

**Welcome to  
OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL CHURCH**



**12175 Stringfellow Road, Bokeelia, FL 33922  
(239) 283-0456**

**Rev. Jacek Mazur, Pastor**

Fr.Jacek@olmm.org

**Rev. Mr. William “Bill” Beck, Deacon**

deaconbill@comcast.net

**Parish Secretary—Donna Wallis**

donna.wallis@olmm.org

**Bookkeeper-Diane Gleason**

diane.gleason@olmm.org

**Parish Office Hours**

9:00 am—1:00 pm Monday—Friday

[www.miraculousmedalch.org](http://www.miraculousmedalch.org)

Email: [office@olmm.org](mailto:office@olmm.org)

**Knights of Columbus**-Contact Luis Ramos (239) 560-6380

**Baptisms**-Parents must meet with the Pastor for instructions and a date for the ceremony\*

**Marriages**-Couples must see the Pastor at least six months before the intended wedding date\*

**Visits to the Sick**-Please call the Parish Office

**Religious Education**-Sundays, Sept.-May from 9:30 to 11 am. Pre-K through secondary grades

**RCIA**- (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) - Please contact the Pastor for more information

**New Parishioners**-Registration forms are located in the entrance of the Church, at the Parish Office and on our website

**Bereavement Support Group**-No meetings scheduled at this time

**\*Registered parishioners only**

**MASS SCHEDULE**

- ◆ **Daily Mass** Monday—Friday 8:30 am
- ◆ **Saturday Vigil** 4:30 pm—Year Round
- ◆ **Sunday Masses**
  - September through May  
8:30 am & 10:30 am
  - June through August  
9:30 am
- ◆ **Spanish Mass**  
5:00 pm Sunday—Year Round
- ◆ **Holy Days of Obligation** 8:30 am & 6:00 pm unless otherwise noted  
+++++
- ◆ **Confessions** Fridays after the 8:30 am Mass, Saturdays 3:30 to 4:30 pm or by appointment
- ◆ **Rosary** A half hour prior to daily Mass. Wednesdays the Rosary is dedicated for the protection of our area against disasters. Rosary begins 45 minutes before the first Sunday Mass
- ◆ **Miraculous Medal Novena** Monday following the 8:30 am Mass
- ◆ **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** First Friday of every month beginning at 9:00 am concluding with a brief prayer service and Benediction at Noon
- ◆ **Chaplet of Divine Mercy** First Fridays after the opening of Adoration

**JANUARY 13, 2019—BAPTISM OF THE LORD**



## Mass Intentions for the Week

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- Mon. Jan 14** +Edie Perez  
8:30 am Requested by Paula & Larry Larson
- Tues. Jan 15** Ann Inveen  
8:30 am Requested by Vicki & John Jaunich
- Weds. Jan 16** Members of the Parish  
8:30 am
- Thrs. Jan 17** Ann Inveen  
8:30 am Requested by Vicki & John Jaunich
- Fri. Jan 18** +Kathryn McGuiness  
8:30 am Requested by Carol Miller
- Sat. Jan 19** +Alice Ambrose  
4:30 pm Requested by Sharon & Rich Starr and Mary & John McKinnon
- Sun. Jan 20** +Margaret Baker  
8:30 am Requested by Marianne & Joseph Baker  
10:30 am +Marcia Kuhr  
Requested by Herman & Nancy Wenker

## Weekly Collections

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**WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 29-30, 2018**  
**ATTENDANCE -553**  
**OFFERTORY-\$4,061.00**  
**SECOND COLLECTION-\$N/A**  
**POOR BOX-\$228.01**

*Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church is sustained by the generosity of our parishioners through their selfless offering of time, talent and treasure. Thank you and God Bless!*



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## PRAY THE ROSARY DAILY

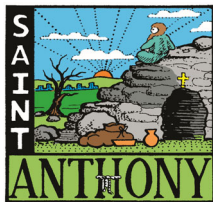
**THE BEST CATHOLIC CONTENT ALL IN ONE PLACE** **FORMED.org**  
THE CATHOLIC FAITH. ON DEMAND.

**Go to:**  
**Miraculousmedalch.formed.org**

## This Week

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- Monday, Jan 14, 2019**
- **Tuesday, Jan 15, 2019**
  - **Wednesday, Jan 16, 2019**
    - **Choir Practice 5:00 pm**
  - **Thursday, Jan 17, 2019**
    - **St. Anthony**
  - **Friday, Jan 18, 2019**
  - **Saturday, Jan 19, 2019**
    - **Blessed Virgin Mary**
    - **Vigil Mass at 4:30 pm**
    - **Volunteer Appreciation Dinner 5:30 pm-PLC**
  - **Sunday, Jan 20, 2019**
    - **Masses at 8:30 & 10:30 am and 5:00 pm (Spanish)**
    - **NO Religious Education**
    - **Coffee Social 9:30 AM**
  - **Monday, Jan 21, 2019**
    - **PARISH MISSION**



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## TELEVISION MASS TO THE HOMEBOUND

WFTX-TV FOX 4 - Sundays at 10:30 am

The Mass is also available on the Diocese of Venice website,  
[www.dioceseofvenice.org/tvmass](http://www.dioceseofvenice.org/tvmass).

**Donations may be sent to:** TV Mass, 1000 Pinebrook Road,  
 Venice, FL 34285 For questions call 941-486-4714

## Mass Intentions

## THE 2020 MASS BOOK IS NOW OPEN!



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If you would like to have Masses scheduled, we now have openings through 2020! We also have many openings for early 2019, so if you have an intention you would like said at Mass on a particular day, please contact the Parish Office to schedule the date. The suggested offering is \$10 per Mass and can be for the living as well as the deceased.



Envelopes

The 2019 offertory envelopes are here! They are located in the rear of the church and are in alphabetical order. If you requested envelopes, please pick them up. If you would like to start using envelopes, please contact the Parish Office. **Thank you!**

## ???QUESTION OF THE WEEK???

How does my baptism affect the way I live my life? Does prayer help guide me?

**2018  
Catholic  
Faith  
Appeal**



**OLMM 2018 CFA STATUS**

Parish Goal \$ 85,000.00  
 Pledged \$ 91,873.95  
 Total Paid \$ 90,803.95  
**Balance Due \$ (5,803.95)**  
 a/o 12/26/18  
 Thank you for your generosity.

**✠SAINTS/FEASTS OF THE WEEK✠**

**Jan 17-St. Anthony**-A Christian Monk from Egypt, St. Anthony renounced everything at the age of 20 and lived as a hermit. He has been revered as a saint since his death at the age of 105. Although he was a hermit, St. Anthony drew many people to himself for spiritual healing and guidance.

**PARISH CALENDAR**

January 21-23-Parish Mission  
 January 25-Ladies' Guild Card Party  
 February 5-Ladies' Guild Monthly Gathering  
 February 14-Valentine's Day  
 February 16-Rummage Sale  
 March 5-Ladies Guild Monthly Gathering  
 March 6-Ash Wednesday  
 March 17-St. Patrick's Day  
 March 19-Ladies' Guild Spring Luncheon  
 /Fashion Show  
 April 14-Palm Sunday  
 April 19-Good Friday  
 April 21-Easter  
 April 28-Divine Mercy Sunday  
 May 12-Mothers' Day

**Spiritual Gifts Retreat!**

**February 9, 2019  
 10:15 am to 3:30 pm  
 St. Katharine Drexel  
 Faith Formation Building  
 West Wing**

Who among us would receive a gift and put it aside without opening it? St. Paul tells us we have all received a spiritual gift, a way that the Holy Spirit works through us in our daily lives and yet, most of us have never opened our gift to see what it is. Please join us for this Spiritual Gifts Retreat to uncover the spiritual gifts God has given you. The cost is \$15.00 and includes the book, **Charisms of the Holy Spirit: Tools for the New Evangelization, supporting materials, lunch and afternoon break.**

We will journey through Scripture, the Catechism, and the writings of Pope Francis to learn about the Holy Spirit's mission to pour out special gifts called charisms that help us grow spiritually and help us support those we love to grow spiritually. During this retreat you will take the Spiritual Gifts Inventory and discover your Spiritual Gifts. You will also learn about your gifts and those of others.

