

Baptism of the Lord
January 11, 2026
Merry Christmas



From the Gusset

Merry Christmas!

As we start **the New Year** (remember, for us **Catholics the Year of Grace 2026** started back on **November 30th**, the first Sunday of **Advent**), we are called to become *aware* of **time**. **Time** can be seen as our enemy – such as: we only have so much **time** on **earth** before we will be called before God (at our



death) to give an accounting of how we **spent** our **time**. **Time** can then be seen as a type of **predator** devouring our opportunities **to pray, do good works, and reconcile with God and one another**. But **the Catholic** is called to **“redeem time.”** This is a notion that **St. Paul** and **St. Peter** both talk about in the Scriptures. **St. Paul** says: when we do **‘good,’** we **redeem time** – we change (in a sense) the very quality of **time** – in other words we can have **good days** or **evil days**. This is what he tells **the Ephesians** in chapter 5 verses 15 and 16. So **Paul** tells **the Ephesians** (and us) not to postpone your **prayer**, nor postpone your **good deeds**, and (in almost quoting the Lord directly) **to reconcile immediately** with others and run to **confession** to **reconcile** with God! Remember Jesus told **parables** about **reconciling** with your **enemy** while on the way to court – least we be thrown into prison and not be released until we have paid the last penny! **St. Peter** said, that we ought to live out our remaining **time** on **earth** doing the will of God, and not catering to our human **passions** and desires – as we did in the past. **The first Pope** said, **‘we have spent enough time** (too much **time**) **in the past carrying out the desires of the flesh.** (1Peter 4:2-3) We pray in our **Prayer of Gratitude** after receiving **Holy Communion**: **“let me never take You (the Eucharistic Lord) for granted.”** This is the same notion – that I would not let **time** work against me – I don’t wait until **later**, because **“later”** does not really exist. There is only the **“now”** – especially of my **Sunday Worship**. If I miss **Mass**, I will never get a Sunday back, to enter into **God’s house**, fall on my knees and **worship** and **adore** the Lord as He is born on the altar, **suffers**, and **dies** before my eyes – and then allows me (and all who attended **the Mass** with me) to see what neither **Mary** nor the women, who came to **the tomb** to anoint His Body on **Easter Sunday** saw – I see Jesus **Resurrected** from the dead and **Ascend** to the Father! Let that be my goal this **Year of Grace 2026** – to **redeem time!** Yes, to give to **the world** everything required of us. That is to **work hard** for the company that pays me an hourly wage. That is to spend **time** with my **family** – to **love** my spouse and **dote** on our children. But since, I’m **Catholic**, and I truly believe that God becomes **man** and **redeems** me through **the Eucharist**, I also **redeem time** by being mindful of my **Faith!** That God is front and center before me in **the Eucharist** of the Sunday **Mass**, and so I **redeem time** by giving God my Sunday – but I **redeem time intensely** by giving God all of my **personhood** and my **time** for that one hour that I **pray the Mass** with my **Priest!** **Merry Christmas! Yours on the Path Fr. Randy**

Thank you to everyone who made donations for the Christmas flowers in loving memory or in honor of:

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church

Francis & Rosamund Buckley, Mark & Cindy Streit's family, Anita Vaessen, Julie Malach, Raymond & Ellice Dinges, Wellington & Marion Chaon, Paula Harris, Patty Baemer, Roland Schuhler family, Joseph Schuhler family, Martin Spitz family, Leo & Cecelia Bulfer, Fred & Garnet Schmidt, Robert Bulfer, Joseph Kuebel, Ronald Vaessen, Ralph & Della Vaessen, Deceased members of Schwemlein family, Floyd Wilson, Deceased members of Wm. McCoy and Wilson families, Joe & Margy Henkel, Madge King, Clem & Mary Henkel, Charlie Henkel, Rose Theiss, James & Geraldine Fronek, Joseph & Catherine Schauer, Joseph Schauer, Sister Frances Anna Hraback, Corin Blix, Frederick & Dorothy Schuhler, James Walker, Donna Vaessen, Mark Berry, Thomas Berry, Ferna Walker, Corcoran family, and Schmitt family

