

The Baptism of the Lord

Fr. Michael says.....



We have come to the end of the Christmas season. As we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, our readings and liturgies start to look at Jesus' ministry and - not too far off in the future - His passion, death, and resurrection.

I think it's important, however, to try to focus on the present. Let's give thanks for the graces of the Christmas season but also be open to how God is working in our lives right now. We're still in the heart of winter, when nature teaches us the importance of quiet, rest, and contemplation. Spring will come - and Easter with it - but God has a lesson for us now, even with the cold, snow, and darkness.

Before we get to Lent and the more obviously dramatic stories of our faith, why not make a point of spending time in quiet with the Lord. Even just ten minutes a day can be a significant addition to your spiritual life. When we have time that is totally devoted to being with God, we make ourselves open to how He speaks to us and wants to act in our lives.

REST IN PEACE: Please remember in your prayers the kind repose of the soul of **Robert J. "Crow" Kaminski** (BLS), husband of Theresa "Terri", and father of Robert Kaminski & Mary (Tony) Godich (all BLS); **Francis Sohovich**, (BLS), sister of Nancy (Don) Smith (BLS); and **Michele Lelli** (OLL), sister of Carmen (Becky) Archangel, Jr (BLS) and sister-in-law of Susan Logsdon (OLL). *May their soul and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.*

CHURCH DE-DECORATING: We will remove the Christmas decoration from **both Churches this weekend** after the 9:30am mass at Our Lady of Lourdes and the 11:00am mass at Blessed Sacrament. Anyone who can volunteer a little time to help would be greatly appreciated! Thanks!!

May God bless you for all your generosity to His Church

(BLS) Dec. 21

Adult Envelopes	\$7,310.00
Children's Envelopes	\$2.00
Candles	\$192.25
SVDP	\$935.00
Improvement Fund	\$1,970.43
Loose	\$276.00
Dec. 24 & 25 The Nativity	\$15,560.00

Dec. 28

Adult Envelopes	\$8,266.00
Children's Envelopes	\$2.00
Candles	\$283.00
SVDP	\$0
Improvement Fund	\$0
Loose	\$172.00
Jan. 1, 2026, Solemnity of Mary	\$2,390.00

Jan. 4.

Adult Envelopes	\$7,075.00
Children's Envelopes	\$2.00
Candles	\$248.00
SVDP	\$1,057.00
Improvement	\$0
Loose	\$211.00

(OLL) Dec. 21

Adult Envelopes	\$1,494.00
Children's Envelopes	\$0
Candles	\$30.00
SVDP	\$35.00
Improvement Fund	\$15.00
Loose	\$106.00
Dec. 24 & 25 The Nativity	\$2,271.00

Dec. 28

Adult Envelopes	\$1,878.00
Children's Envelopes	\$0
Candles	\$95.00
SVDP	\$0
Improvement Fund	\$0
Jan. 1, 2026, Solemnity of Mary	\$403.00

Jan. 4

Adult Envelopes	\$2,775.00
Children's Envelopes	\$0
Candles	\$91.00
SVDP	\$650.00
Improvement Fund	\$0
Loose	\$5.00

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Sat.	Jan. 10	The Baptism of the Lord
4:30pm	(BLS)	Living & deceased members of our Wintersville parishes
Sun	Jan. 11	The Baptism of the Lord
8:00am	(BLS)	Joanna Controguerra (Norouzi family)
9:30am	(OLL)	Joanne Mastroianni (Kathy Frey)
11:00am	(BLS)	Hank C. Olszewski (Joe & Mary Annette Matuska)
Mon.	Jan. 12	Weekday
8:00am	(BLS)	Joanne Reynard (Pam Cucarese)
Tues.	Jan. 13	St. Hilary, Bishop & Dr. of the Church
8:00am	(BLS)	Joe Snider (Bruce & Toni Dondzila)
Wed.	Jan. 14	Weekday
8:00am	(BLS)	Larry Trushel (Dcn. Steve & Margie Frezza)
5:30pm	(BLS)	Adoration & Prayer
Thurs	Jan. 15	Weekday
8:00am	(BLS)	Margaret Lowry (Jeanette Hauber)
5:15pm	(BLS)	Jason R. Smith (Don & Nancy Smith)
Fri.	Jan. 16	Weekday
8:00am	(BLS)	Arthur DeLeonardis (Diane & Tom Kotur & family)
Sat.	Jan. 17	St. Anthony, Abbot
8:00am	(BLS)	Robert Bartosch (Michael & Susan Waldstein)
Sat.	Jan. 17	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:30pm	(BLS)	Jeanne Irvin Krivak (John & Judy Irvin)
Sun.	Jan. 18	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00am	(BLS)	Living & deceased members of our Wintersville parishes
9:30am	(OLL)	Joseph & Betty Mickey (Farchione family)
11:00am	(BLS)	Jon Cooper (Kathy & Rob DiBenedetto)



Lessons from Baptizing a Frog

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPI

I used to lead an OCIA session on baptism, where I would bring in my Kermit the Frog stuffed toy from when I was a child and pretend to baptize it. It was a session I especially made sure I led when we had children preparing for Easter sacraments. You would think Kermit would have become super holy having been baptized so many times, year after year. But, if he had been real, he would not have been any holier due to multiple baptisms than he was after the first baptism. He couldn't be re-baptized. (Not to mention, of course, he is a FROG.)