Register online <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/spiritual-gifts-retreat-tickets-53938633906> or email your full name and # attending to [renee@marazon.com](mailto:renee@marazon.com) on or before February 7, 2019. Submit your registration fee of \$15.00 per person to the SKD Parish Office, 1922 Southwest 20th Avenue, Cape Coral, FL 33991. Please write "Gifts Retreat" on the check memo line. For more info email [renee@marazon.com](mailto:renee@marazon.com).

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED**

Alice Ambrose, Sal Anastasio, Ed Anderson, Pat Auge, Mary Lou Beck, Wally Bermingham, Roger Bolduc, Al Doerman, Jo Ann Grabenstetter, Gerry Green, Mary Hagan, Daniel Higgins, Helen Holfelner, Lil Honc, Dave Humme, Ed Hughes, Pat Jock, James Kennedy, Betty Licari, Sandra Marcil, Kathryn McGuineas, Vincenzo Miceli, Sr., Leo Miller, Wes Morris, Maureen Murphy, Jim O'Neill, Volker Oelze, Mark Rodgers, Fred "Fritz" Schoenbaechler, Jeanette Smith, Muriel Urrico, Melanie Voris, Victor Zawadski

*"Eternal rest grant unto them Oh Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they Rest in Peace."*

**A PRAYER FOR PRIESTS**

Lord Jesus, you have chosen your priests from among us and sent them out to proclaim your word and act in your name. For so great a gift to your Church, we give you praise and thanksgiving. We ask you to fill them with the fire of your love, that their ministry may reveal your presence in the Church. Since they are earthen vessels, we pray that your power shines out through their weakness. In their afflictions let them never be crushed, in their doubts never despair, in temptation never be destroyed, and in persecution never abandoned. Inspire them through prayer to live each day the mystery of your dying and rising. In times of weakness send them your Spirit and help them to praise your Heavenly Father and pray for poor sinners. By your same Holy Spirit put your word on their lips and your love in their hearts, to bring good news to the poor and healing to the brokenhearted. And may the gift of Mary, your Mother, to the disciple whom you loved, be your gift to every priest. Grant that she who formed you in her human image, may form them in your divine image, by the power of your spirit, to the glory of God the Father, **Amen.**

*Saint Teresa of Calcutta Vocation Society*

DIocese OF VENICE IN FLORIDA

FEB 16, 2019

**Women's Conference**



**JENNIFER FULWILER** is the host of the Jennifer Fulwiler Show, which airs daily on the national SiriusXM network. She is the author of *Something Other than God*, as well as her new book, *One Beautiful Dream*, a humorous memoir which was a #1 bestseller at Barnes & Noble and in the Top 25 of all books on Amazon.



**LEAH DARROW**, drawing from her experience on American's Next Top Model and her work in fashion, exposes the lies that women encounter today regarding their self-worth. Through her engaging talks, listeners are drawn to the appreciation of their own real beauty.



**MOTHER ADELA GALINDO** is the foundress of the Servants of the Pierced Hearts of Jesus and Mary. Her faithful witness and sincere presentations evidence her great love for the Mother of God, which becomes infectious to all who hear her.



**TO REGISTER!**

ADD TO YOUR CALENDAR ☎ 941-484-9543  
[www.diocesofvenice.org/offices/daily-resources/calendar/](http://www.diocesofvenice.org/offices/daily-resources/calendar/) ✉ [evangelization@diocesofvenice.org](mailto:evangelization@diocesofvenice.org)



**LOCATION**  
 Bishop Verot High School  
 5998 Sunrise Drive  
 Fort Myers

**DATE**  
 February 16, 2019  
**TIME**  
 9 AM - 3 PM

**COST**  
 PRE-REGISTRATION  
 Adults \$20 | Students \$5.  
 AT THE DOOR  
 Adults \$30 | Students \$10.

SPONSORED BY THE DIOCESE OF VENICE.



DIocese OF VENICE IN FLORIDA

# Catholic Mass

for

## Widows & Widowers

### TIME

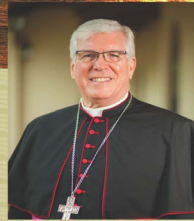
Mass 3:00 p.m.  
Reception to follow

### DATE

Sunday  
Jan. 20, 2019

### LOCATION

Epiphany Cathedral  
310 Sarasota St., Venice



No cost to attend.

