



# The Baptism of the Lord

January 13, 2008

A voice came from the heavens, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."  
- Matthew 3:17

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

On Sunday January 6<sup>th</sup> the 10th grade Confirmation class went on a retreat at The Franciscan Spiritual Center in Aston, PA. The retreat was conducted by Sister Kathy OFS. The theme was finding God in our every day lives, and developing a personal relation with God. The students were given time to reflect and to share their insights Sister provides them with activities that reflect the theme. The retreat concluded with Mass celebrated by Rev. Msgr. Barres who also addressed the group. Please continue to pray for our Confirmation candidates as they continue to prepare for their Confirmation on April 27.

We are in need of people who can serve as aides and substitutes in the Religious Education program. If you can help please call 656-7185

## TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Last year a rather eccentric quirk of the calendar hid this great feast on a Monday, but now it's here for our delight on a Sunday, as it should be. In the old calendar, it was the octave day of Epiphany, exactly as it is this year. It is the absolute end of the Christmas season, and tomorrow we enter Ordinary Time.

As we conclude the Christmas season, there is one more treasure from our tradition worth mentioning. Everyone knows the "Twelve Days of Christmas." British Catholics invented it to teach the catechism to their children at the time of the Reformation. The partridge in a pear tree is, of course, Jesus in the tree of the Garden of Eden. Each number is a clue to help children remember aspects of our faith: two testaments in the Bible; three Persons in the Trinity (or the virtues of Faith, Hope, and Charity); the four evangelists; and the five golden rings, the Torah, the first five books of the Bible. Then we have the six days of creation, the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, the eight beatitudes, the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit, the ten commandments, the eleven faithful apostles, and the twelve points of belief in the Apostle's Creed. For persecuted Catholics, the beloved carol helped the faithful to stay under the radar and have some fun passing on the tradition to their children

## TRUSTEES ELECTED

The Lay Trustee election was held January 6<sup>th</sup> after the 10:30 mass with Msgr. Rebman, Pastor and President presiding. Twelve parishioners attended. The Honorable Joseph Walsh and Jean Cates were re-elected joining Bishop Saltarelli, Msgr. Barres, Chancellor and Bishop's Delegate, Msgr. Rebman as the five-member corporate board for civil matters. Jean Cates was designated as secretary. Congratulations.

## PASTOR'S NOTES

Called To Create Harmony

Last week, on the feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord, we celebrated the call to bring the living message of Jesus to the whole world. We were called to recognize that the true state of our earth should be a state of harmony, where we live as loving brothers and sisters to one another, and to mother earth. Today we are called through our Baptism to become healers of any disharmony that exists in our world. As the Body of Christ, we are called to bring the healing touch of Jesus to the wounds and divisions that plague our earth.

We made very specific promises when we were baptized. Allow me to remind you of what they were. (1) We rejected sin so that we could live in freedom as God's children. (2) We rejected the glamour of evil and we refused to let sin become our master. (3) We rejected Satan, the father of sin and the prince of darkness.

We need to honor those promises as seriously as any married couple is obligated to honor their marriage vows. We promised to reject sin and evil. That means that we promised to reject the disharmony and separation that evil has brought into our world. What an immense and vast promise! It is an enormous promise. But we've made that promise, the promise to reject evil. We didn't promise that we would be able to eliminate all evil during our lifetime, but we did promise to reject all evil. That's the work of a lifetime.

Once we come to an initial awareness of the disharmony that comes from evil, and, at the same time, decide to honour our Baptismal promises, then we need to judge where we can make a difference. This is not an easy thing to do, and the temptation is to throw up our hands and cry out that we are utterly powerless. With God we can do all things. On this feast of the Baptism of Our Lord, may we all embrace our sacred calling to heal God's broken world.\*\*\*\*\*

Catholic University & Catholic Communications Collection Next weekend's second collection is a combined collection. Catholic University of America trains priests, religious and lay leaders for spiritualized church apostolates. The Catholic Communications Collection helps the church spread God's word through media. Your support is appreciated.



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Saturday (Jan 12)

5:00 p.m. Thomas E. Giblin by Gloria Pierse

Sunday (Jan 13)

7:30 a.m. Edith Giacco by family

9:00 a.m. Parishioners

10:30 a.m. Ann & Clover Knotts by Bev & Carol (daughters)

Monday (Jan 14)

7:00 a.m. Earl Bazemori by Dr. & Mark Garcia

12:05 p.m. William Krienan by family

Tuesday (Jan 15)

7:00 a.m. John & Francis Brown requested by the family of James S. Grant, Jr.

12:05 p.m. Open intention

Wednesday (Jan 16)

7:00 a.m. Grace Wittland by Mary & Al Forester

12:05 p.m. Gerard P. Kavanaugh by Arlene & Bernie Daney

Thursday (Jan 17)

7:00 a.m. Open intention

12:05 p.m. Dr. Garrett B. Lyons by William Butler family

Friday (Jan 18)

7:00 a.m. Open intention

12:05 p.m. Liv. & Dec. members of Peguesse/Ridgway families

Saturday (Jan 19)

8:00 a.m. Anna M. Carr by John & Mary Helen Carr

5:00 p.m. Rita Kearns by family



*A Warm Welcome*

*Little Sisters of the Poor!*

The Little Sisters of the Poor will visit with us after all masses to tell us of their work with the elderly at the Jeanne Jugan Residence on Salem Church Road in Newark. Please give the sisters your attention and also a generous donation for their work! Come join us! Thank you.

**MARCH FOR LIFE** to observe the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Roe vs. Wade on January 22. Old and young from all over the country come to Washington to march from the foot of the Washington Monument to the Supreme Court building where disrespect for human life became the law of the land.

*Commemorate the Event!*

✓Travel by bus to Washington, DC with Delaware Right to Life. Call 822.9600 to register. Price \$25 per person.

✓Attend the Cathedral of St. Peter Noon Mass to allow those who cannot participate in the March to participate with their brothers and sisters in the Diocese.

✓Join St. Joseph on the Brandywine in prayer at its daily masses of 7 a.m. and 12:05 to support all those who work to build a culture of life.

*Emmanuel Dining Room (EDR)*

We need volunteers to come to the Family Center on Friday, January 11, at 8 a.m. to help prepare the food. Won't you join us? Call Jeanne Harkin, 610-388-1845, or Ann Hapka, 610-388-1362, if you have questions. Join us and learn about the true spirit of the New Year.

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*Year-end statements reflecting 2007 contributions are being mailed. A separate statement comes from the Diocese for contributions to the Annual Catholic Appeal and Vision for Life Campaign. If you drop a loose check in the offertory, put the envelope number and purpose on the memo line. If you need envelopes or no longer want them, please notify the office. Please use your envelopes so that we may accurately reflect your contribution. Thank you.*

***SJOB TO SPONSOR***

**ECUMENICAL WORKSHOP**

At the consistory of November 23, 2007, Pope Benedict endorsed ecumenism as a "holy obligation." Cardinal Walter Kasper, President of Pontifical Council for promoting Christian unity addressed the College of Cardinals. He said, "*Spiritual ecumenism*" is the very soul of the ecumenical movement and must be provided by us in the first place." Accordingly, St. Joseph on the Brandywine will host an Ecumenical Workshop on Sunday, Jan. 20, 3:30 p.m., Family Center sponsored by the Delaware Ecumenical Council on Children and Families. Msgr. Rebman, Diocesan Director of Ecumenism is the Catholic representative to the DEC and is a member of the planning committee. Parishioners are urged to plan to attend this event!

 COMPREHENSIVE LENTEN PROGRAM FOR ADULTS

 *Featured in Today's Insert*