

Sunday, January 9, 2022

The Baptism of the Lord

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday: 9am - 4pm
Fridays & Weekend: By Appointment

Email: stluke.dc@adwparish.org
www.stlukechurchsj.org



THE BAPTISM *of the Lord*

"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 3:16c

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

Staffed by the Josephite Fathers and Brother

Serving Washington DC (Far S.E., N.E., and Prince Georges County since 1957)



ST. LUKE
CATHOLIC CHURCH

4925 E. CAPITOL STREET, WASHINGTON, DC
20019



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Welcome

St. Luke is a warm and embracing parish family. We gladly extend our love and warmth to all those who desire to worship and follow our Lord, Jesus Christ. Come join us to celebrate the Holy Eucharist which is the source and summit of our Christian life. Our theme for 2019 is "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." [Psalm 90:12] Together we will praise God, love one another and serve each other.

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00pm

Sunday Masses: 8:30am & 11:00am

2nd Sunday 1:15pm (Igbo) 3rd Sunday 1:15pm (French)

Weekday Masses

In St. Luke Church

Monday: 10:00am & Thursday: 10:00am

Wednesday Bible Study: 6:00pm

Stations of the Cross

Every Friday 7:00pm . -8:00pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday: 3:00-3:45pm Sunday: 7:30am-8:15am

Sunday: 10:00am-10:45am Or by appointment

Sacrament of Baptism

Infant Baptism registration takes place at the Parish Office prior to baptism preparation class which is held on the First Saturday of each month. Baptism takes place every First Sunday after the 11:00 a.m. Mass. Please call parish office for more information.

PASTOR'S CORNER

WHY WAS JESUS BAPTIZED?

By Joseph McHugh

The baptism of Jesus was more than just a symbolic swim.

Today some people think that Jesus had original sin and needed to have it washed away. When we think this, we take the reason we need to be baptized and apply it to Jesus. Jesus is sinless (Heb. 4:15). In the early church a minority of Christians known as “adoptionists” understood the baptism as the time when God “adopted” Jesus as his son. Condemned as a heresy at the end of the second century, this view re-emerged in later centuries. Adoptionists denied that Jesus is always both God and man. Some taught that Christ was a spirit which came to the human Jesus at his baptism, but then fled and left the human Jesus alone when it became time for him to die on the cross.

St. Thomas Aquinas reminded us that the baptism of Jesus by John was purely symbolic, unable to forgive sin or incorporate someone into the family of God. Thomas taught that when Jesus was baptized, he “consecrated” baptism, so to speak. In a similar way, Jesus’ presence at the wedding feast at Cana (John 2:1-11) can be seen as God’s blessing on marriage.

In his book *Jesus of Nazareth*, Pope Benedict XVI wrote, “In light of the cross and resurrection, the Christian people realized what happened: Jesus loaded the burden of all mankind’s guilt upon his shoulders; he bore it down into the depths of the Jordan.” In Philippians 2:5-11, St. Paul describes the willingness to humble himself that the Son of God showed by taking on himself our human nature and its burden of sin. The Catechism of the Catholic Church says: “Jesus’ gesture [of submitting to baptism] is a manifestation of self-emptying. The Spirit who had hovered over the waters of the first creation descended then on the Christ as a prelude to the new creation, and the Father revealed Jesus as ‘his beloved Son’ ” (no. 1224).

The early Eastern church fathers, more poetic than their Western counterparts, wrote that Adam and Eve had a “vestment of light.” Lost at the fall, this robe was made available again when Jesus placed the robe, lost in paradise, in the Jordan River at his own baptism. For example, the Eastern father St. Gregory of Nyssa prayed, “You have driven us out of paradise and called us back; you have taken away the fig leaves, that garment of our misery, and clothed us once more with the robe of glory.” We discover in the Jordan (the baptismal font) the robe of glory that had been mankind’s garment in paradise. Poetically, the Eastern fathers had Jesus explain his need for baptism: “I am trying to find the lost Adam, let me go down and look for him.” Both Western and Eastern theologies tell us that Jesus was baptized not for his own benefit, but for ours.

<https://www.uscatholic.org/articles/201401/why-was-jesus-baptized-28331>

REFLECTION FOR THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

“We are called to live our baptism every day, as new creatures, clothed in Christ.”