When Jesus came to John for baptism, he transformed the baptism of repentance that John was practicing into a baptism of redemption. And although we are called to repentance over and over in our life, redemption comes to us only once. **We cannot get baptized again** in the Jordan or Sea of Galilee because of romantic notions or come into the Catholic Church by a second baptism so we can start all over. **Our baptism**, whether we can remember it or not, **is a one-time deal**. But it is the real deal. Whether you feel it or not, you are sealed for Christ, and the stain of original sin has been washed away.

Too many of us take that moment for granted. Yes, you may have been baptized as an infant. But much time has passed since then, and you can work to understand the impact that it has had on your life. We sometimes look for a good time to begin living a stewardship way of life. However, that time already passed, and God has been waiting. **We are called to reflect on our baptism and respond to the call it has placed on our lives.** We can respond and be disciples, or we can be like Kermit the Frog, always searching for a new start that never comes.



Remember in your prayers the intentions of our Holy Father, Pope Leo

JANUARY

(For Prayer with the Word of God)

Let us pray the praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.



LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

January 17th & 18th

Saturday 1/17 **4:30pm**

Lector: Donna Cole

EMOCH: Teresa Ossio

Altar servers: John Ross & Mateo Vitello

Sunday 1/18 **8:00am**

Lector: Christina Mitchell

EMOHC: Michael Krog

Altar servers: Christian Mitchell

(OLL) **9:30am**

Lector: Beth Engle

Altar servers: (Volunteer)

11:00am

Lector: Rob Zaleski

EMOHC: Jodi Taylor

Altar servers: Symingtons / Inversos

If you are unable to be at your designated ministry when you are scheduled, it is your responsibility to find a replacement. Thank you! Please don't just not show up.

PARISH NEWS / EVENTS

POINSETTIA MEMORIALS:

(Papers arrived after Dec. 18)

In Memory of: **Tony D'Aurora** D'Aurora family

In Memory of: **Welday & Paprocki families** Mike & Eleanor Welday

In Memory of: **Luisa Bianchi** Michael & Susan Waldstein

In Memory of: **Philip & Monica Burnham** Michael & Susan Waldstein

In Memory of: **Wolfgang & Esi Waldstein** Michael & Susan Waldstein



(to Blessed Sacrament Church)
were given **in memory of Roger Wells** by Huberta Siciliano, Jerry & Helen Grimm, Dr. & Mrs.

James Cottrell, Richard & Noreen Saxon and James White Construction Co. Thank you.



IN THE HOSPITAL: as of Thurs., Jan. 8th:

Trinity Med. Center West: Joseph Marshall

Please pray for all homebound parishioners, those in nursing homes and their caregivers.

FYI: A parish accountability group for Catholic men who are struggling with pornography is available at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Wintersville. The leader of the group will interview each man who wishes to attend.

If you would like to attend, please email blessedsacrament7pillars@gmail.com.



WE STILL NEED UPDATED CONTACT NUMBERS & EMAILS: If you no longer have a land line in your home and rely only on cell phones, please call the parish office and let us know the number(s) (also, if you would share your email address, that would be great too). We like to keep our information as updated as possible so please, give us a call soon.

MONTHLY HOLY HOUR: Prepare your family for the consecration of the United States to the Sacred Heart in June 2026 and pray for our country by honoring the Sacred and Eucharistic Heart of Jesus at a monthly Holy Hour at the Novitiate Chapel of the Daughters of Holy Mary of the Heart of Jesus (700 Lovers Lane, Steubenville) **beginning on Monday Jan. 12, at 7:00pm.** We hope to see you there!

LADIES WINE SOCIAL: All women from all surrounding parishes age 21 years and older, are invited to join us on **Friday, Jan. 16, at Valley Wine Center** in Wintersville, **at 7:00pm.** Hosted by the Magnificat Women's Group of Triumph of the Cross parish. Please use this QR code to register.



026 DIOCESAN MEN'S DAY OF RENEWAL:

Will be held on **Saturday, March 7**, at St. Stephen Church in Caldwell, OH., **from 8:00am to 3:00pm.**

This Lenten retreat invites men of the diocese to reflect on the ongoing call to conversion and spiritual growth in our journey with Christ. The day will feature personal testimonies from Fr. Bradley Greer and Fr. Timothy Shannon, who will share how the Eucharist has been central to their own conversions and priestly lives, offering practical insights for living and spreading the faith in our families, parishes, workplaces and communities. Cost is \$25.00 per registration plus a \$3.00 online surcharge. Lunch is included.

Register online at www.athenscatholic.org/steubenville-mens-day. More information, including the full schedule is available on the website. You may also contact Ron DuBois at 740-457-6011 or by email at ronduboisjr@gmail.com.