

January 10, 2016

The Baptism of the Lord

Saturday, January 9

5 p.m. +**Francis Blevins**
By Family

Sunday, January 10

8:00 a.m. +**Marie Miccio**
By Bob and Carol Waldron

10:30 a.m. **Parishioners of St. Theodore Church**

Monday, January 11

8:45 a.m. +**Lenore Petty**
By The Filan Family

Tuesday, January 12

8:45 a.m. +**Jeanne McCormick**
By Carol Holbrook

Wednesday, January 13 Saint Hilary

8:45 a.m. +**Patricia Holt**
By The Filan Family

Thursday, January 14

8:45 a.m. **In Thanksgiving of Jesus, Mary, Joseph**
By Angela Gross

Friday, January 15 NO MASS

Saturday, January 16

5 p.m. +**John A. Haines**
By The Shipley Family

Sunday, January 17

8:00 a.m. **Birthday Blessings for Rita Kane**
By Susan Reynolds

10:30 a.m. +**Vincie Vallo**
By Victoria and Bob Dicheck & Family

comes into our lives and empowers us, equips us, gives us the moral strength to say no to evil and to live as God's children that we have become.

These four effects of baptism can be divided into two categories, the passive effects (what we receive from God and the people of God), namely, rebirth, initiation, and empowerment; and the active effect (what we give to God and the people of God), namely, our commitment and dedication to a cause, to spread the kingdom of God. One problem people have with today's gospel is to understand why Jesus needed to be baptized. An understanding of the "rice" of baptism as we have tried to explain can help.

Looking at the baptism of Jesus by John in the Jordan, we find that Jesus did not need a **rebirth** since he was from all eternity the only begotten child of God. He had no original sin to be cleansed from. Did Jesus need **initiation**? Yes. Being human, Jesus needed to associate and to identify with the community of men and women who were dedicated to promoting the cause of the kingdom of God. When it comes to serving God, no one is an island. We need to interact with other children of God. We need the community of faith just as Jesus did. We need the church. **Empowerment**: the Holy Spirit is the power of the Most High. The Spirit that descended on Jesus at his baptism strengthened and empowered him. **Consecration**: Baptism for Jesus was a moment of self-consecration, a moment of self-dedication. For him it was a commitment to do whatever was necessary to promote the cause of the kingdom of God on earth.

We read that soon after Jesus' baptism, John was arrested and the Kingdom of God movement needed a new leadership. When Jesus heard it he went up and took on the task, in this way implementing the commitment he made at his baptism to promote the kingdom of God. We can see that for Jesus baptism was not just a question of what he could receive but very much a question of what he could contribute to the cause of the kingdom of God on earth.

What does baptism mean? The meaning of baptism can be found in the four letters of the word **RICE**. "R" stands for **Rebirth**. In baptism we are born again by water and the

Holy Spirit. We are cleansed from original sin and become sons and daughters of God in a special way. "I" stands for **Initiation**. At baptism we are initiated or admitted into full membership in the church, the community of the children of God in the world. "C" is for **Consecration**. In baptism we consecrate and dedicate ourselves to seek and to spread the kingdom of God. We commit ourselves to be servants of God, to do God's will and serve God with our whole lives. And "E" is for **Empowerment**. At baptism the Holy Spirit



What are we doing, each one of us, to promote the kingdom of God? Are we ready to consecrate and dedicate ourselves wholly to the service of the kingdom of God just as Jesus did? If not, what are we doing to support those who have consecrated themselves to doing this work in the name of us all? Let us today with Jesus renew our baptismal commitment to bear witness to the Good News of the kingdom of God in word and in deed.

Our Offerings

Christmas \$7,817.50	Last Year \$8,759.05
Fuel \$884.	Last Year \$1,801.70
New Year \$1,194	Last Year \$950.11
Last Sunday \$2,402	Last Year \$2,283.25

Homebound Visitation

Father Damian will begin Homebound Visitation every First Friday starting at 11 a.m. If you want to be put on the list, or if you know of someone who would like Father to visit, please call the Parish Office, Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Father I will hear confession and will bring the Eucharist to the people.



Please pray for: Stephen, Elizabeth Ondroczy, Rosaria Incantalupo, Anthony Vitale, Bridget M., Savannah Paine, Bobby Gross, Michael Dante, Keira H., Maryann Vaughan, Charlie Guerriere, Sr., Robert Dicheck, Peter, Zachary, Logan Peter Saksa, Anna Saksa, Lauren Lane, Jay Mildrum, Diane, Philip Kinney, Mary D., Erin Stanton, Eleanor D., Reilly B., Kerry Kraft, Karen Rutherford, Art Zeiss

Confirmation Date

In September, we sent to the Bishop three dates for Confirmation, according to procedure, and from which he will choose one. The date of our Confirmation is always chosen by the Bishop. The dates submitted are, May 7, 5 p.m., May 14, 5 p.m. and May 15, 12:30 p.m. We have not been informed of his choice as yet. As soon as we do, we will let you know.

Contribution Statement

If you would like to have a statement of your 2015 contributions, please submit a self-addressed, stamped envelope—make sure your request is to the attention of Mary Rupell.



I want to thank all of you who have given Christmas cards, gifts, and prayers. I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone for the wonderful job they had done in making

Christmas so beautiful: those who decorated the church, the Choir, Ushers, Altar Servers, Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers.

*Thank you so very much!
Father Damian, SDS*

Tricky Tray Accounting

Total Sales: \$14,414.10
Expenses: 1,724.90
Profit \$12,589.20

Thank you parishioners for contributing to this much needed fundraiser. The remaining balance for our Diocese Assessment is \$6,148 due June 30. We hope to raise this amount (at least) with our upcoming 50/50 Fundraiser.



1/10: 10:30: Third Grade Mass
1/11: 8th Grade at Church; all others at school
1/18: No Religious Education
1/18: Parish & Rel Ed. Offices

closed.

1/22: Day of Prayer in USA for *Legal Protection of Unborn Children*

Mass Openings: February 2, 5, 8, 10 (Ash Wednesday 8:45, 12 Noon, 6:30 p.m.), 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 23, 25, 29 Call Mary R. to book (908-689-8318, ext 1).

Dinners for Project Africa: The proceeds of this project are for sending to Ghana, computers and accessories, which are used to teach computer skills and repair training. Additionally, clothing, shoes, and nonperishable food are sent.

How to support this worthy cause?

Dine at *Kathy's Kove, Washington, NJ*, Friday evenings from 6 to 8 pm. Dinner for \$15 (takeout available), BYOB; open mic from 7 to 10 pm. Additional information: call Kathy **908-689-6878** (*Kathy's Kove is a yearly supporter of our Tricky Tray.*)