

DISCIPLES CALLED TO WITNESS

St John the Evangelist Parish / St. Mary Parish

Bellaire - Neffs - Shadyside - Powhatan Point

www.bnspatholic.org

Mission Statement : Inspired by the Holy Spirit and our Lord Jesus Christ, we strive to grow in faith, love and service to God and our neighbors.

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

JANUARY 12TH, 2025

St John Church (SJ) - 415 37th St, Bellaire, OH 43906

St. Mary Church (SM) - 240 E 40th St, Shadyside, OH 43947

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday 4:00 PM - SM Saturday 5:30 PM - SJ

Sunday 11:00 AM - SM Sunday 9:30 AM - SJ

WEEKDAY MASS

6:00 p.m. (Mon.) SJ 8:00 a.m. (Wed. & Fri.) – SJ 8:00 a.m. (Tues. & Thurs.) - SM 8:00 a.m.



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 3:00 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. - SM

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. - SJ

Monday: 5:00p.m. - 5:45p.m. - SJ

Tuesday & Thursday: 7:30 -7:45a.m. - SM

Wednesday & Friday: 7:30 a.m. - 7:45a.m. - SJ

CENTRAL OFFICE

3745 Tallman Ave., Bellaire, OH 43906

Phone - (740) 676-0051 - Fax - (740) 671-9776

Email: office@bnspatholic.org

Office Hours: M,W,F -

8:00am- 12:00pm / 1:00pm-4:00pm

Fr. Daniel Heusel, Pastor (SJ), Pastor (SM)

Cell: (740) 298-4158

Email: dheusel@diosteub.org

Mrs. Tonya Grimm, Secretary

(740) 676-0051

Email: stjohns3745@comcast.net

St. Mary Central Grade School, Martins Ferry

(740) 633-5424

Mrs. Theresa Young, Principal



We use Flocknote to connect with you!

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PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Almighty, ever-living God, who when Christ had been baptized in the River Jordan and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him, solemnly declared him your beloved Son, grant that your children by adoption, reborn of water and the Holy Spirit, may always be well pleasing to you. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Collect of the Baptism of the Lord



MESSAGE SERIES

All of us come from families that are diversified by size and other factors, but share many commonalities, including our strong emotions when it comes to different familial relationships and experiences. In this series, we will look at our family relationships – both in the past, present, and future - and will explore three principles of every happy family: successful families accept the messiness of family life with grace and flexibility; are marked by mutual respect; and are committed to a larger purpose beyond themselves.

Week Three: Fathers (and Beloved Sons/Daughters)

Scripture: Luke 3:22

Before Jesus launches into his public ministry, he is baptized and hears the words of his Father who expresses his delight and approval by saying, “This is my beloved Son, with you I am well pleased.” No matter your relationship with your father, every child desires to please his or her father and longs to hear approval. In this message we will acknowledge the daddy deficit, and will discuss how to turn to the perfect father in heaven. None of us have a perfect father on earth (or can be a perfect father) but we all have a perfect loving Father, just like Jesus.



www.fb.me/stjohn.bellaire.neffs

www.fb.me/stmary.shadyside.powhatan

Fr. Dan's Intentions for the Week

Saturday, January 11th, Baptism of the Lord

4:00p.m. (SM) + Nancy Sheeketski (Bob & Theresa Baker)

5:30p.m. (SJ) + Steve & Verna Kiss & Steve Kiss Jr. (Mary Ann)

Sunday, January 12th, Baptism of the Lord

9:30a.m. (SJ) + For the People of St. Mary's & St. John's

11:00a.m.(SM) + Hellen Okulanis (Paula Phillips & Grandsons)

Monday, January 13th, St. Hilary/1st Week in Ordinary Time

6:00p.m. (SJ) + Paul Paolucci (Mom, Dad & Sister)

Tuesday, January 14th

8:00a.m.(SM) + Greg Forbes (Rob & Mary Lynn Marx & Family)

Wednesday, January 15th

8:00a.m. (SJ) + John Sharpe Jr. (Bob & Joan Koshaenko)

Thursday, January 16th

8:00a.m. (SM) + Patricia Padyjasek (Paula Stemkowski)

Friday, January 17th, St. Anthony

8:00a.m. (SJ) + Deceased Ronevich & Kiss Families (Ernie & Mary Ann)

Saturday, January 18th, 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00p.m. (SM) + For the People of St. John's & St. Mary's

5:30p.m. (SJ) + Richard Cope (Wife Betty & Family)

Sunday, January 19th, 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:30a.m. (SJ) + Joseph Tylka 10 year ann. deceased (Wife Linda & Daughters)

11:00a.m.(SM) + John Kish Birthday dec. (Scott & Linda Kish & Family)



Lord, bless and protect those serving our country, especially: Lt.

Col. Brian Zeno, Airmen 1st Class Curtis McElfresh, Sgt. Christopher Wetzell, Lance Corporal Zachary Knowlton, Staff Sgt. Wm. Kayne Melko, HTF Kory Melko, Sgt.

Joshua Hall, Staff Sgt. Aaron Loeffler, Tech Sgt. Craig DeBeni, Major Trey Vasey, Capt. Tom Dyer, Staff Sgt. Josh Pempek, Mitchell Rataiczak, Master Sgt. Chris Dipold, Sgt. Ryan James, Sgt. Dylan Frizzi, Sgt. Jake Foster and Pvt William Clegg, Petty Officer Alex Rader, Pvt. Colton T. Selmon, 1st Lt. DJ Olexa, Staff Sgt. Kelsey (Ryncarz) Turner, Senior Airman Cameron Opic, PFC D'eondre Burney, Petty Officer Jared Keiser, Petty Officer Brody P. Halenar, Major Alex Beveridge, Lance Cpl. Keenan Cook

Liturgical Ministers: Weekend of January 18/19

St. John's :

Jan. 18th EM: C. Bladen Lector : D. Respole

Jan. 19th EM: B. Wallner Lector : A. Snedeker

St. Mary's :

Jan. 18th EM: L. Gates Lector: D. Knight

Jan. 19th EM: L. Kernik Lector: M. Kernik

SPIRITUAL ADOPTION PROGRAM

Our Spiritual adoption program, for children in danger of abortion and their parents, begins next Sunday 3:00pm (SJ)

Offertory Collection

For the Weekend of January 4/5

St. John's: Adults (90env) \$3,910, Loose \$429, CWC (6env) \$30, Christmas (3env) \$60, Solemnity of Mary (32env) \$954.82, Christmas Flowers (1env) \$100, St. Vincent de Paul (9env) \$165, Building Fund (2env) \$160, Candles \$201

St. Mary's: Adults (63env) \$3,536, Loose \$421.16, Christmas (27env) \$710, Imm. Conception (2env) \$15, Solemnity of Mary (31env) \$555, Religious Retirement (1env) \$20, St. Vincent de Paul (7env) \$175, Grade School (6env) \$106, Building Fund (5env) \$95, Food Pantry (3env) \$70, Candles \$75




Please Note: *This prayer list is an important part of our love for our brothers and sisters in need. Names will be included on this list for four weeks at a time. After four weeks a*

person's name will be removed but can be added again the next week simply by calling the office. Please pray for the following: Vicky Oboy, Lindy & Don Freed, Jax McCort, Dominic Alexander, Lou Ann Kinder, Fr. Sam Saprano, Mgrs. Gene Mullett, Fr. Tom Petronek, Dorothy Kresak, Jeff & Mandy Fahey, Quentin Scott Coyne, Baby Everett Sommers, Lucy Kowalski, John Bires Jr., Shannon Koher, Ed and Rose Grammar, Susan Gray, Jackie (Donahue) Woods, Joe Boston Jr., Camden Brown, Peggy Kotson, Tom Galinski, Susan Vasey, Bob, Bill & Tom, "Chic" & Debbie Henderson, Kay Bambeck, Mary Kay Hanasky, Ann Hodges, Zachary Oboy, Tom & Margie Merryman, Craig Blacker, Patrick Strain and granddaughter, Halen, Jim Garczyk, Natalie McFeley, John Hanasky, Beverly Kolenich Beau Boston, Sharon Leonard, Rosalind Fitch, Roger Peters, Mary Siglar, Jerry & Phyllis, Adam Ruskowski, Jeff Doneson, Joe Budrevich, Rudy Bresiger, Cathy Ciulles, Warren Wright, Rich Price, Marlyn Marling, Jay Morgan, Kathy Kavmirski, Sandy (Donahue) Bass, Kyrie Vincent, Janice Arno, Andrew Zaborek, Kim Scott, Joyce Mellott, Gwen Brown, Bobby Roth, Peg Stipetich, Sarah Stipetich, Rhonda Tipton, Rebecca Brown, Mary DeGenova, Anthony De Genova Magan Nichole Sechrest, Megan Kristin Sechrest, Magan Nichole Sechrest, Lori Runyan, Monroe DeLuca, Albert DeBlasis, Mary Jo Garner, Camden Thomas, Julie Sharpe, Jill Brinker, Baby Kennedy Rae, Shelli Macurak




Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Max Wallner**, the father of Rodney (Brenda) Wallner. We offer our prayers also for his loved ones. *If you have a family member that dies but was not buried from our parishes please call the parish office, we would like to include them here in this space.*

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE CHANGE: Beginning Monday, January 20, the Monday daily Mass will be at 5:15pm at St. John's with Confession beginning at 4:30pm.



Welcome Fr. Tim McGuire!
 It's a joy to welcome Fr. Tim McGuire, a retired priest of our diocese, who is now residing in the St. Mary's rectory. Fr. Tim is a former pastor of Sacred Heart Church, Neffs and St. John Vianney Church, Powhatan, a former pastoral administrator/principal at St. John Central High School, and before retiring for medical reasons, pastor at St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Church, Colerain. Welcome Fr. Tim!



Sunday: The Baptism of the Lord
 9:30-10:45 Family Faith Formation (SM)
 6:30p.m. Youth Group (SMRE)

Monday: 10:00a.m. SFC (Shadyside Nazarene Fellowship Hall)
 1:00pm Mass (CCRC)
 7:00pm K of C (rescheduled from last week)

Tuesday: 9:00a.m.—5:00p.m. Eucharistic Adoration (SM)
 6:00p.m. Pastoral Council (SJH)

Wednesday: 5:30p.m. Caring Crafters (SJH)

Thursday: 6:00p.m. St. Mary Finance Council (SM)
 7:00pm OCIA (SJH)

Saturday: *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Begins*
Next Sunday: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
 9:30-10:45am Family Faith Formation (SM)
 3:00pm Spiritual Adoption Program kick-off (SJ)

Readings for the week of January 12, 2025

Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 (1)/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

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

Tuesday: Heb 2:5-12/Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9/Mk 1:21-28


Wednesday: Heb 2:14-18/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9/Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: Heb 3:7-14/Ps 95:6-7c, 8-9, 10-11/Mk 1:40-45

Friday: Heb 4:1-5, 11/Ps 78:3 and 4bc, 6c-7, 8/Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: Heb 4:12-16/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mk 2:13-17

Next Sunday: Is 62:1-5/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10 (3)/1 Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-11

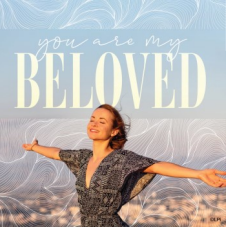


REFLECT AND RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

Gospel Question: The Holy Spirit affirms Jesus as the Christ, the beloved Son of God. *When do you sense the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life?*

1st Reading Question: The prophet Isaiah brought words of comfort and hope from God to the Israelites exiled in Babylon. *Is there someone in your life who needs hope for the future?*

2nd Reading Question: Paul challenged Titus to reject godless ways and worldly desires. *Do you have any family or friends you consider a role model in living an exceptional life?*



GOSPEL MEDITATION

In my second year of theology studies, I went to confession to a priest visiting the seminary for a three-day retreat. My heart wasn't in it. I was going through the motions. I confessed my sins and waited for his response. The priest said, "For your penance, I'd like you to go into the chapel and repeat the words '**You are my beloved Son, with you I am well pleased**' (Luke 3:22) until they mean something to you." Easy penance, I thought.

But to my surprise, I struggled to say those words. I sensed a strong interior resistance blocking them. How could God be well-pleased with *me*? He couldn't be, I thought. A battle within me ensued. Two hours later, the resistance vanished, and I found myself able to speak, and claim as my own, those marvelous words. I emerged from the chapel with a new, deep, peaceful conviction that I was indeed God's beloved son.

Those words are a precious gift from heaven to all of us. Jesus' baptism, which we celebrate this week, offers them to us. Are we willing to receive these words anew? Many things can block this deepening of our baptismal identity: failings, sins, disappointments, traumas, problems, and so on. Yet God's love is always greater. This week I challenge you to prayerfully repeat these words over yourself — or perhaps over someone you're struggling to love — until those words find a home in your heart.

— *Father John Muir* ©LPi

Introducing Legacy Sunday: A New Initiative in the Diocese of Steubenville

We are excited to announce **Legacy Sunday**, a new initiative in our Diocese to inspire parishioners to reflect on their blessings and consider how they can leave a lasting impact through legacy giving. **The first Legacy Sunday will take place next weekend, Saturday and Sunday, January 19th**, and will focus on supporting the mission of our Parish, Catholic School, and Diocese for generations to come.

As St. Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 12:4–11, our gifts come from the same Spirit and are meant for the common good. Legacy giving allows us to continue sharing those blessings beyond our lifetime, ensuring the vibrancy and growth of our faith family.

Why Legacy Giving Matters:

- \$41 trillion will transfer from the Baby Boomer generation to their children and grandchildren by 2052, making this the largest wealth transfer in history.
- Studies show that less than 10% of individuals include charitable organizations in their estate plans, even though most support charitable causes during their lifetimes.
- Parishes, schools, Catholic cemeteries, and diocesan ministries often depend on legacy gifts to fund critical programs, maintain facilities, and ensure their mission continues for future generations.

Please pray about your legacy and complete the form in the brochure (bulletin insert) and return to our parish office!

THIS WEEK ON
FORMED

Week of January 12, 2025



The Bible (Part 1)
Join Dr. Mark Giszczak as he answers the Internet's most-asked question about the Bible.



Interior Life
We all worship something, whether we know it or not. We are called to put God first, and that means giving him our time in prayer. The focus of this episode is developing a consistent prayer life.



A New Creation: The Mystery of Baptism
This week, as we contemplate Jesus' Baptism, dive into the mystery of the Sacrament of Baptism! Through our Reborn series, you will come to understand the deeper meaning behind your Baptism!

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2. Go to StJohnandStMaryparishes.flocknote.com and sign up there! Receive updates,

including the weekly bulletin, and daily reminders via email and text message! It's free for you!



MASSTIMES.ORG

Travelling? Never miss a weekend mass by finding mass times near your destination. Just go to masstimes.org and enter the city, state or zip code of the place you'll be visiting. And bring Fr. Dan back a bulletin!

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS AND THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time / January 19, 2025

First Reading:

As a young man marries a virgin,
your Builder shall marry you;
and as a bridegroom rejoices in his bride
so shall your God rejoice in you. (Is 62:5)

Psalm:

Proclaim his marvelous deeds to all the nations. (Ps 96)

Second Reading:

But one and the same Spirit produces all of these,
distributing them individually to each person as he wishes. (1 Cor 12:11)

Gospel:

Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs at Cana in Galilee
and so revealed his glory,
and his disciples began to believe in him. (Jn 2:11)

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Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