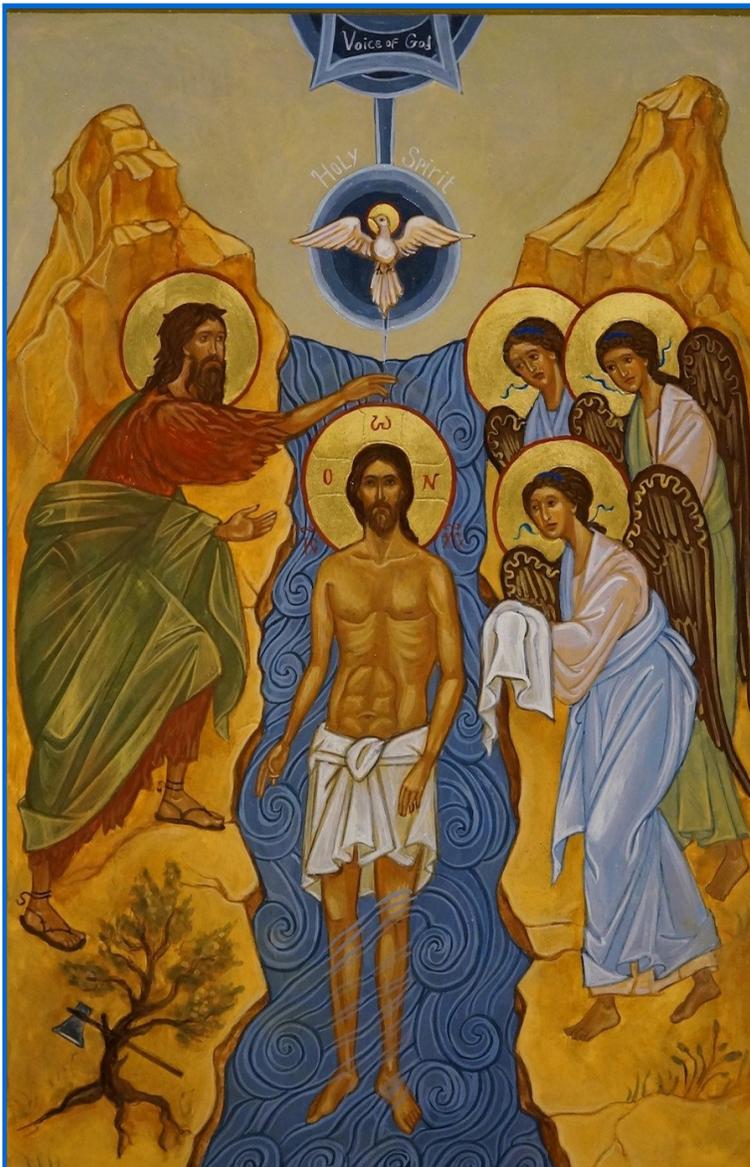
St. Mary of the Assumption Church

Marilyn Henkel, Vivian Mullins, Sandie Pettenger, Darla Lindenmeier, Pettenger family, Joseph & Catherine Schauer, Frank & Ruth Fronek, Sister Frances Anna Hraback, Joseph & Mary McCoy, Barbara Hraback, Sophia Hraback, Gertrude Hraback, Josephine Hraback, Howard McInnis, Rita Haefner, Gerald & Janet Hornung, John Gehant, Randy Jones, and Thomas Dvorsky and Eleanor Dvorsky

St. Patrick Church

Burke & Setchell families, John & Evelyn Ryan, Doug Blaine, Mulligan & Blaine families, Bickett & Book families, Sharkey & Ryan families, Joseph & Marty Quest, George & Frances Quest, Francis & Clara Leffelman, Montavon & Landreth families, George Malach, Julie Malach, Deceased members of Cardot family, Frank & Ruth Fronek, Charles & Katherine Fronek, Franklin Fronek, Robert Fronek, William & Janice Lloyd, Don & Mildred Skinner, Frank & Anna Peroutka and Bickett & Peterson families





Visio Divina

In the Gospels, particularly **Matthew's Gospel**, Jesus must insist that He be **baptized** by **John**. **The Baptist** knows that Jesus is **sinless** and in no need of **repentance**; rather, when the Lord allows Himself to be lowered into **the water** – Jesus is taking upon Himself the guilt – **the sin** – of all the people. Though Jesus took on our **humanity** at His birth (really God took our **humanity** at the **Annunciation** – His conception in **Mary's** womb), the Lord is telling **John** and each one of us that He wishes to be in **solidarity** with us! The Son of God is telling His Heavenly Father that He won't return to **Heaven** unless Jesus may bring us, His brothers and sisters, back **home** with Him!! God the Father is so in **love** with His Son, that as Jesus rises from **the waters**, **the Heavens** are opened, never to be shut again; and ushering in a new age of God's **grace** being given to us through Jesus. God now has a new **relationship** with **the human race** – it is a **relationship** where Jesus has wed Himself to us – taken us as His **bride**, and reintroduced us to the God who **created** us!!! **The Baptism** of