Registration is needed for dinner.

Register at [www.dioceseofvenice.org/calendar](http://www.dioceseofvenice.org/calendar)

### Contact

[ardy@dioceseofvenice.org](mailto:ardy@dioceseofvenice.org)  
[elsmore@dioceseofvenice.org](mailto:elsmore@dioceseofvenice.org)  
941-484-9543

There will be photo display if you wish to send a picture of you and your deceased spouse. Mail to:  
DIOCESE OF VENICE, 1000 PINEBROOK ROAD  
VENICE, FL. 34285 ATTN: FAMILY LIFE OFFICE



DIocese OF VENICE IN FLORIDA  
OFFICE OF

**SECOND COLLECTION WEEKEND OF JAN 19-20**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

January 2019

The people of Latin America are faith filled, but the needs and challenges that the Church faces are great. Christian values remain important, but many families are wounded by hostility from the surrounding environment, gang violence, drug trafficking, human trafficking and a lack of education.

The Church continues to point the way to Christ as the source of hope and healing within the family and among Latin American people. Many family and catechetical ministry projects are needed in Latin American countries to offer a way to strengthen, affirm, and celebrate family and community life, offering a new and promising vision for relationships with one another and with God.

The annual Collection for the Church in Latin America helps to fund projects that form family pastoral ministers who are helping nourish families, focusing on ministry, and supporting communities with existing programs, especially for the younger members of families.

Parishes throughout the Diocese of Venice will take up the Collection for the Church in Latin America the weekend of January 19 and 20, 2019. Your support will truly make a difference in the lives of our sisters and brothers in Latin America. Thank you for your generosity!

I take this opportunity to extend to each of you my blessings in this New Year. Thank you and may God bless you and your family for your support of the Church in Latin America.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Frank J. Dewane  
Bishop of the Diocese of Venice in Florida

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# REBOOT

a life-changing event

FEATURING INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED  
SPEAKER, AUTHOR, AND TV HOST

## CHRIS STEFANICK



WEDNESDAY  
February 20, 2019  
7-9:30 PM

St. Katharine Drexel Catholic Church  
1922 SW 20th Ave.  
Cape Coral, FL 33991

Tickets: \$22

Contact Bonnie LaVigne  
Or the Parish Office for  
Tickets

INFO/ PURCHASE TICKETS:  
239.283.0525  
[RealLifeCatholic.com/reboot](http://RealLifeCatholic.com/reboot)



**“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.”-John 14:26**

DIocese OF VENICE IN FLORIDA

FEB 2, 2019

## MEN'S CONFERENCE IRON SHARPENS IRON!



**MARY HEALY** is Professor of Sacred Scripture at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit. Her work promoting Biblical Studies have greatly assisted the faithful in hearing the Word of God and living by it, with greater understanding and passionate zeal.



**DCN. RALPH POYO** models discipleship of Jesus with a truly relational style of evangelization. He helps Parishes become “self-evangelizing” Parishes by focusing on relational ministry and personal one-on-one encounters to build up the local Church.



**HECTOR MOLINA** has been speaking for over 25 years and has keynoted over 100 Diocesan events (in English and Spanish) from North America to Australia. As part of Casting Nets Ministries, he truly embodies what it means to be a “fisher of men.”

### TO REGISTER!

ADD TO YOUR CALENDAR

[www.dioceseofvenice.org/offices/daily-resources/calendar/](http://www.dioceseofvenice.org/offices/daily-resources/calendar/)

941-484-9543

[evangelization@dioceseofvenice.org](mailto:evangelization@dioceseofvenice.org)



### LOCATION

Bishop Verot High School  
5598 Sunrise Drive  
Fort Myers

### DATE

February 2, 2019

9 AM – 3 PM

### COST

PRE-REGISTRATION  
Adults \$20 | Students \$5.  
AT THE DOOR  
Adults \$30 | Students \$10.

SPONSORED BY THE DIOCESE OF VENICE.



## OLMM LADIES' GUILD ANNUAL CARD PARTY

Friday, January 25, 2019  
10:00 am – 3:00 pm  
Parish Life Center

Please join us for our annual Card Party. Tickets are \$20 and will be on sale from January 5th through January 20th. **ONLY 200 TICKETS WILL BE SOLD!** A delicious lunch will be served along with snacks and beverages throughout the day. We'll have fabulous door prizes and wonderful raffle items too! Tickets are available after all weekend Masses or at the Parish Office.



# Se abrió el cielo y el Espíritu Santo bajó sobre Él

## 13 de enero de 2019 • El Bautismo del Señor

En el Evangelio de Lucas de hoy, cuando Juan el Bautista aclara que él no es el esperado Mesías, el Cristo, él distingue su bautismo con agua del bautismo “con el Espíritu Santo y fuego” que Jesús va a ofrecer.

El bautismo de Juan con agua significa la renuncia a nuestros propios intereses y la apertura de nuestro corazón a Dios. El bautismo con fuego y Espíritu describe al poder de Dios entrando y transformando el corazón humano. Cuando Jesús fue bautizado con agua, él públicamente manifestó su compromiso total a seguir el camino de Dios para él. Cuando el Espíritu desciende sobre Jesús, él fue fortalecido para empezar su ministerio. En efecto, Jesús recibió ambos tipos de bautismo descritos por Juan. Él iría a “bautizar” a aquellas personas cuyo corazón estuvieron abiertos durante su ministerio, muerte y resurrección. Después, en Pentecostés, la nueva comunidad recibió un “bautismo” de Espíritu con lenguas de fuego.

### LA TRINIDAD Y EL BAUTISMO

El Evangelio de esta semana no solo cuenta el bautismo de Jesús, sino que describe extraordinariamente a Dios como la Santísima Trinidad: Jesús en oración, el Espíritu Santo

descendiendo y la voz del Padre desde el cielo. La Iglesia naciente asoció su interpretación de Dios como la Trinidad y el Bautismo como la iniciación a la vida cristiana y a la comunidad. Los nuevos cristianos eran bautizados en el nombre del Padre, del Hijo y del Espíritu Santo.

Jesús fue proclamado como el amado por su Padre y fortalecido por el Espíritu Santo para empezar su misión. La misión es un envío, aceptar una misión es aceptar ser enviado. Después de su ministerio, muerte, resurrección y ascensión, la misión de Jesús continuó por medio del Espíritu empezando en Pentecostés. El Padre envió al Hijo y al Espíritu, quienes juntos ahora envían a la Iglesia al mundo. El Bautismo, entonces, es el envío de los nuevos bautizados a unirse a la Trinidad en su misión. Nosotros los bautizados estamos fortalecidos para proclamar que todos somos los amados por Dios. Nuestro Dios trino ya está delante de nosotros en el mundo, pidiendo nuestra participación.

Lecturas de hoy: Is 42:1-4, 6-7 o Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Sal 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 o Sal 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30; Hch 10:34-38 o Tit 2:11-14, 3:4-7; Lc 3:15-16, 21-22

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## RUMMAGE SALE

It's the time of year to declutter your home, go through your drawers and bring it down to the Parish Life Center during regular office hours. If you have larger items that you need to have picked up, please contact the Parish Office during regular business hours. **PLEASE:** No electronics, TVs, VCRs, DVD players, computers, printers, mattresses or china cabinets. **THANK YOU!**

### Know Your Immigration Rights Conozca Sus Derechos de Inmigración

La Conferencia Estado Unidos de Obispos Católicos (USCCB) ha proporcionado un video en español y en inglés sobre los derechos de los inmigrantes. Por favor vaya a [www.diocesofvenice.org](http://www.diocesofvenice.org) y haga clic en el banner "Conozca Sus Derechos" para ver los videos.

### V Encuentro, Sesiones del Decanato Norte

La Oficina del Apostolado Hispano de la Diócesis de Venice organiza una serie de sesiones por decanatos para continuar el proceso del V Encuentro. Los fieles del Decanato Centro están invitados a participar a la siguiente reunión que se realizará en: Epiphany Cathedral, 350 Tampa Avenue West, Venice, Martes 25 de Julio, 6:30 p.m., La alegría de ser discípulos misioneros. Información: [pastoralhispana@diocesofvenice.org](mailto:pastoralhispana@diocesofvenice.org).

## PARISH MISSION January 21st through January 23rd iMERCY: The Divine Hotspot

Through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Dominican Friars have been proclaiming the truth of God's Word for over 800 years in order to bring Catholics and those who have drifted from the Faith into a personal encounter with the living Christ who reveals the unconditional love of our Heavenly Father.

Join us for a unique, grace-filled evangelical moment in the life of our parish led by Dominican Friars, which aims to help us enter more deeply into the love of the Holy Trinity and experience God's merciful touch through the Sacraments.

Fr. Garrott will be preaching at all Masses the weekend of January 19-20. He will also preach a brief homily at the daily Masses Mon-Weds and will hear confessions after each Mass. The evening sessions begin at 5:30 pm with the Holy Rosary. He will then preach and will then hear confessions following the service.

**ALL ARE WELCOME!!!!**

# JANUARY 13, 2019 BAPTISM OF THE LORD

He saved us through  
the bath of rebirth  
and renewal by the  
Holy Spirit.  
— Titus 3:5

Él nos salvó a través  
del baño del renaci-  
miento. Y la reno-  
vación por el Es-  
píritu Santo.  
- Tito 3:5

## CALLED TO SERVE

For many weeks now, we have been celebrating the appearance of the divine presence in human form. As a child, he came to Mary and Joseph, was seen by the shepherds, and then by some wandering magi from the East. Today we celebrate another showing, later in time, to a group gathered at the Jordan River.

John hesitated to baptize Jesus, whom he recognized as “one mightier than I.” But he did as Jesus asked, and the “Holy Spirit descended” and heaven’s voice spoke to Jesus, “You are my beloved Son.” Jesus was beginning his public life of teaching and service. Soon he would start calling others to join him.

Peter was one of the first to be called by Jesus. In today’s second reading, he announces the heart of the message, “peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.” Peter was called, and you and I are called to spread that message and to serve God’s word. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

## TODAY’S READINGS

**First Reading** — Isaiah speaks of the Servant whom the Lord upholds; he shall bring forth justice to the nations

(Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7) or *Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11.*

**Psalms** — The Lord will bless his people with peace (Psalm 29) or *Psalm 104.*

**Second Reading** — Jesus was anointed by God with the Holy Spirit; he went out healing and doing good (Acts 10:34-38) or *Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7.*

**Gospel** — A voice comes from heaven proclaiming Jesus as the beloved Son, with whom God is well pleased (Luke 3:15-16, 21-22). The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Heb 1:1-6; Ps 97:1, 2b, 6, 7c, 9; Mk 1:14-20

Tuesday: Heb 2:5-12; Ps 8:2ab, 5, 6-9; Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday: Heb 2:14-18; Ps 105:1-4, 6-9; Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: Heb 3:7-14; Ps 95:6-11; Mk 1:40-45

Friday: Heb 4:1-5, 11; Ps 78:3, 4bc, 6c-8; Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: Heb 4:12-16; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mk 2:13-17

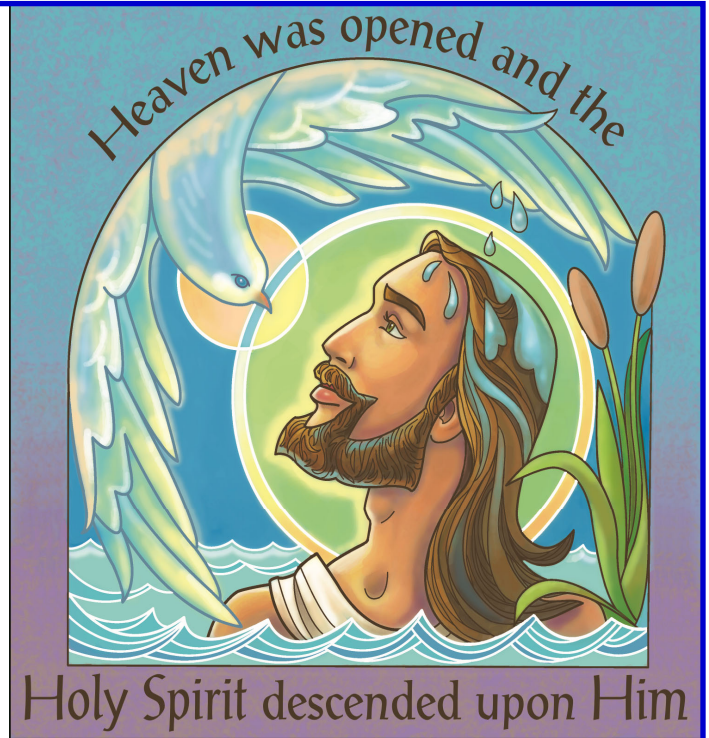
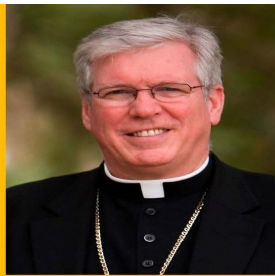
Sunday: Is 62:1-5; Ps 96:1-3, 7-10; 1 Cor 12:4-11; Jn 2:1-11

**“The illusions of this world soon vanish, especially if a man arms himself with the Sign of the Cross. The devils tremble at the Sign of the Cross of our Lord, by which He triumphed over and disarmed them.” - St. Anthony**

**"WITNESSING FAITH  
WITH  
BISHOP DEWANE"**

**LISTEN THE  
LAST FRIDAY OF  
EVERY MONTH AT  
8:30 AM**

Listen anywhere online at [RelevantRadio.com](http://RelevantRadio.com)



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## TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Merry Christmas! Share that cheerful greeting with some folks today. They may wonder if you have had any Elvis sightings lately, attended Star Trekkie conventions, or were Cleopatra in a previous lifetime. Despite the skeptics, today is solidly within the Christmas season. In fact, in some strands of the Christian tradition it represents the clearest manifestation of the mystery of the Incarnation. On Christmas Day, for example, the Gospel reading is the Prologue of John’s Gospel, which reveals the glory of Christ shining through our humanity precisely in his baptism.

At any rate, this is an ancient feast, celebrated first in Egypt sixteen centuries ago. More than most other ancient people, the Egyptians understood the life-giving properties of water. On this day, they drew water from the Nile, so central in the history of their people, and reserved it in honor. Many other places copied the custom, so that St. John Chrysostom wrote of people in Antioch gathering at midnight to collect flowing water into vessels they brought from home since “today there is a blessing on the water.” At home for dinner tonight, decorate the table with beautiful bowls of water and white candles, toast one another with goblets of sparkling water, and light a Christmas candle in the window one last time.—James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

## SELF-DISCIPLINE

The greatest of all warriors in the siege of Troy had not the preeminence because nature had given him strength and he carried the largest bow, but because self-discipline had taught him how to bend it.—Daniel Webster



## DONATION STATEMENT

If you need a printout of your yearly donations, please contact the Parish Office and we will email it to you or print it and mail it to you



# Catholic Treasures

Enjoy All Your Favorite Songs & Hymns Anytime, Anywhere



CLASSICS FOR...

FEASTS & SEASONS • WORSHIP  
HYMNS & SONGS • PRAISE & HONOR

**62 CLASSICS ON 4 DISK BOX SET**

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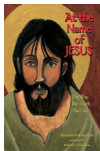
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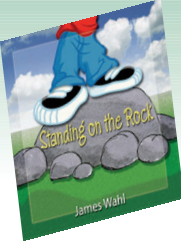
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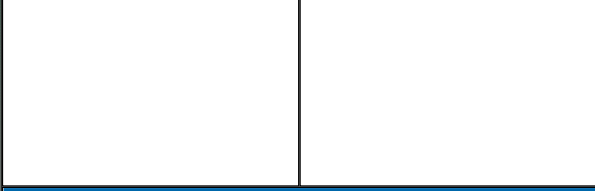
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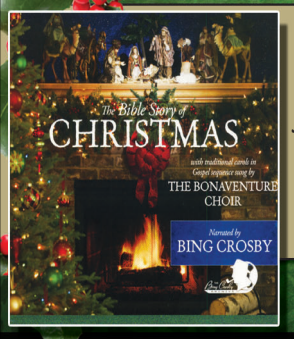
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