— Pope Francis

What reference point do you use when making decisions? Many times, impulse takes control and decisions are made based solely on emotion and desire. We all know that these types of decisions can often get us into trouble. When a person has a confident sense of who they are and a real understanding of what is important and of value, the likelihood of kneejerk impulsive choices diminishes. Baptism gives us what we need to make well informed and purposeful decisions. By this simple gesture, God claims us as His own and provides us with the identity and purpose we need to properly live life.

It is tremendously reassuring, when we truly embrace this revelation and realize that we no longer have to wonder about the purpose of our lives or struggle to find our way. The answer of who we are in God has been given to us. We no longer have to fumble around, trip over ourselves or walk aimlessly about. Issues surrounding the sacredness of life, the meaning of death, the protection of those most vulnerable, care for the weak and the poor, offering hospitality to those in search of a home, the purpose and proper place of work, how to create a just social order, caring for creation, and understanding our roles as heralds and stewards are just a few of the wonderful gifts baptism brings. When we make decisions based on things such as these core Gospel truths we really act as Christ himself, revealing to others the new creations that we are. This is how we live our baptism.

It is difficult to walk against the tide. Yet, that is precisely what baptism calls us to do. Although we are sinners, in need of mercy and far from perfection we are called to order our life and make decisions based upon the wisdom and guidance of Almighty God. He alone is the one who can claim us as His sons and daughters. Standing up for our principles will not make us popular. But who ever said Christianity is a popularity contest? Baptism calls us to stand up for that which goes against the grain of secularism. Standing in line with other sinners, we have our anchor to steady us in the tempests of life and God is very pleased. Forge ahead. There is nothing to fear.

Liturgical Publications 2015

HAPPY BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY

We would like to wish a wonderful happy birthday to Penny Glover, Jae O. Scott-Terrell, and

Westley Douglas II.

**MAY THE JOY OF THE LORD
BE YOUR STRENGTH!!!**

Readings for the week of January 9, 2022

Sunday: Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7/Psalms 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/Acts 10:34-38/Luke 3:15-16, 21-22
or, Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11/Psalms 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 [1]/Timothy 2:11-14; 3:4-7/Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

Monday: 1 Samuel 1:1-8/Psalms 116:12-13, 14-17, 18-19/Mark 1:14-20

Tuesday: 1 Samuel 1:9-20/1 Samuel 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Mark 1:21-28

Wednesday: 1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20/Psalms 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Mark 1:29-39

Thursday: 1 Samuel 4:1-11/Psalms 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/Mark 1:40-45

Friday: 1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22a/Psalms 89:16-17, 18-19/Mark 2:1-12

Saturday: 1 Samuel 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Psalms 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mark 2:13-17

Next Sunday: Isaiah 62:1-5/Psalms 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10 [3]/1 Corinthians 12:4-11/John 2:1-11

Church Support

Please consider making a donation to support our parish during this trying time. You may Drop off or mail your gifts to the parish. You may give online through our website:

<http://www.stlukechurchssj.org/>

And clicking on the donate button.

You may also TEXT: 202-335-3116

WEEKLY MASS

Monday 1/10
Eternal repose of the soul of Juanita King+++ by Family

Tuesday 1/11
Weekday

Wednesday 1/12
Weekday

Thursday 1/06
God's blessings and protection for Marie Dailley by Milton Harris, Jr.

Friday 1/14
Weekday

Saturday 1/15
Weekday

Pray for the Sick & Shut-In of Our Parish

Barbara Barnes
Blanche Bourm
Barbara Batts
Tanisha Bennett
Tammy Berry
Ruth Bundy
Beatrice Carroll
Melinda Conrad-Brown
Edith Cornish
Aniceto Charles
Patricia Chase
Valene Chemoo
Joyce Cristwell
Alvera Dance
Iyana Davage

Lamont Diggs, Sr.
Crawley Easley
Marita C. Edelin
Kimbolyn Flowers
Anthony Flowers
Tina Garvin
Florence Hall
Steve Halle
Chris Hawkins
Charlene Haywood
Brenda Henson
James Holley
Rudolph Holley
James Hughes
Melvin Jamison
Mary Ann Johnson

David & Keisha Jones
Dawn Lattimer
Lawrence Lee
Maria A. Logan
Bernadette Mahoney
Doreene Mahoney
Barbara Mallory
Doris McCannon
Alice L. Montague
Veronica Murray
David Neal
Florence Patterson
Marlene Patterson
Silvia Perry
Doreene Redd
Corley Redd

Leroy Sandifer
Betty Smith
Kayla Tatum
Rolland Taylor
Gloria Thompson-Price
James F. Thompson, Jr.
Matthew Thompson
Barbara B. Tyler
Wayne A. Wallace
Marquita Ward
Shiela Washington
Steven Washington
Cecelia Williams
Wellington Waters
Dolores Woodard, Jr.

