

THE FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD – SOME MUSINGS

“You are my Son, the Beloved, I am well pleased.”

We seem to move quickly from the birth stories of Jesus to the beginning of His ministry with His baptism. When we are baptized we, too, are commissioned to do the will of the Father whether that baptism occurs when we’re babies or when we’re adults. We are signed with the cross and baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We’re signed with that same cross at our Confirmation and when we receive other sacraments. It’s the sign of our faith. We can make that sign with reverence or with a lazy wave of our hands.

I remember my own baptism well. It was, for me, a moment of great import; it was a moment when I said a resounding “Yes” to the teachings of Jesus and the precepts of our Church. It was a moment of profound joy as well. I vowed to live out the promises I made to live a life worthy of bearing the name “Christian”. I know I’ve not always lived up to those promises so I’m blessed to have the sacrament of Reconciliation.

Each time we make the sign of the cross that act should remind us that we’re adopted children of a loving and merciful God Who calls us to be His presence in our world. Whether we’re old or young, male or female, ordained or lay, we’re called to be His witness in a world that needs to hear His message of love and compassion.

We are not commissioned to save the world; that’s already been done by our Lord. However, we are meant to take that message to those who’ve not heard it; or having heard it have found it difficult to believe. We are called, like John, to be “the voice in wilderness” calling to those struggling with faith, proclaiming that ours is a loving and compassionate God. And I wonder how I’m doing at that call. We need to make sure our lives more than our words let everyone we meet come to understand that our God is welcoming, forgiving, compassionate, saving. It doesn’t matter whether our gifts are large or small we’re meant to use them in the service of His people. We have, after all, been baptized, priest, prophet and king. We need to ask ourselves how we can best accomplish that goal – priest, prophet, king.

We’ve come to the end of the Christmas season and will enter once again that invigorating season of “Ordinary Time”. We’ve put away all signs of Christmas and have taken up once again, our ordinary lives. I know that the Christmas season brings out the cheery, giving, hopeful in us. But just because we’ve put off the trappings that accompany that blessed time of year, let’s not put away the giving, the hopefulness, the warmth of love and compassion that we’ve had over these last six or so weeks. I am not so naive as to think that we can keep that spirit alive all the time, but we can at least try to do better at feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, comforting the sorrowing; we can be more open to the emotional needs of others. We may not be able to keep that Christmas spirit alive in our world but we can keep it alive in our hearts, in our homes and in our parishes and our places of work. We can keep that spirit alive and well in our words and actions, in our thoughts and in our worship. If we do that, the world, our small corner of it, will be a better place in which to live, to work, and to play. And when we make the sign of the cross, let’s do it with reverence, remembering our baptism as royal children of the King of all.

Wishing you a week of service to a loving King and many small miracles.

Betty Bruch



JANUARY 13, 2019

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

SACRED HEART PARISH

Sacred Heart Church
24 Albert St.
Langton, ON



St. Michael’s Church
978 St. John’s Road
Walsh, ON



Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday – 5:00 pm
Sunday – 8:30 am (St. Michael’s)
Sunday – 10:30 am

Daily Mass

Tues. – 5:00 pm
Wed. to Fri. – 9:30 am

Reconciliation

20 min. prior to weekday mass
Sat. 4-4:45 pm
Sun. 8-8:20 am, or by appt.(St. Michael’s)

Mailing address

Box 8, Langton, ON N0E 1G0
Phone: 519-875-4438
E-mail: sacredheartlangton@dol.ca
Fr. Thomas e-mail: tckuriacko@dol.ca

Parish Clergy

Rev. Thomas Kuriacko, Pastor
Jack Grim, Deacon
Brian Hanley, Deacon

Office Hours: Tues. and Thurs. 9 am – 4 pm;

Baptisms – Contact Rev. Thomas—6 months notice **Marriages** – Contact Rev. Thomas— one year notice required
Schools – Sacred Heart, Langton - St. Michael’s, Walsh - Our Lady of Fatima, Courtland

FROM THE PASTOR’S DESK:

His baptism was a defining point in the life of Jesus – it marked the beginning of his public mission. We find Jesus praying during his baptism. In response to his prayer, the Holy Spirit descends on him in bodily form at the beginning of his mission, just as it will come in visible form on the apostles at Pentecost at the beginning of their mission. The Father puts his seal of approval on Jesus and on the mission he is about to begin, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

The baptism of Jesus reminds us of our own baptism. There are many offices that people can hold in the Church. But all of these fade when compared to the basic gift to all: baptism. When we stand before the throne of God, these other offices will be of no importance. Our dignity will depend on one thing only – the extent to which we have lived out our baptismal calling.

The ceremony of baptism is a beautiful one. In it we were formally given a name and welcomed into the family of God’s people. Lovely prayers were said over us. We were signed with the sign of the cross, the mark of Christ’s love for us. Water was poured over us. Water is a symbol of cleansing, and in baptism we are cleansed of sin. But it is more specially a symbol of life. In baptism we are given a share in the undying life of God.

Not once but twice we were anointed with holy oil. Just as the bodies of athletes were smeared with oil to give them strength to compete, so we were anointed with holy oil to give us strength for the inevitable struggle against evil. And just as kings, prophets and priests were anointed with oil and thus marked out as God’s ministers to the community, so we are anointed with the oil of chrism that we may be envoys of Christ in the world. A white garment was given to us, the outward sign of our Christian dignity. We were given a candle lighted from the Easter candle to signify the precious light of faith. God called us out of darkness into the wonderful light of his Son.

What happened at the baptism of Jesus happened at our baptism too. God called us by name. He said to each of us, ‘You are my beloved son,’ or ‘You are my beloved daughter.’ And the Spirit descended on us, in order to help us to live the life of a Christian and to participate in the mission of Jesus.

From a spiritual point of view, baptism is the greatest thing that can happen to us. To be baptised is to be christened, that is, to be made like Christ. But this doesn’t happen automatically as a result of being baptised. One has to learn what it means to be a Christian, and to grow into it. This is the task of a lifetime. Towards the end of his life a saint was asked if he was a Christian, and he replied, ‘not yet.’

There are many vocations in the Church. But the most important vocation of all is common to all the baptised. It is the vocation we received at baptism – the vocation to be disciples of Jesus. This is the core vocation. Every other vocation in the Church must be seen in relation to this one.

We celebrate birthdays lavishly. So we should celebrate the day of our baptism, because this was the day we were born as children of God. Every time we enter a church and sign ourselves with holy water we are reminding ourselves of our baptism, and committing ourselves to live up to it. To live one’s baptism is to live as a disciple of Jesus.

Fr. Thomas

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE – SACRED HEART, LANGTON

DATE	TIME	MASS INTENTION	BY
Tues Jan 15/19	5:00 pm	• Raymond & Martine Boutin	• Josy & Rick Erdelac & Family
Wed Jan 16/19	9:30 am	• Olga Deli Epiphany of the Lord School Mass- OLFS • Paul Herman First Reconciliation all 3 schools	• Stephen & Jeannette Major • Liliane Rigole
	1:45 pm		
	7:00 pm		
Thurs Jan 17/19	9:30 am	Epiphany of the Lord School Mass- SHS • Marcel Follens Caressant Care • George Sanders Finance Committee Meeting	• Edna & Brian DeLeebeeck • CWL Langton
	4:00 pm		
	7:30 pm		
Fri Jan 18/19	9:30 am	• Laura Allewaert	• Yvonne Baswick

WEEKLY OFFERTORY – JAN 6, 2019

St. Michael's

Regular Envelope	\$ 455.00
Initial Envelope	\$ 10.00
Loose	\$ 80.00
Sub-Total	\$ 545.00

Sacred Heart

Regular Envelope	\$1,696.00
Initial Envelope	\$ 240.00
New Year's Day	\$ 85.00
Christmas	\$ 20.00
Loose	\$ 182.95
Sub-Total	\$2,223.95

Total **\$2,768.95**

Operating Goal **\$3,700.00**

Shortfall **\$ 931.05**

SM Building Fund	\$ 10.00
SH Building Fund	\$ 220.00

Thanks!


DATES TO REMEMBER

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Wed Jan 16/19	1:45 pm	Epiphany of the Lord for OLFS at SHC
	7:00 pm	First Reconciliation all 3 schools at SHC
Thurs Jan 17/19	9:30 am	Epiphany of the Lord for SHS at SHC
	7:30 pm	Finance Committee Meeting
Tues Jan 22/19	7:30 pm	Parish Pastoral Council Meeting



Holy Baptism

We welcome into our faith community through the waters of baptism: **Olivia Daisey Angelique Carrier**. May she and her family always be guided by the Lord.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CWL ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS ARE DUE

A friendly reminder that the 2019 CWL Annual Memberships are due. The renewal amount to be paid for a membership is \$25.00. Please put your remittance in the envelope provided or in a white envelope with your name on it stating that it is CWL dues. You may drop it in the collection basket or mail it to Josy Erdelac, 992 NCR 21, R.R. #1 Delhi, ON N4B 2W4. For more information call 519-429-1787.

THE PORT DOVER/ WALSH ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

The Port Dover/ Walsh St. Vincent de Paul would like to thank all of those who contributed in any way to our Christmas basket drive. Thank you to all who brought in food items, gifts, or contributed a monetary donation; to all who came to help pack and carry boxes; and to the farmers for supplying the potatoes, squash and onions. With your generous donations, you helped to make Christmas a little bit merrier for families in our area who have fallen on hard times. Thank you, God Bless and all the best to you and your family in 2019.



ATTENTION MEN OF FAITH

All men & young men are being invited to the 7th Annual Men of Faith Conference on Saturday January 19th, 2019 at St. Michael's Church in London. Dr. Edward Sri and Deacon Bob McDonald will challenge us to grow in your faith in the world today. Sign up on line: www.famfi.ca. For more information please contact Mike at 519-518-2025 ext. 22.

FORMED

FORMED- JANUARY FEATURE

The Dignity of Life

STUDY: Symbolon- The Catholic Faith Explained-Living the Faith.

WATCH: Life for Life.

LISTEN: There is Life in the Womb.

YOUTH: Pro Life.

READ: Redeemed by Grace-A Catholic Woman's Journey to Planned Parenthood and Back.

FOR CHILDREN: Angel in the Haters.

ST. MARY'S CWL PAINT DAY

St. Mary's CWL Tillsonburg, would like to extend an invitation to you to join us for an afternoon of fun and laughter. On Saturday, February 23rd, join us in our church hall to show off your artistic side. We will meet at 12:30. and begin painting at 1pm. Our masterpieces will be completed by 3:30. Tickets are \$45.20, which includes all supplies. \$15.00 from each ticket will come back to St. Mary's CWL as a fundraising effort. To see a sample of what you will paint, please see the poster provided. Please call me at 519-842-4372 if you would like tickets, or please see Melissa in your church office, during business hours, as she has been kind enough to sell tickets on my behalf. Cash or cheque made payable to St. Mary's CWL. Thank you, Rosanne St. Mary's CWL

YOUTH MINISTRY CERTIFICATION

Finally, after 5 years without there being a good option to obtain a Certificate in Youth Ministry, there is some great news to share! The Diocese of London has partnered with the Catechetical Institute at the Franciscan University of Steubenville to provide for the training of those interested in Youth Ministry. This program will be the expected standard for those who desire to work as a Coordinator of Youth Ministry in the Diocese of London. Additionally, anyone can participate in the workshops to enrich their existing ministries. More information is available at www.dol.ca/ymcertification.



RETROUVAILLE PROGRAM

You Can Help Your Marriage – Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry at each other? Do you argue... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. This program has helped tens of thousands of couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. For confidential information about the program, or to register for the February program beginning with a weekend on Feb. 1 – 3, please phone 519-243-0687, email retrouvaillelondonstthomas@gmail.com or visit www.HelpOurMarriage.com.