suggested donation of \$10.00. Please RSVP for head count to lynnrfrisby@gmail.com. ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TOWARDS TRANSPLANT MEDICAL EXPENSES. Sponsored by: Thrivent Action Team.

Saint Stanislaus Admission Testing

Saturday, January 26, 2019 8:15 AM

Students currently in the 6th grade

Saint Stanislaus’ admission testing for prospective students who will be in the 7th grade next year is scheduled for Saturday, January 26, 2019.

In order to sit for the admission test, please submit a completed Admission Application on or before January 18th. *Testing day check-in will be from 7:30 AM until 8:15 AM and students must be checked in by 8:15 AM in order to test.* The test is used to give us an overview of the students’ academic abilities. Please also remember to mail in or bring a check or cash in the amount of \$125, which will cover the \$100 Saint Stanislaus Application Fee and the \$25 Placement Test Fee.

An application can be completed online on the Saint Stanislaus Admission page at <http://ststan.com/admissions/apply-online/>. For more information or to request a paper application, please contact Richard Gleber, Admissions, at richard@ststan.com or 228-467-9057, ext. 249.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	LECTORS	ALTAR SERVERS
Jan 19 4:00 pm 1. Nanette Burke 2. Helen Languirand 3. Gayle Mavar 4. Liz Joachim 5. Gerrie Weldon Jan 20 7:00 am 1. Danny Kavanagh 2. Colleen Kavanagh 3. Jim Shugart 9:00 a.m. 1. John Brauchle 2. Judy Trahan 3. Maggie Landry 4. Joan Strayham 5. Jim Compton 11:00 am 1. Deacon 2. Rhonda Clark 3. Marianne Sherman 4. John Sherman 5. Edith Richardson 5:30 pm 1. Kristy Arguelles 2. Janice Thornton	Jan 19 4:00 pm Michael Bruffey Jan 20 7:00 am Jim Shugart 9:00 am Liz Wilkinson 11:00 am Don Marie 5:30 pm Kristi Arguelles CANTORS Jan 19 4:00 pm Dennis Burke Jan 20 9:00 am Nativity Children's Choir 11:00 am Rocky Long and CATHEDRAL CHOIR	Jan 19 4:00 pm Clayton Stoddard Ava Stoddard Bryan Stoddard Jan 20 7:00 am Alec Ryan Liam Jerrel 9:00 am Veronika Landry Julia Landry Chaz Byers Izabell Byers 11:00 am Blake Walli Kendall Walli Hadyn Hollis Sabree Puz 5:30 pm Jacob Arguelles Nicholas Arguelles

	6:30 AM	8:00 AM
Mon Jan 14	Ann Tarrant	Collins-Sims Fly.
Tue Jan 15	Mary Gilich	Hugh Kavanagh
Wed Jan 16	Betty Lou Callegari	F. Walker Tucei/Irene C. Tucei
Thur Jan 17	Patricia Pluff	Hugh Kavanagh
Fri Jan 18	Chester Balus Fly.	Glenn/Joyce Pisarich
Sat Jan 19	<u>8</u> Int. of Ext. Society	<u>4</u> Bros. Jordan/Gary (S.I.)
Sun Jan 20	<u>7</u> - Betty Lou Callegari	<u>9</u> - F. T. P.
	11:00 - Hugh Kavanagh	5:30 Darla/Jim Brilli (S. I.)

PLEASE KEEP OUR SICK IN YOUR PRAYERS

Phil Beining, Mable Viator, Buck O'Gea, Nicholas Rodolfich, Marsha Marie, Nick Pass, Cooper Williams, Sue and Gene Daudelin, Lesa Walker-Kirkman, Rose Collins, Elie Hebert, Jerry Ellis, Lehmon Skrmetti, Helen Gutierrez, Annette Luther, Macklin Holloway, Mary Wimberly, Candy Widener, Tiffany Whitehead, Lena Marchioni, Holly Hill, Georgia Bellais Dominick, Maxine Kiddinger, Marie Manning, Betty Hilton, Norma McMahon, Mickey Bradley, Cheryl Terry, Gwen Gollott, Greg Hotaling, Jack Joachim, Jr., Michael Zorich, Sr. Fatima Starks and Karen Skremetta.

From the Music & Fine Arts Ministry:

CHILDREN'S CHOIR SCHEDULE:

The Children's Choir will sing at the 9:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, January 27th in celebration of Catholic Schools Week.

CATHEDRAL CHOIR SCHEDULE:

The Cathedral Choir will sing for the Saturday, January 12th at 4 p.m. Mass and the Sunday, January 20th 9 a.m. Mass. Any interested individuals who would like to consider or become a part of the Cathedral Choir are invited to join us on Wednesday evenings for rehearsal at our usual time of 7:00 p.m.

"GLORIA IN EXCELSIS": Our Cathedral/Diocese's Choral Society continues their rehearsals on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. All interested singers - Catholic or non-Catholic - are cordially invited to attend.

HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT THE MUSIC & FINE ARTS MINISTRY?

We covet your prayers ~ always! We appreciate your strong singing, responses and participation in our Mass celebrations. This brings even greater life and meaning to our worship. If you would like to contribute towards the expense of instrumentalists or the purchase of choral/instrumental music for our program, consider giving a contribution in honor of, or as a memorial in the memory of a loved one/friend. Just mark your contribution for the "Music and Fine Arts Ministry." For more information regarding our Music & Fine Arts Ministry Programs - please contact: Terry D. Maddox, M.M. - terrydalemaddox@gmail.com &/or 251-406-1454.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS:

If you are interested in serving our Cathedral Parish as a Lector or Eucharistic Minister, please contact Fr. Dennis at dcarver@biloxidiocese.org or by calling the rectory at (228) 374-1717. Because our Cathedral Parish celebrates 5 weekend Sunday Masses, we need sometimes as many as 25 Eucharistic Ministers and 5 Lectors per weekend. We are blessed to offer so many Sunday Masses to our community and visitors. Please help fill this most important and worthy need by volunteering as a Lector or Eucharistic Minister.

NATIVITY BVM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

A NOTE FROM MRS. SUSIE BASS, INTERIM PRINCIPAL
 "On Monday, January 7th, we had a smooth reopening of school. All is going well. Thank you for your continued support".

Mark your calendars! Nativity School's annual Open House will be held on Sunday, January 27th from 10:00 until 2:00 p.m. Choir will sing at 9:00 Mass.

WEEKLY ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

January 17, we will have our weekly Thursday Adoration from 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. This week Adoration will be in the CATHEDRAL. Adoration is a special time to spend with Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. You don't have to spend the whole hour, our Lord just wants to be with you.

BINGO MANIA:

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday. The following families are scheduled for January 15th, 2019. Amos (Albert & Dorothy), Baker (Roy & Jenny), Bersabe (Adrian & Danielle) and Biag (Jeff & Bertha). **REMEMBER! If you are unable to attend, it is your responsibility to secure a replacement.**

MUSIC FOR THIS WEEKEND

ENTRANCE HYMN	#111
OFFERTORY	#604
COMMUNION	#603
SENDING	#549

MAGNIFICAT SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL

It is time for us to renew our subscription for the Magnificat. If you currently receive your Magnificat through us and want to again in 2019, it is time to get your check in to us. This offer is to all parishioners as well. Please submit your check in the amount of \$36.00 to the church rectory no later than February 15th.