Jesus foreshadows His **death** and **Resurrection**; and how Jesus will give us His **grace** – His **love** – that we would not be **fruitless trees** ever again. I like the image of **the fruit tree** with **the ax** near it in **the Icons** that are written on **Matthew's Gospel**. **The tree** has two branches that are **bearing fruit** and **a third branch** (evidently because it was **not bearing fruit**), which has been cut off. For didn't our Lord say, "...My Father is the vine grower. He takes away every **branch in Me that does not bear fruit**, and everyone that does He prunes so that it bears **more fruit!**" (John 15:1-2) When **the ax** is visible – a sense of **urgency** is signified (remember **the ax** in **John Arable's** hand at the start of **Charlotte's Web**). I wonder if in our cause to imitate Jesus Christ, if we would be so in **love** with our brothers and sisters – fellow **sinner**s, but **sinner**s, who do not go to **Mass** anymore – if we would insist on being in **solidarity** with them. **Warning** them of course of their need to **bear fruit**, but making **reparations** for their **sins** and insisting that we would **not** desire our **Heavenly Mansion**, unless they be admitted as well. This is what we are praying in our **Prayer of Gratitude** after we receive **Holy Communion**. We put ourselves in **a state of grace** (we go to **Reconciliation**), and then make **a Spiritual Communion** for others, who did not go to **Mass** with us. We insist that others, whom we **love** and are in **solidarity** with would be given **the grace** of **the Eucharist** and **bear much fruit** for God.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 10th

(+) Joseph & (+) Mary McCoy/ Barbara Maria McCoy
4:00 pm, **OLPH** (+) Craig Bresson/ Mr. & Mrs. Mark Bresson

5:30 pm, **SMA** (+) Howard McInnis/ Fr. Randy

Sunday, January 11th Baptism of the Lord

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** (+) Marty Quest/ Velma Quest

10:30 am, **OLPH** Pro Populo/ Fr. Randy

Monday, January 12th

(+) Larry Leffelman/ Mr. & Mrs. Ken Willey

Tuesday, January 13th

7:30 am, **SMA** (+) Justin & Anne Corcoran/ Fr. Randy

Wednesday, January 14th

8:00 am, **OLPH** (+) Thomas Berry/ Neal Vaessen & (+) Betty Prendergast/ Family

Thursday, January 15th

7:30 am, **SMA** (+) Rita Haefner/ George Bauer

8:30 am, **OLPH** Christine Hecathorn-Wittenauer's health/ Mr. & Mrs. Jameson Russie

Friday, January 16th

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** (+) Floyd Wilson/ Judy Sharkey

Saturday, January 17th

(+) Robert Bulfer/ OLPH Finance Council

4:00 pm, **OLPH** (+) Patricia Painter/ Mr. & Mrs. Louis Vaessen &
(+) Roland Schuhler/ Carlene Schuhler

5:30 pm, **SMA** Pro Populo/ Fr. Randy

Sunday, January 18th 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** (+) Doug Blaine/ Diane Blaine

10:30 am, **OLPH** (+) Francis & (+) Rosamund Buckley/ Family



LECTOR TRAINING

To proclaim **the Word of God!** The Father's voice was heard at **the Baptism** of the Lord Jesus—a **Lector** loans his voice to God that the Holy Spirit might **breathe through him**, and the voice of God might be heard in the readings of **the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass**. Would you like to allow others to hear God speak to them **through your voice**? We will have two more **Lector Training classes** on the Saturday's of **January 17th at St. Mary of the Assumption at 2:00pm**, and the **24th at St. Patrick Church at 2:00pm**.



HOLY HOUR WITH THE CCD STUDENTS AND THEIR TEACHERS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18TH at OLPH Church

9:30AM TO 10:15AM

Come pray before the Blessed Sacrament. Allow God to look at you, and allow yourself to look at God! We will pray the Infant Jesus of Prague Chaplet for our Sacramental.