CCC 528: at Cana, Christ shows himself to be Messiah, Son of God, Savior

CCC 796: the Church as Bride of Christ

CCC 1612-1617: marriage in the Lord

CCC 2618: Mary's intercession at Cana



**BUILDING A CULTURE OF LIFE
Baptism and Life**

"Whoever is moved by love begins to perceive what "life" really is. He begins to perceive the meaning of the word of hope that we encountered in the Baptismal Rite: from faith I await "eternal life" - the true life which, whole and unthreatened, in all its fullness, is simply life. Jesus, who said that he had come so that we might have life and have it in its fullness, in abundance (cf. Jn 10:10), has also explained to us what "life" means: "this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent" (Jn 17:3). Life in its true sense is not something we have exclusively in or from ourselves: it is a relationship. And life in its totality is a relationship with him who is the source of life. If we are in relation with him who does not die, who is Life itself and Love itself, then we are in life. Then we "live" – Pope Benedict XVI, Encyclical on Hope, November 30, 2007.

PRAYER – FOR EVERYDAY AND EVERYBODY

Prayer for Baptism

Oh God,
You desire each of us to be a part of Your sacred family, called and invited into relationship with You. May the grace of our Baptisms surround us anew, who are beloved and chosen by You.



(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Mini Reflection: It makes perfect sense that everyone thought John the Baptist was the Messiah. He was the guy pouring the water. But the Messiah was the man who came to be baptized. He was the one who descended into the waters, submerging himself in our experience of death and pain and sorrow.

Beneath the Surface

When I was seventeen, I wasn't sure that I wanted to be confirmed. It was a rough period in my life, and I was having some intense questions and doubts. It upset my mother, understandably. She knew that, at such a pivotal and difficult moment, I needed the grace of the sacrament more than ever. So, she called our priest and asked him to talk to me.

After that meeting, I made the decision to be confirmed.

To be honest, I can't remember anything he said to me. All I remember is that he sat with me. He listened to me. He let me talk and talk and talk (and cry). And when he said whatever he said, whatever it is that I cannot remember, it was obvious that he had listened to me.

Reading today's Gospel, it makes perfect sense that everyone thought John the Baptist was the Messiah. He was the guy pouring the water. Of course it seemed natural that he would be "the one." The one they were all waiting for.

But instead, the Messiah was the man who came to be baptized. He was the one who descended into the waters, submerging himself in our experience of death and pain and sorrow — and in doing so, he sanctified it. He made it a means of redemption.

Jesus is our Savior, yes. When we dig ourselves a hole of sin and confusion and we can't climb out, he is the one who brings us back to the surface. But he doesn't pull us out; he lifts us. He jumps down into the pit. He looks around. He offers his hand, gives us a leg up, and by his strength and not our own, we are brought back into the light. ©LPi

**Eucharistic Adoration,
Hourly Pro-Life Rosary &
Chaplet of Mercy @ 3:00**

**Friday, January 24th
8:00 am – 5:00 pm
St. Michael Church**

Please join us to pray in conjunction with the March for Life in Washington, D.C. as we pray for the protection of the unborn and healing of those who have had abortions. All are welcome!

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

I Hope I Am Like Him

“Who is this Christ? Is he like you?”

Perhaps you've heard this story, often attributed to the life of St. Teresa of Calcutta. A sick man asked her this question, as he marveled at her tireless service to himself and others in the name of someone named Jesus Christ.

“He is nothing like me,” the saint is said to have answered. “But I hope I am like him.”

Though the authenticity of this exchange cannot be verified, its message rings perfectly true: all the value of our stewardship lies in its relativity to the one in whose name we perform it.

Consider the figure of John the Baptist — a magnificent, towering character even purely from a literary or historical perspective. A martyr who fed on wild locusts and boldly spoke truth to power — a man so great some mistook him for the Messiah.

But why is he great? Because he prepared the way. All his accomplishments and escapades mean nothing if they are taken out of the context of salvation history. He only makes sense relative to Christ — and this is exactly as he wanted it. “One worthier than I is coming,” he insists. And because of that humility and that total embrace of God's will, he is given one of the greatest honors in the New Testament — he baptizes the Son of God.

Let's examine our lives in the light of their relativity to Christ. How do we prepare the way? When Christ comes to us, what do we do? How do we leave ourselves open to be actors in God's plan?

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

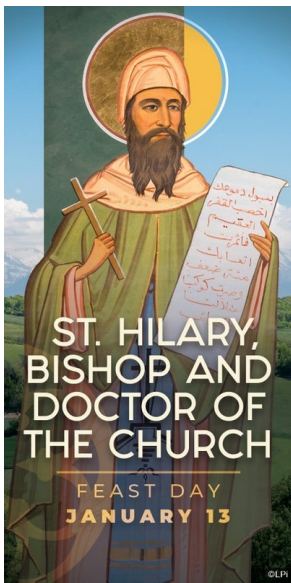
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**ST. JOHN'S AND ST. MARY'S
DISCOVERY TOOL**

**POWERED BY MINISTRY ARCHITECTS
VOLUNTEER ACCELERATOR**

We offer to all our parishioners a short but powerful survey— what are calling our Discovery Tool! In just a few minutes, you'll have your results and a better sense of how your interests and gifts align with the service opportunities and ministries of our church. When we understand more about our God-given talents and what brings us joy and a sense of purpose, we are better equipped to walk in love -- serving God, our parish, and our community as Jesus calls us to do. Scan the QR code to find the link to the survey, or on our website - bnspcatholic.org



**SAINT OF THE WEEK –
EXAMPLES OF OUR FAITH**

**St. Hilary of Poitiers, Bishop
and Doctor of the Church |
January 13**

Born a pagan, St. Hilary (c. 315 – c. 367) studied philosophy and the meaning of life, eventually making his way through the bible. He became a convert and was appointed bishop of Poitiers in 353. Sometimes referred to as the Hammer of the Arians, St. Hilary defended the Nicene Creed against a popular heresy, Arianism. He was exiled to Phrygia for opposing Roman

emperor Constantius II, who preferred the heresy which denies Christ’s divinity. From Phrygia St. Hilary fought with his pen, zealously writing against the heresy. Eventually he was allowed to return to Poitiers, but did so by a circuitous route, preaching against Arianism all the way. St. Hilary was likely the first writer of hymns in the West, his writings on the Trinity, Psalms and Gospel of Matthew survive today. St. Hilary was created Doctor of the Church, a title given to those who provided important contributions to theology and doctrine, in 1851 by Pope Pius IX.



“I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” — Lk 3:16bc

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

**EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD
IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS**

Baptismal Grace Beckons You

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.

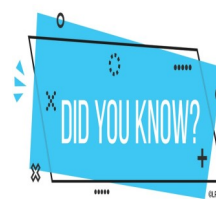
—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

**LIVE THE LITURGY -
INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK**



“The people were filled with expectation,” writes Luke. And so we find ourselves, two thousand years later, filled with expectation, with longing. Who can give us what we seek? Only the one upon whom the dove descended. Follow him. ©LPI

**CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR
FUN**



Question: What is the incense burner used at Mass called?

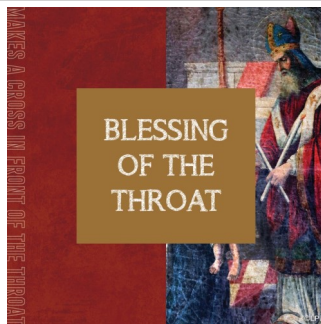
Answer: Thurible or censer.

WHY DO WE DO THAT? - CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED
Baptismal Bib

Question: At my grandson’s Baptism, the priest put a bib on the baby. I do not remember seeing this before. Why is this done? Is it something new?

Answer: When an adult is baptized, there is a part in the ceremony when the newly baptized is vested in a white garment. It is symbolic of the changes that baptism brings in the life of the baptized as they are freed from the bonds of sin and brought into the saving grace of Christ. Realities that are so profound are symbolically presented so that we might better grasp and understand them.

Infants are often dressed in a baptismal dress, which is the baptismal garment. In some places, the bib is used as a kind of baptismal garment. At the place in the ceremony where the investiture takes place, the bib is used. Some are poncho-like and fit over the baby's head. Others are simply placed on the baby's chest. If the baby is dressed in a white garment, nothing else is needed. The prayer says it all: “See in your white garment the outward sign of your Christian dignity ... bring that dignity unstained into the everlasting life of heaven.” In baptism, we are given our purpose and goal in life as believers and this is symbolized by the white garment. ©LPi



Devotions, Explained!
St. Blaise Blessing of the Throat

Perhaps it’s an example of divine providence that the feast of St. Blaise falls on Feb. 3 — right in the middle of cold and flu season! This fourth-century Armenian saint was a bishop and martyr and is venerated as the patron of those who suffer from illnesses of the throat.

On his feast day, Catholics traditionally receive a blessing of the throat. This blessing is administered by a priest, deacon or a lay minister who follows the rites and prayers designated for a layperson. During the blessing, the minister takes two candles that were blessed on the feast of the Presentation and makes a cross in front of the throat, saying “Through the intercession of Saint Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from every disease of the throat and from every other illness.” A priest or deacon will then make the sign of the cross. ©LPi



WITH FR. MARK-MARY AMES, CFR

If you've ever struggled to build a habit of prayer, this podcast is for you. In the Rosary in a Year podcast, Fr. Mark-Mary Ames, CFR, guides listeners in a step-by-step journey that will change the way you pray – no matter where you are in your spiritual life. Go to ascensionpress.com/riy

BAPTISM OF THE LORD



"Which nursery song would Jesus have heard the most?"



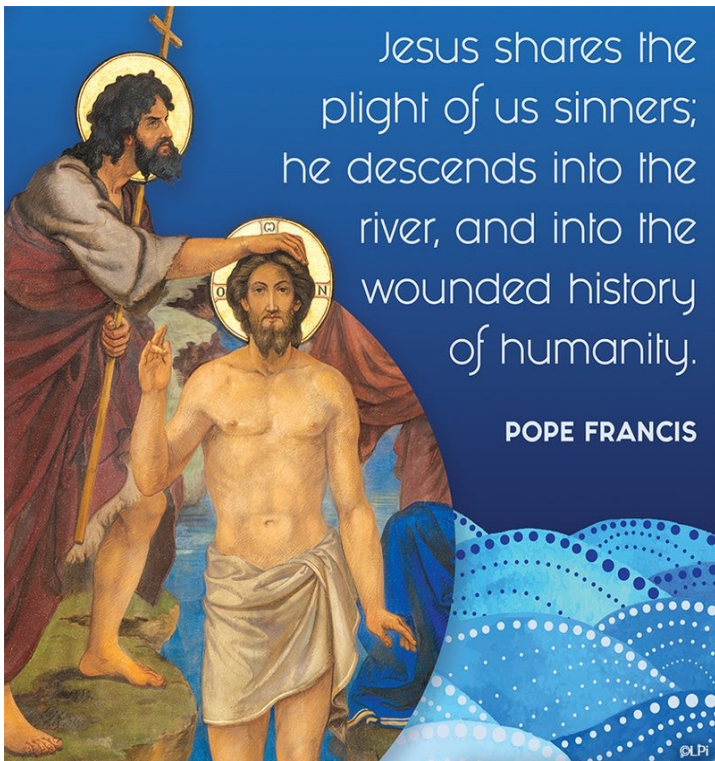
THE FAITHFUL FUNNIES

"Mary had a little lamb!"



Has your mother ever sung you a lullaby to help you get to sleep? It's not hard to imagine then that the Blessed Mother would have sung lullabies to Baby Jesus to help Him sleep, too!

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Jesus shares the plight of us sinners; he descends into the river, and into the wounded history of humanity.

POPE FRANCIS

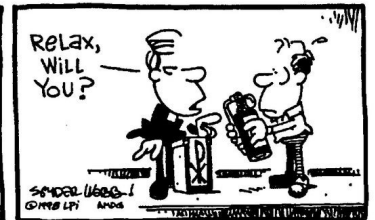
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BAPTISM OF THE LORD



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*God's Blessings for the
The Boston & Donahue Families
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