

BAPTISM SAVES US!*(Is. 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps. 104: 1-4, 24-25, 27-30; Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7; Luke 3:15-16, 21-22)*

Our Lord voluntarily submitted Himself to the baptism of St. John, intended for sinners, in order to fulfill all righteousness. Jesus' gesture is a manifestation of His self-emptying. The Spirit Who had hovered over the waters of the first creation descended then on the Christ as a prelude of the new creation, and the Father revealed Jesus as His beloved Son. - CCC #1224.

The feast of the Baptism of the Lord marks the end of the Christmas season! On Christmas Day we celebrated the birth of Christ and His manifestation to the Jewish people. Last Sunday, on the feast of Epiphany, we celebrated His manifestation to peoples from other nations in the form of the *three kings*. Today, being the first Sunday in the Ordinary Time of the Church's Calendar, we celebrate another manifestation of Christ – His baptism by John the Baptist in the Jordan River.

Our Lord Jesus "is a man like us in all things but sin." He did not need to be baptized but He emptied Himself and received baptism at the hands of John the Baptist so that we, His followers, might imitate His humility, empty ourselves and thus, be filled by Him. John's baptism was meant for repentance - for the forgiveness of sins. On the contrary, Christ's baptism, the one you and I received, is salvific - for our own adoption as beloved sons and daughters of God. Thus, John himself testified, "I am baptizing you with water, but One mightier than I is coming...He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

In our catechetical instructions we learned that "Baptism washes away Original sin and all the sins we may have committed prior to baptism." It makes us members of God's holy family, the Church. It also makes us children of God. Today's gospel affirms this belief when heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus like a dove and a voice from heaven declared, "You are My beloved Son; with You I am well pleased." This is exactly what happened when you and I were baptized, the Father claimed us as His adopted sons and daughters. Our sins were forgiven and we were redeemed and put on the path to God's eternal life.

As we celebrate our Lord's Baptism, we meditate on the fact that He did not need to be baptized, but He did anyway, that you and I might imitate the example of His humility and submission to doing the will of the Father. He gave Himself up so that we might be saved. Evidently, "In Christ Jesus you were given a circumcision but not by human hands, which removed completely from you the carnal body: I refer to baptism. On receiving it you were buried with Christ; and you also rose with Him for having believed in the power of God...You were dead...in sin...He forgave all our sins. He canceled the record of our debts..." (Col. 2:11-14). Baptism frees us from sin and turns us into new creatures of God – it liberates us and empowers us to become His children. Apostle Paul, writing to Titus on baptism, indicates, "The grace of God has appeared, saving all and training us to reject godless ways and worldly desires...live temperately, justly...devoutly in this age..." It is in baptism that you and I experienced "the kindness and generous love of God our Savior...not because of any righteous deeds we had done but because of His mercy, He saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by Holy Spirit..."

Like Christ, by baptism, you and I are God's children who must offer lives entirely to doing God's will - loving Him above all else and donating our time, talents and treasure in service to Him and our fellow brothers and sisters. The baptismal candle received on our behalf by our godparents and parents must always light our way to Christ - Light of the nations.

Rev. Anthony Ita Basse, MSP



PARISH NEWS



MEETING: This Monday, January 14th, the Holy Name Society will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the McManus Parish Center. All men of the Parish are welcome.



HOLY NAME SOCIETY

OUR PARISH R.C.I.A. PROGRAM

If you or someone you know needs information on the Catholic Faith or have not been confirmed, please call the Religious Education Office listed on the cover for information on the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (R.C.I.A.) in our parish.

ALTAR SERVERS: Congratulations to Rosemary Biju, Charlie Guachichullca, Alyssa Martin, Nicholas and Nicole Vivian who are our newest altar servers. We thank these children for their willingness to serve our community and their parents for making it possible for them to serve.

**ATLANTIC CITY TRIP**

The Rosary Altar Society is running a trip to Atlantic City's Taj Mahal on Saturday, January 26th, at 9 a.m. The cost is \$40 with a slot credit return of \$30. For further information and reservations, call Carolyn (963-2622) or Dolly (969-6575).

FEEDING OUR NEIGHBORS CAMPAIGN
January 27th – February 3rd

Catholic Charities is once again running its *Feeding Our Neighbors Campaign* to restock the food pantries and soup kitchens of the Archdiocese of New York. Last year with our help the Campaign was a success, providing food for 575,000 meals. This year's goal has been set for one million meals. Our parish along with the other parishes and Catholic schools in the New York Archdiocese will be joined this year by the Catechetical Department, ArchCare, the Office of Youth Ministry, and the United Jewish Appeal Federation (UJA); we are asked to make a special effort to feed our hungry neighbors.

Expect the large donation boxes to appear the weekend of January 26th – 27th. Our donations will support our Food Pantry and that of St. Peter's Church in Yonkers; and once again our Social Ministry Committee will organize, tally, and report our donations to Catholic Charities. Thank you for doing your part to make this Campaign a success!

RECITATION OF THE ROSARY: Join your fellow parishioners in praying the Rosary after the 9 a.m. Mass on weekdays and Saturdays.

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Helping Hands
Immaculate Conception Church Outreach

December 24, 2012

Dear Parishioners of St. Bartholomew's,

Thank you for all you did to make a difference to our unfortunate brethren. Merry Christmas!

Sincerely,
Helping Hands

AN AFTERNOON OF PRAYERFUL REMEMBRANCE & INTERCESSION: Saturday, January 19th, 1 – 4 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, 26 Still Road, Monroe, NY 10950 The hidden wounds of abortion affect us all. In anticipation of the anniversary of Roe v. Wade the *Family Life/Respect Life Office* of the Archdiocese of New York and *Lumina Hope & Healing after Abortion* are sponsoring this day which will include personal testimonies from those who have been affected, intercessory prayer, Eucharistic adoration & rosary, opportunity for the sacrament of reconciliation, and the holy sacrifice of Mass. For further information call *Lumina* (877 586-4621) or email lumina@postabortionhelp.org.

"He saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit." Renew your sacrament of marriage/holy orders on one of the next **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends**,. February 9/10 and March 1 - 3. For more information, call (877) 697-9963, ext. 3 or go to www.wwme.org.

WORLD MARRIAGE DAY – FEBRUARY 10, 2013
Longest Married Couple Search

The search begins for the longest married couple in the Archdiocese of New York! To enter couples must be sacramentally married for a minimum of 65 years and reside in the Archdiocese of NY. The longest married couple(s) will be honored on Sunday, February 10th, at St. Patrick's Cathedral at the 10:15 a.m. Mass with a reception to follow.

For further information or to make reservations contact Izabella Nagle on 646 794-3190 or at izabella.nagle@archny.org. Mail entries to: Family Life + Respect Life Office, 1011 First Avenue, New York, NY 10022, Attention: Izabella Nagle. The deadline for entries is January 30, 2013.

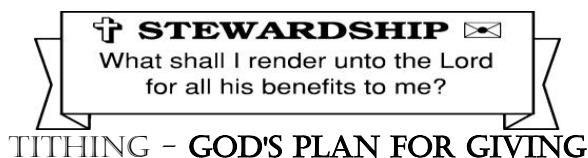
Rest in Peace Please pray for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed, especially John J. Esposito, Sr., Sallianne DeVito, and Noelia Alvarado.

FIRST RECONCILIATION: Please remember to keep our children in your prayers as they prepare to celebrate their First Reconciliation on Saturday, January 19th. Please pray that this will be the beginning of a lifetime of celebrating God's love and mercy in this special sacrament.

MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA: Held after the 9 a.m. Mass on Mondays.

EUCCHARISTIC DEVOTION: Held the First Friday of every month at 1 p.m. Please join us for this most efficacious prayer.

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION: Held the First Saturday of every month at 3 p.m. All are encouraged to participate.



January 1, 2012

Adults' Contribution	\$5314.00
Children's Contribution	\$89.90
Last Year's Total	\$5403.90

December 30, 2012

Adults' Contribution	\$5108.00
Children's Contribution	\$117.45
This Year's Total	\$5225.45

Our Christmas Collection totaled \$35,134.00.

January 8, 2012

Adults' Contribution	\$5432.10
Children's Contribution	\$150.75
Last Year's Total	\$5582.85

January 6, 2013

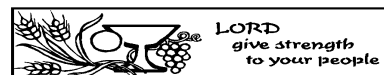
Adults' Contribution	\$7070.55
Children's Contribution	\$206.45
This Year's Total	\$7277.00

The 2nd Collection for the maintenance of our buildings and grounds totaled \$2070.50.

Our Collection on the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God totaled \$3734.00.

"The true purpose of tithing is to secure not the tithe, but the tither; not the gift, but the giver; not your money, but you... for God."

"WHAT WE HAVE DONE FOR OURSELVES ALONE DIES WITH US; WHAT WE HAVE DONE FOR OTHERS AND THE WORLD REMAINS AND IS IMMORTAL." ~ Albert Pike



Please pray for all the sick & the homebound members of our Parish, especially Ethel Thomas, Aldina Pereira, Rebecca Conroy, Andy DeFabritis, Maria Marte, Barbara Rup, Jule Yaskovic, Rosalie Heit, Florence B. Swetz, Clare Yaskovic, Neil Caruso, Raymond Fitzpatrick, Sr., Deacon James Byrnes, Andrea Objay, Carmen Torres, Frank Marra, Deacon Patrick Troy, Josephine Apuzzo, Edith Dugan, Gary Roth, Joyann Allan, Anna Rita Morgante, Lois Burton, Mary DeStefano, Mark Cianfaglione, Shawn Colon, Margaret Maccia, Nicole Ryan Betancourt, Anthony Spinner, Audrey & Alfred Falcone, Kathleen Hayes, Marge Muraik, Stan Buoninfante, Donna Vasconez, Gene DelBene, Nicole Pisani-Frame, Louis Petruolo, Cynthia Swiatkowicz, Jimmy Maimone, Robert Mirsky, Steve Oddo, Roseann Mercandetti, Louis Brusco, Josephine Daniele, Jennifer Dorsey, Valerie Riccardi, Fatima Panik, Joanne Moscarello, Marian Fletcher, Anna Bonacci, Minerva Hernandez, Paula Parente, Barbara Olivieri, Carol Swetz, Bridget O'Malley, Anna Brucculeri, Peggy Clevenberg, Gerald Mazzerese, Jr., Patricia Keane, Louis Milone, Joey Bastardi, Carol Stola, Amada Ortiz, Karen Aprea, Stephen Sarich, and Neil Cawley.

JANUARY 13, 2013

Mass  for the
Intentions Week

Baptism of the Lord

Saturday, January 12 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Christine Serricchio Bellino +

Sunday, January 13

8:30 AM Deceased Members of Zucconi Family +

10:00 AM Arlene Tiplady +

11:30 AM Maddalena & Paul Coniglio +

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

Monday, January 14

Weekday

7:00 AM Pedro Moran +

9:00 AM Donald Alleva +

Tuesday, January 15

Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Elsie Selvaratnam +

Wednesday, January 16

Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Charles Sweeney +

Thursday, January 17

Saint Anthony, Abbot

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Father Anthony's Intentions

Friday, January 18

Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Denis LaValle +

Saturday, January 19

Weekday

9:00 AM Rita Bolduc +

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, January 19 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Joseph & Lucy Laudadio +

Sunday, January 20

8:30 AM Rosa Troia +

10:00 AM Josephine & Anthony Brucculeri +

11:30 AM For All the People of Our Parish

5:00 PM Angelina Brusco +

YEAR OF FAITH
BAPTIZED IN FAITH



This Sunday is a wonderful occasion on which we might reflect on the meaning of Baptism. This sacramental event so crucial for our spiritual journey is sometimes misunderstood by others, even those in our own faith community. As in the case of all the sacraments when we receive them has only a preliminary significance. Their effects

assist us in a life-giving way that can be momentous. For example, when a couple weds, the graces available are to form and strengthen their relationship each and every day for as long as they both live. When a man is called to Holy Orders, the graces continually flow as he ministers to saints and sinners. In the case of Baptism, when parents present their child or an adult approaches the sacramental rite, the permanent effect is not only the removal of original sin or any actual sin but the initiation of an eternal relationship with the Trinity and the Church.

With this in mind the reforms of Paul VI in regards to the sacrament are notable. In the introduction of the rite he states, in union with Vatican II, the paramount importance of parents. He goes so far as to say that pastors must have the moral assurance that the children will be led by example in the faith by them or the celebration of the sacrament must be postponed. Godparents are to assist in this function in a confirming role. (Because of this it must be recognized by both that this is not a societal nicety to share merely because of family or friendly connections but is a spiritual responsibility of great import.) In the rite it is the parents who speak for their child and many times during it they are questioned and reminded that it is their role to witness personally to the faith and it is through their eyes as the “first church” that their children will meet the Lord, understand His teachings, and follow His way. It is most moving to hear the words of blessing at the conclusion of the rite calling upon the Trinity to encourage mothers and fathers in the unity of faith they share with their children and upon the whole congregation to realize that it takes a Church to raise a Catholic.

As we rejoice in the beginning of the public ministry of Christ, let us renounce evil, reconfirm our faith in the Trinity of Persons, and be one with the faith community and her teachings.

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Even though our winter has been fairly mild to date, snow and ice remain a threat this time of year. Next weekend we will take up a second collection to cover the expenses “old man winter” is sure to throw our way in the coming weeks. Please be as generous as possible.

Comments:
