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The Baptism of the Lord

Think of what it's like to wait a long time. Can you imagine what it would be like to wait for centuries? No one person lives that long, of course. But for the Israelites, they had heard the stories from generation to generation. They had been conquered time and time again, and now "the people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ."

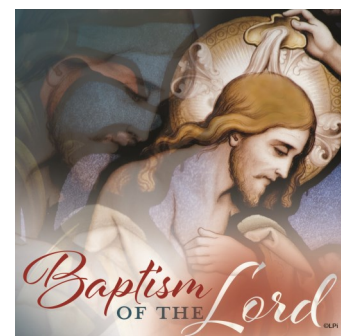


They had been waiting for a Messiah, one who did miraculous deeds and said profound things; someone aglow with the glory of God. We all know what it's like to hope and be disappointed. But what if your hopes were fulfilled?

That day at the Jordan River, an audience had gathered. Among the crowd for baptism was an unknown man. Perhaps he was dirty from weeks in the desert. His hands had the calloused palms of a tradesman, a carpenter. He and John the Baptist may have embraced with the familiarity of the cousins they were. This man wades into the Jordan for a good, solid dunking. As he rises from the water, the One who breathed life into Adam gasps for air like any other man.

But then "heaven was opened." The clouds in the sky part miles above. "And the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove." An apparition with substance sails through the sky. It exudes gentleness and power all at once. "And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.'" Can you imagine the sight? For the crowd, there is no doubting what they have seen, who they have seen. Can you imagine this encounter with our God who keeps His promises? What are you waiting for?

We welcome in Baptism, **Leo Emmanuel Broadley**, son of Christopher Broadley and Genevieve Bonomi. May the gifts which Baptism bestows, grow unhindered in us all.

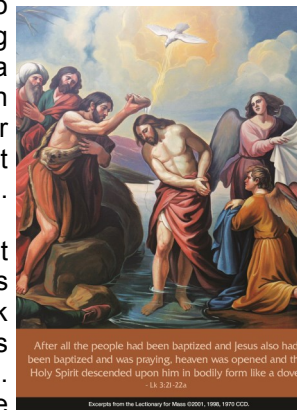


The Baptism of Jesus was an epiphany. It was a moment of manifestation. As He emerged from the waters, "Heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from Heaven, 'You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.'" This manifestation of the sonship and divinity of Jesus took place in a physical, audible and visible form so that all present would know, without question, that Jesus was the Son of the Father. Thus, His baptism is a way in which the Father introduced His Son and His Son's mission to the world.

As we prepare to begin Ordinary Time, reflect, today, upon these words of the Father at the Baptism of Jesus. Hear the Father speaking to You about the divinity of His Son. Turn your eyes to Jesus and prepare yourself to follow Him and to heed every word He speaks. He was sent into this world to draw us to the Father, allow Him to fulfill that mission in your own life. *Lord, I believe that You are the Son of the Eternal Father and the Savior of the World. I believe that You have brought about a new era of grace and truth and that I am called to follow You wherever You lead. As we begin this liturgical season of Ordinary Time, may it be a time of extraordinary grace in which I daily heed Your voice. Jesus, I trust in You.*

Everyday Stewardship

What have been the most significant moments in your life? You probably celebrate your birthday every year, so the day you were born must be pretty important. How about elementary, high school, or college graduations? Hopefully you do something special on or around your wedding anniversary if you are married. Do you have children? The birth of each child is probably near the top on the list of moments you will never forget. Then there are the sad moments of life: deaths, breakups, and tragedies. As you reflect on all these moments, you can see that you would not be who you are today without having experienced them. Of course as a Christian, you have one moment in time that has had an even greater impact on you and perhaps it didn't even come to mind: your Baptism.



You might say you don't remember it because you were an infant. Perhaps you do not even know the date it took place. You might not feel like it has had much impact on you at all. However, it has made all the difference.

Whether you feel the difference or not, on that day you were made a new creation in Jesus Christ. You were marked for Him with an indelible mark that no one can remove, not even you. On that day, you inherited a tradition and lineage of faith that has changed the face of the earth. Today, that baptismal grace beckons you to a real and substantial relationship with the One whose name was invoked on that day. It also calls you to respond with a stewardship way of life, where your gifts make a difference and glorify God. If today is the day you start taking all this seriously, you get to add a new moment to your list.



ECUMENICAL PRAYER SERVICE

The Church calls us to celebrate the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** between Jan 18 and Jan 25.

Please join with Bishop Bergie for a 'Service of Prayer for Christian Unity' at the Cathedral, on Sunday Jan. 20, at 3:00 p.m. followed by coffee and cookies.

The themes and materials for this year's world-wide prayer were prepared by the Christian Churches of Indonesia. Their key verse is: "Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue." *Deuteronomy 16:18-20* and the theme of the prayer service is "Moving from words of justice, to actions that establish justice."

8 DAY BIBLE STUDY FOR JUSTICE

One of the resources available for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (Jan 18-25) is a very thoughtful eight-day bible study guide prepared by the Christian Churches of Indonesia.

This resource could be for individual use, or for small study groups. The eight daily themes are: *True Worship leads to Action, Standing Up For Truth, Called to Be Gracious and Merciful to Everyone, Living Simply and Contentedly, Bringing Good News to the Poor, Caring For Creation, Empowering Women in Our Communities, Summing Up Our Conversations.*

This resource is available at wpcu2019.ca or by emailing mprindiville@golden.net

Parish Calendar



- Jan 18-25.... Week of prayer for Christian unity.
- Jan 22nd..... Finance meeting 6:30pm
- Jan 23rd..... Catholic Women's League meeting following morning Mass

Youth Ministry

YOUTH MINISTRY: for grades 5-8 & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, Wed. evenings 6:30-8:30pm. will resume January 9th, 2019. Registration form is on our website <http://stannfenwick.wixsite.com/youthministry>. If you would like to volunteer, check out our website <http://stannfenwick.wixsite.com/youthministry> or email the parish.

As you are aware, our Youth Ministry co-ordinator, Genevieve Broadley is on maternity leave. We are pleased to welcome Sister Aracely and Sister Maria Isodore who will continue the program while Genevieve is on leave. Both are members of the Sisters of Our Lady Immaculate. All youth are invited. We hope to see you there!

2019 Offertory Envelopes: FOR THE YEAR 2019, PLEASE USE ONLY THE ENVELOPES ASSIGNED TO YOU FOR THAT YEAR.

Some numbers are re-assigned every year and if you use old envelopes someone else may get credit for your contribution. ***It is best to destroy all old envelopes.*** A reminder that if you forget your envelope at home, there are visitor envelopes at the church entrance you can use - don't forget to include your name and address on them.

- If you are making up for a missed week, **it is not necessary** to use more than one envelope. Use the envelope for the week you are attending.
- It is always helpful for us if you mark the amount of your donation on the envelope, however this is not required.
- If you are using a lot of coins for your contribution, we suggest that you tape the envelope well as loose change falls out easily.
- For any donations by cheque, please make payable to St. Ann Parish, **including all special collections. Take extra care with the date for the new year.**
- **PLEASE ADVISE THE OFFICE IF YOUR ADDRESS OR OTHER CONTACT INFORMATION HAS CHANGED.**

If you do not use envelopes but would like to, contact the office and we will prepare a box for you.

SEPARATED AND DIVORCED HEALING MINISTRY.

This month's topics are 'Embracing the New Year', Kathryn McMorro, presenter (Jan 14); and 'Navigating Change', Kathryn McMorro presenter (Jan 28). Meetings are 7 to 9 pm at Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre, 7020 Stanley Ave, Niagara Falls. Pre-registration is not required. For information call 905-356-4113 or 905-684-0154, or email separatedanddivorced@saintcd.com

ST. ANN WEEKLY BINGO has resumed (Thursdays 7pm).

Thank you to all who have worked hard to ensure this fundraiser remains a part of our community and to those who continue to support it. All are welcome to attend.

Sat. Jan 12	9-10am	The Baptism of the Lord Confession
	4-4:45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confession
	5:00pm	✠ Dennis Freeman (Gloria Egert)
Sun. Jan 13	9:30am	✠ The Baptism of the Lord (Tremeer Family)
	11:00am	Missa Pro Populo
Mon. Jan 14	9:30am	Blessings & Health for Melissa Ranstoller (Jankovich Family)
	7-8pm	Holy Hour & Confession
Tues. Jan 15	9:30am	Intentions of Jacquie Mullin (WaltersFamily)
Wed. Jan 16	9:30am	✠ St. Ann School Mass Jim Woods & Helen Condon (Tremeer Family)
Thurs. Jan 17	9:30am	✠ Donna Masi (Ron & Wendy Kuckyt)
Fri. Jan 18	9:30am	✠ Isaiah (Magazzeni Family)
Sat. Jan 19	9-10am	Confession
	4-4:45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confession
	5:00pm	Missa Pro Populo
Sun. Jan 20	9:30am	✠ James Blackett (Cargnelli Family)
	11:00am	✠ Anthony Filbert (Lynda Filbert & Family)

Reconciliation from 9-9:20am before all weekday Masses. Offertory January 5th & 6th, 2019

77 Envelopes	\$1,960.40
Loose Collection	\$ 55.25
Total Offertory	\$2,015.65
Maintenance	\$ 260.00
Initial Offering	\$ 110.00

A reminder- Our website domain name has changed to the following: www.stannfenwick.com