Harold Woodard, Sr.

St Luke military families.

All the Homeless men and women in our community.

Please pray for all those who are sick but have no one to pray for them



PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

Dear Parishioners, our Tree of Life has not fully bloomed. We are continuing the sale of leaves the northwest corner of the inside of the church (East Capitol St. side) There are 21 leaves still available for memorializing deceased family members or posting your current family names or beliefs. Each leaf is \$250 and can be paid in monthly installments. All proceeds will be used for the improvement of our beautiful church. Please contact Kathy Harris Ndouga if you would like more details at (202) 575-8732.

St. Luke Parish Weekly Schedule

Mondays Morning Mass @ 10:00am (will also be livestreamed)

Wednesday Bible Study Live Stream & Voice @ 6:00pm

Thursdays Morning Mass @ 10:00am (will also be livestreamed)

First Friday & Last Friday Adoration @ 7:00pm

Saturday Holy Rosary (Voice call only) @ 6:00pm

Sunday Mass 8:30 am & 11:00am (11am mass will also be livestreamed)

Prayer to Jesus in the Manger

O divine redeemer Jesus Christ, prostrate before thy crib, I believe thou art the God of infinite majesty, even though I do see thee here as a helpless babe. I humbly adore and thank thee for having so humbled thyself for my salvation as to will to be born in a stable. I thank thee for all thou didst wish to suffer for me in Bethlehem, for thy poverty and humility, for thy nakedness, tears, cold and sufferings.

Would that I could show thee that tenderness which thy virgin mother had toward thee, and love thee as she did. Would that I could praise thee with the joy of the angels, that I could kneel before thee with the faith of St. Joseph, the simplicity of the shepherds. Uniting myself with these first adorers at the crib, I offer thee the homage of my heart, and I beg that thou wouldst be born spiritually in my soul. Make me reflect in some degree the virtues of thy admirable nativity. Fill me with that spirit of renunciation, of poverty, of humility, which prompted thee to assume the weakness of our nature, and to be born amid destitution and suffering. Grant that from this day forward, I may in all things seek thy greater glory, and may enjoy that peace promised to men of good will.

- Author Unknown

To continue assisting St. Luke: You may **DROP OFF** your donation or **MAIL** your check or visit our **WEBSITE** <http://www.stlukechurchssj.org/Donate> OR **TEXT**: 202-335-311621

Offertory Contributions for 1/2/2022:

\$ 4,587.25

May God reward you abundantly for your generosity.

Quote of the Day

Today let us do honour to Christ's baptism and celebrate this feast in holiness. Be cleansed entirely and continue to be cleansed. Nothing gives such pleasure to God as the conversion and salvation of men, for whom His every word and every revelation exist. He wants you to become a living force for all mankind, lights shining in the world! — St. Gregory Nazianzen (330-390) Father and Doctor of the Church

2022 ST. LUKE OFFERING BOOKS are in the back of church. If you are not finding yours please call the Rectory at 202-584-8322.

Archdiocesan News

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS If you are interested in learning more about Catholic school admissions, enrollment and tuition assistance the Catholic Schools office will host virtual information sessions on Wednesday, January 12 and Thursday, January 13, 2022 at 7:00pm. Register at www.adwcatholicsschools.org.

TO THE WOMEN IN OUR PARISH - are you looking for a way to find community with like-minded Catholic women, discover the gifts you've been given, and put them at the service of a mission for the Lord? The GIVEN Institute is an organization that provides this through leadership training, mentoring, and events. To learn more and how to get involved, visit www.giveninstitute.com or follow @giveninstitute on social media. Applications are open NOW for the 2022 GIVEN Forum in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia!