



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

"This is my beloved Son, with whom
I am well pleased." - Mt 3:17

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT - LET'S LIGHT THE WAY!

BY MARY PENICH

Like my husband and I, you've likely taken down your Christmas decorations. Our Christmas Tree made its way to the curb for mulching last weekend. The boxes in which we store everything else found their homes in the basement the same day. Though I normally dread the tedium of repackaging ornaments and rewrapping the delicate figures from our tiny Nativity set, I rather enjoyed the process this year. Each strand of garland and every light string inspired a memory from Christmas 2025. As I rolled up those lights for storage, I recalled an inspiring afternoon the week before Christmas...

I'd just returned from shopping for the last of our stocking stuffers. The house was dark that first day of winter except for the lights twinkling in our backyard. Colorful bulbs nestled at the feet of the large wooden angel and caroler that stood at the edge of our patio. It was 1955 when my husband helped paint both figures with his dad and his uncle. He was just six years old. I laughed as I imagined the three of them working on these charming figures. By the time I hung my coat, the white lights a bit further back in the yard went on. Those lights were strung among fir branches that lay at the feet of Mary and Joseph. They also provided a heavenly glow around the figure of Baby Jesus who rested between his parents. Those vintage figures provided one of my favorite Christmas scenes. As I emptied my shopping bag, the small tree in our family room lit up. After smiling at its lights, I turned to our wall of family photos nearby. I'm always happy to have my attention drawn in that direction!

After sorting through the stocking stuffers I'd purchased, I realized that my mood had been as dark as the house on that first day of winter. When I went to hide those treasures in a closet, the Christmas lights on our front porch came on. "Nice," I said to myself. "I needed that!" Those lights also reminded me to open the front door to check for mail. Just then, the lights around our lawn decorations came on. The snow laden branches that surrounded those merry figures glowed as dusk closed in. "You guys certainly have great timing!" I smiled as I headed back inside. I had to give a thought or two to dinner. Before I got serious about what Mike and I would eat that night, I looked at the backyard ago. My eyes lingered at those carolers and the images of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. They brightened my mood immensely! It was then that the tiny tree in our foyer lit up.

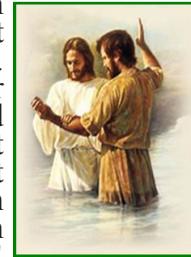
You know, until that afternoon, I hadn't realized that each of the timers that controlled our Christmas



lights was set for a different time. It occurred to me to tell my poor husband that he might want to coordinate those timers next year. With that, I flipped the switch in the living room to light our Christmas Tree and the village beneath it. I admit that this tree had disappointed me when we finally managed to get it into its stand. However, after it was decorated, Mike and I agreed that it was one of our loveliest trees yet!

That afternoon, I realized it had taken almost ten minutes for all our Christmas lights to come on. I also discovered that I really didn't want it any other way! You see, when those lights took turns coming on, each burst of color was beautiful in its own right. Every new glow elicited a smile from me. Memories of Christmases Past and my expectations for Christmas 2025 filled me with hope. If those Christmas lights had come on simultaneously, I might have missed this amazing show and the pleasant surprise that came with each click of a timer. As you may have guessed, I decided *not* to mention the serendipitous timing of our Christmas lights to Mike after all because I want to enjoy his amazing light show again next year.

I'm sharing this adventure with you because that unexpected light show has a lot to say about today's Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Today, we turn to John the Baptist who had preached at length about the coming of the Messiah. This long-awaited one was said to be far greater than John. John himself insisted that he wasn't worthy to tie the strap of that Holy One's sandal. Still, when Jesus set out to begin his public life, he went to John the Baptist to seek baptism. Poor John was humbled, shocked, and truly honored! As we know, this wasn't Jesus' only surprise. The next several weeks' gospels will tell us that Jesus continued to engage in the unexpected when he chose fishermen and other commoners to be his closest allies and when he preached of humility, the poor in spirit, peacemakers, and those who mourn.



Yes, Jesus was different! Rather than acknowledging the worldly powerful, Jesus assured his disciples and all those who listened that *they* were the salt of the earth, and *they* were the light meant to shine brightly for others. Just as our oddly timed Christmas lights set everything around me aglow that day, our most mundane circumstances take on an amazing aura when Jesus enters into them. This is the reason we mustn't wait until next Christmas for the light show to begin. Jesus is already at work, shining light on our lives when and where we least expect it. All Jesus asks is that we do the same for one another as often as possible. Just watch for the glow that results!

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To Read Fr. Chris' Weekly Letter
please visit our website: www.saintpaultheapostle.church

YOUR SUNDAY WORSHIP AID

The Baptism of the Lord

GOSPEL MEDITATION



Apple ran a commercial not long ago called “Behind the Mac – Greatness.” It shows artists and creators, such as Kendrick Lamar, Billie Eilish, and Lady Gaga, working behind their MacBooks. The narration says, “There’s a certain kind of person who doesn’t wait for greatness. They make it.” It’s a compelling message. There’s beauty in using our gifts with passion and purpose. But there lies a hidden weight in that idea: If you are what you make, what happens when you can’t anymore? When the project fails, the passion fades, or the spotlight moves on, where is greatness then?

Today’s Gospel offers a differing vision of greatness. Jesus steps into the Jordan River. He hasn’t preached, healed, or performed a single miracle. Then the heavens open, and the Father speaks: “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.” It’s not a reward for success. It’s not earned. Before he does anything “great,” Jesus receives the greatness of his identity from the Father.

And so do you. At your baptism, God said the same thing over you: “You are my beloved.” That is your true identity, not constructed or earned but received. When we see ourselves and others this way, everything changes for the better. We discover a greatness that can never be taken away.

This week, reflect on your baptism: look up the date, thank God for it, pray for those baptized with you, or visit the church where it happened. Let your identity be rooted there.

— Father John Muir ©LPI

MASS HYMNS

Opening Song: Gather #380 O He Shall Reign Forevermore by Chris Tomlin and Matt Maher

Gloria: A Joyful Christmas Gloria (GLORIA), adapted by Jeanne Cotter and Tony Alonso

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord Will Bless His People with Peace by Paul Hillebrand

Gospel Acclamation: MASS OF RESTORATION by Josh Blakesley and Grae McCullough

Preparation Song: Spirit & Song #294 Healing Waters by Trevor Thomson

Eucharistic Acclamations: MASS OF RESTORATION by Josh Blakesley and Grae McCullough

Communion Songs: Spirit & Song #204 All Who Are Thirsty Brenton Brown and Glenn Robertson

At Sunday 5:00pm: Spirit of Christ by Sarah Hart

Closing Song: Gather #353 Joy to the World by G.F. Handel and Isaac Watts

At Sunday 5:00pm: Joy to the World (Unspeakable Joy) by Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, Matt Gilder, G.F. Handel, and Isaac Watts

READING I

ISAIAH 42:1-4, 6-7

Thus says the LORD:
Here is my servant whom I uphold,
my chosen one with whom I am pleased,
upon whom I have put my spirit;
he shall bring forth justice to the nations,
not crying out, not shouting,
not making his voice heard in the street.
a bruised reed he shall not break,
and a smoldering wick he shall not quench,
until he establishes justice on the earth;
the coastlands will wait for his teaching.

I, the LORD, have called you for the victory of justice,
I have grasped you by the hand;
I formed you, and set you
as a covenant of the people,
a light for the nations,
to open the eyes of the blind,
to bring out prisoners from confinement,
and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PSALM 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

READING II

ACTS 10:34-38

Peter proceeded to speak to those gathered in the house of Cornelius, saying:
“In truth, I see that God shows no partiality.
Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly
is acceptable to him.
You know the word that he sent to the Israelites
as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all,
what has happened all over Judea,
beginning in Galilee after the baptism
that John preached,
how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth
with the Holy Spirit and power.
He went about doing good
and healing all those oppressed by the devil,
for God was with him.”

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 3:13-17

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him.

John tried to prevent him, saying,
“I need to be baptized by you,
and yet you are coming to me?”

Jesus said to him in reply,
“Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us
to fulfill all righteousness.”

Then he allowed him.

After Jesus was baptized,
he came up from the water and behold,
the heavens were opened for him,
and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove
and coming upon him.

And a voice came from the heavens, saying,
“This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”



GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the Glory of God the Father.
Amen.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
*who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,*
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God,
the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.
Amen.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10/Acts 10:34-38/Mt 3:13-17

Monday: 1 Sm 1:1-8/Ps 116:12-13, 14-17, 18-19/Mk 1:14-20 **Tuesday:** 1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sam 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/Mk 1:40-45

Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19/Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 2:13-17

WEEKDAY PSALMS

Monday: *Psalm 116:12-13, 14-17, 18-19*
To you, Lord, I will offer a sacrifice of praise.

Tuesday: *1 Samuel 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd*
My heart exults in the Lord, my Savior.

Wednesday: *Psalm 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10*
Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

Thursday: *Psalm 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25*
Redeem us, Lord, because of your mercy.

Friday: *Psalm 89:16-17, 18-19*
For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Saturday: *Psalm 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7*
Lord, in your strength the king is glad.

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: The Baptism of the Lord

Tuesday: St. Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Saturday: St. Anthony, Abbot

Next Sunday: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 2026

5:00pm: Gerry & Chuck Suhling | Gerena O. Monis | Kevin Seidel | Bruce Perrin | Robert Pignatiello | Lawrence Doan Pham | John Carter Bennett | Cheryl Giguere | Wilfredo Garcia

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2026

7:30am: Victor Peccioli | Chuck Gresser
9:30am: William & Jean O'Brien | Honesto & Consolacion Garibay
11:30am: Hector B. Brual, Jr. | Mary Schnell | Florentine Bates | Celia J. Auguste | David Michael Jahn
5:00pm: Bob & Harriet Sutton | Gracia Buttitta

MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2026

7:30am: Our Parish Family

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2026

7:30am: Our Parish Family

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2026

7:30am: Our Parish Family

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2026

7:30am: Prescela Sibayan | Mary Grosskopf

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2026

7:30am: Our Parish Family

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 2026

5:00pm: Gerry & Chuck Suhling | Lawrence Doan Pham | Gerena O. Monis | John Carter Bennett | Erlinda Saballa

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2026

7:30am: Leonard Kalaw | Rose Ann Kouba | Michael Kinahan
9:30am: Wally Zagol | Nenita Recinto | Luisa Ramos | Evangelino Ramos | Jay R. Ablona | Elvira Camacho | Margaret Crawford
11:30am: Lynn Sharpee | Bob & Harriet Sutton | Hector B. Brual, Jr. | Cristina Jacobo Calderon | Celia J. Auguste | Richard Loeffler | Chris Stoyandoff
5:00pm: Our Parish Family

DONATIONS SUMMARY

Week of January 5, 2025

Sunday- \$36,423
Sharing- \$25
SVdP- \$265
Christmas- \$655
Retirement fund for Religious- \$75

Online Sunday- n/a
Online Sharing- n/a
Online SVdP- n/a

Month to Date - December

Sunday- \$120,511
Online Sunday- \$46,590
Christmas- \$46,530
Sharing- \$2,936
Online Sharing- \$3,651
SVdP- \$5,785
Online SVdP- \$4,236
Holiday Dinners - \$492
Campaign for Human Development- \$933
Retirement fund for Religious- \$4,069



PRAY FOR THE SICK

Shannon Bremmer	Eduardo Perez
April Grandgeorge	Maria Domitila Zambrano de Polanco
Alma De Torres	Rafael Gloria
Stephanie Rappe	Collen Wishall
Vicki Shafer	Silvia Pinedo
Ruth Blood	Consuelo Vargas
Tom Asma	Juan Miguel Currea
Karla Arce	Gloria de Cardenas
Jeanne Sypien	Helena Sznicer
Glenn Garamoni	George Lawrence
Daniel Schmelz	Michael Miller
Russell Yanow	Cynthia D. Caudell
Victoria Sofia	Glaflira Bunsen
Luquez Mogollon	Jackie Herrera-Giron
Kinga Szymoniak	Gino LaBellarte
Chris Lucy	Dianne Scirri
Donna O'Brien	Pat Wilson
Norilyn Querubin	Kimmy Cozart
Rey Querubin	Mark Wilson
Obdulia Elizalde	Pat Gundrum
Jovita Menes	Mary Thachil
Reginald Dulaca	Daniela Gaborik
Melody Cook	Amy Patterson
Brian Smolicek	Melissa Fernandes
Roberto Movilla	Emily Meryer
Shani Stahnke	Kathy Hunt
Abby Swygard	Laura Hopkins
Rod Reyes	Bill O'Brien
Betty Falotico	Katie Travelstead
Keith Kellogg	Shanklin
Lisa Mischke	Roman Stankiewicz
David Zilligen	

Please know that we pray for all of the sick at every Mass. However, if you would like your name or that of a sick loved one to be included in the list above, please email or call

Catherine in the Parish Office:
info@spa.church or 847-918-0600



In loving memory of our recently deceased parishioners. May God's perpetual light shine upon them.

Joanne McArthur

Karen Galloway

Sebastian Janas

Josephine Maikranz

Zofia Majerska

Janusz Szrymer

Darrell Hendrickson

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 2026

HOSPITALITY WEEKEND

8:30AM VISITATION - MAIKRANZ
9:30AM FUNERAL - MAIKRANZ
9:30AM CIRCLE OF WOMEN
11:00AM RECONCILIATION
1:00PM BAPTISM - NELSON (BONG)
5:00PM MASS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2026

7:30AM MASS
9:00AM OCIA
9:00AM FF | SUN K-6
9:30AM MASS
11:30AM MASS
3:30PM CF 1-2-HS & SCU2
4:00PM TEEN CHOIR REHEARSAL
5:00PM MASS
6:00PM LIFETEEN NIGHT: LIFENIGHT

MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2026

7:30AM MASS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2026

7:30AM MASS
8:00AM HOLY HOUR
2:00PM FAITH SHARING
5:00PM CHILDREN'S CHOIR REHEARSAL
6:30PM SPRED
7:00PM FIREPLACE TALKS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2026

7:30AM MASS
6:00PM PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN
SAFETY CLASS(ALL STUDENTS K-HS)
7:00PM ADULT CHOIR REHEARSAL

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2026

7:30AM MASS
8:00AM HOLY HOUR

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2026

7:30AM MASS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 2026

11:00AM RECONCILIATION
5:00PM MASS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2026

7:30AM MASS
9:00AM OCIA
9:30AM MASS
11:30AM MASS
1:00PM STO NINO - NOVENA
2:00PM STO NINO - MASS
3:30PM STO NINO - CELEBRATION
4:00PM TEEN CHOIR REHEARSAL
5:00PM MASS

JANUARY 18/19 | LITURGY SCHEDULE

	USHERS	LECTORS	COMMUNION MINISTERS	GREETERS	PRESIDER
SATURDAY 5:00PM	T. Rusnak A. Barrie A. Rusnak K. Gaston OPEN x 2	Mike Biarnesen Debbie Williams	G. Johnson T. Kamps W. Kati K. Lowe T. Lowe	P. Fening J. Wedell	Fr. Joe Dn. Brent
SUNDAY 7:30AM	T. Shurtliff B. O'Brien P. Rothacker R. Sekany R. Dizon S. Bilas	Keith Kouba Bill Murphy	T. Burns K. Kouba E. Kurien M. Pieper C. Wicinski	J.R. Delgado P. Bland	Fr. Chris D. Rob
SUNDAY 9:30AM	B. Kibitkewki D. Scheffler D. Tomasiewicz Deb. Tomasiewicz K. King S. Fragassi	Matthew Schwarz Mary Maus	K. Belk J. Farber E. Martinez N. Martinez G. Pratscher	M. Maus T. Maus	Fr. Chris Dn. Andy
SUNDAY 11:30AM	P. Watson S. Fragassi G. Galano C. Karl R. Terraza R. Cuasay	Manny Bautista Sheila Tinetti	M. Fernandes L. Griesser T. Mozny JJ Plamooottil M. Urquhart	B. Moreno D. Moseley	Fr. Chris Dn. Bob
SUNDAY 5:00PM	B. Marchioni J. Plamooottil K. Deniz M. Deniz C. Johnson OPEN	Bruce Marchioni Teen or Lector 1	M. Gaytan L. Holland T. Marchioni T. Robb A. Wattelet	K. Deniz T. Marloww	Fr. John Dn. Ivan



RENEWAL WORKSHOPS

Making Space: Welcoming everyone for Ash Wednesday

Tuesday, January 13 | 12 – 2 p.m. and 7 – 9 p.m. | Online

Small groups during Lent offer an incredible opportunity to increase engagement and invite your community into intentional discipleship. Explore the basic elements needed to turn a typical small group into a transformative experience of encounter with Jesus.

For more information and to register, visit renewmychurch.org/renewal-workshops or scan the QR code.



Vicariate I Ministry Commission

Formation and Training for NEW EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Presenter: Fr. Robert Ryan

When: Saturday, January 31, 2026

Where: St. Theresa Parish, 455 N. Benton St., Palatine, IL 60067

Time: Check in at 8:30 a.m. | Training 9 – Noon

Register at: forms.office.com/r/HLx59MtwEc



A follow up session will take place in your parish that will include any particular practices for your parish.

This training meets the archdiocesan requirements for mandation and remandation.

Questions? Contact Marie Paul at mariep@sttheresachurch.org.



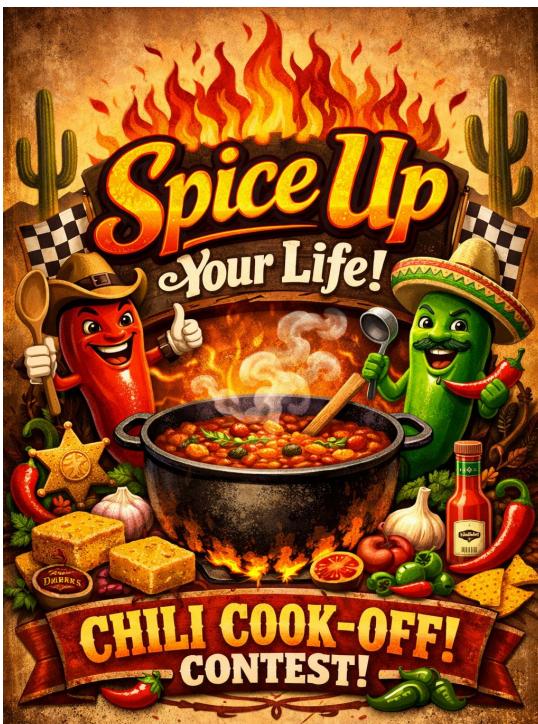
A Big Thank You from Brian and Deacon Mike Who Need A Little More Help!

Many thanks to the amazing volunteers who transported all our parish Christmas decorations to the church and/or who helped to decorate the church. As you have seen, their work was amazing! St. Paul's looked beautiful for Christmas, New Year's Day and the entire Christmas Season.

Sadly, all good things come to an end! Our decorating lead Brian Kiblilewski and Deacon Mike need help once again -this time, to take down those beautiful trees and decorations. This work will also take just a few hours. If you can help, please join Brian and Mike on Saturday, January 17, at 9:00 A.M. in the church. We can't begin to tell you how much your help will be appreciated! Remember, the more the merrier!
AND, the more the easier!

SINGLE SENIORS SOCIAL CLUB

55+ Active Singles - A new way to meet friends or partners!



Spice Up Your Life with the Single Seniors Social Club Chili Cook-off!

Bring your best pot of chili or just come hungry and ready to vote.

Good food, good company, and a little friendly competition!

**Friday, January 23rd
@ 6:00pm**

\$20 pp unless you enter a chili

St. Paul the Apostle Church - Lower Level
Register by 1/20 @ saintpaultheapostle.church;
Select Single Senior Social Club; Chili Cook Off

Questions? Please call or email:
Mary Ross 847.912.0033 mary_ross@comcast.net

SANTO NIÑO CELEBRATION
Saint Paul The Apostle Parish



Join us as we honor the **Santo Niño—the Holy Infant Jesus**, the oldest Catholic icon in the Philippines and a beloved symbol of trust, protection, and childlike faith. The image, gifted by Ferdinand Magellan to Rajah Humabon (baptized as Carlos) and his wife, Reyna Humamay (baptized as Juana), at their baptism in 1521, marks the beginning of Christianity in the Philippines. Today, the Santo Niño is enshrined in the **Basilica Minore del Santo Niño in Cebu**, drawing millions of pilgrims and celebrated worldwide by the Filipino diaspora.

For our community, the Santo Niño reminds us to share our blessings. As immigrants graced with new opportunities, we live the Gospel by supporting charities that serve abandoned elderly, special needs children, human trafficking survivors, and seminarians.

Celebration Schedule – Sunday, January 18, 2026, followed by a reception in the Lower Level Gathering Space. All are welcome to attend.

- **1:00 PM – Rosary Novena**
- **2:00 PM – Holy Mass**

Volunteers Needed – Contact:

- Ruby Hidalgo: ruby11971@yahoo.com
- Gigi Aranas Uy: gigiaranasuy@yahoo.com 847-912-4896
- Arleen Siap: hcdirect@sbcglobal.net 224-688-0479 (text only)



Knights Corner



Divine Mercy Council thanks all parishioners who supported us in 2025 to raise money for our parish and other charities. Our Christmas tree sales were down a little again this year, mainly due to the weather, but we were still able to share our Keep Christ in Christmas message to more than 200 families in our St Paul community.

We wish your family a blessed and safe New Year. We welcome those men 18 years or older to join our council to continue our mission in 2026. Please contact a member of our council or scan the QR code. If you have any questions about becoming a Knight, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Vivat Jesus,
Steven Bilas
Grand Knight
Divine Mercy Council #11112



ARCHDIOCESAN COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

GOLDEN ROSE AWARD

This event honors high school girls who are extraordinary examples of faith in action.

St. Paul the Apostle is looking for our 2026 candidate. Please let me know if you would like to read the criteria to be our Golden Rose. This terrific breakfast event is Saturday, February 7, 2026, at Chevy Chase Golf Club. Contact: jlatz@spa.church



(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC -
BENEATH THE SURFACE

WHEN JESUS WADES IN

Usually, when God comes to us, we aren't ready.

We think we are. Like John the Baptist, we stand in our waters of baptism, certain of our mission. We know how it's going to go. We know what's going to be asked of us. We're sure of it.

Christ wades into the waters. And he screws up all our plans.

To be clear, I don't think John the Baptist lacks faith when he balks at the idea of baptizing Jesus. I think it is, in fact, a testament to his humility. But whatever motivated John's actions, he is — if even for a brief moment — hesitating to do the will of God. Just a few chapters after this in the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus will acknowledge that John is the greatest person "born of women" — with the caveat that even he is not perfect enough for the Kingdom of Heaven.

Not yet.

Jesus didn't give John an explanation as the two stood in the River Jordan. He merely said, "Allow it for now." John could have resisted further, demanding to understand why. He could have grown suspicious at the simplicity of Jesus' answer, at the strangeness of this request. He could have clung desperately to his version of How Things Are Supposed To Be, and in doing so, fostered doubt in his heart. He could have even stormed off, confused and angry.

He did none of these things, because John is, as Jesus says, the greatest born of women.

When the Holy Spirit descends and the voice of God declares, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," he is referring, of course, to Jesus. But I think He would say the same of John the Baptist — and of all those who welcome Jesus into the waters, ready to do as he bids.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman
©LPI



The Women's Fellowship Angel Trees are displayed in the gathering space. You may donate by taking an envelope from the tree or online via our website. All donations will be used to support our Parish, food pantries, Aid for Women, and the needs of our neighboring communities.

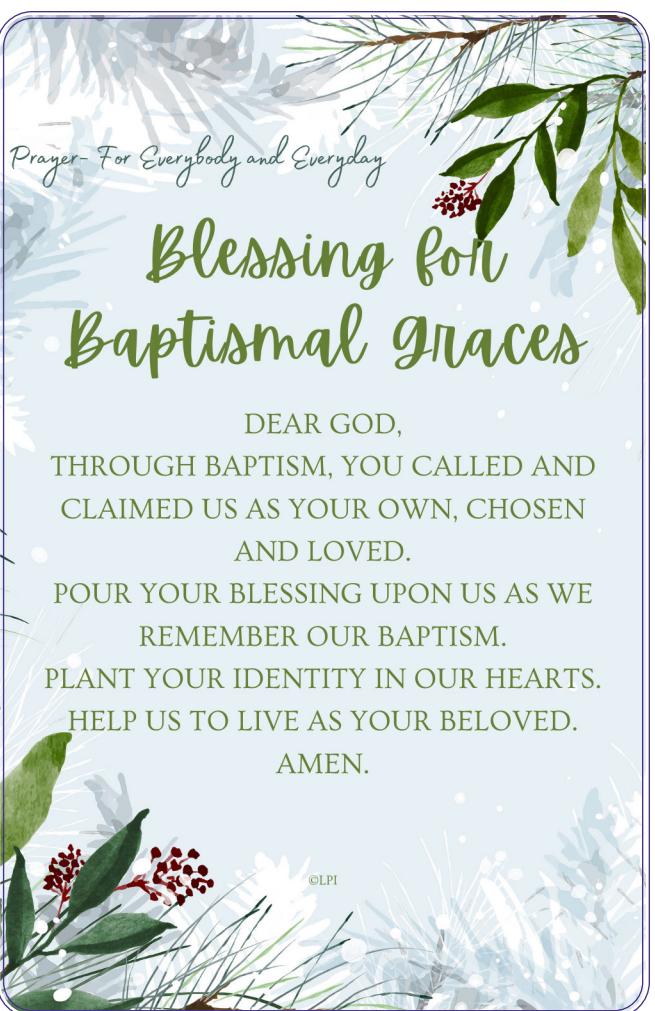
We will not be offering the Precious Blood from the 1st Sunday of Advent until Palm Sunday, for health reasons during cold and flu season, to avoid potential virus transmission. A Catholic does not have to receive both the Body and Blood of Christ, as receiving either one is a full reception of the sacrament. Receiving only one form is a valid and common practice, and provides the same graces as receiving both; we receive the entirety of Jesus in the Eucharist.

During the Communion Procession:

1. Approach the Priest, Deacon, or Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion.
2. The Sacred Host will be lifted and shown to you, and the Priest, Deacon, or Communion Minister will say, "The Body of Christ".
3. Extend your hands or tongue and say "Amen".
4. Whether you receive on the tongue or the hands -- DO NOT MOVE -- until the Sacred Host is placed on your tongue or hands.
5. PLEASE DO NOT step to the side, but consume the Host immediately in front of the priest, deacon, or Communion Minister.
6. Then, you can return to your seat.

- If you do not receive communion and want a blessing, come, cross your hands over your chest to receive the blessing.

Thank you for your understanding and for enhancing Catholic beliefs.



A big thank you to all for your tremendous generosity in providing holiday meals to our veterans and the needy families within our local community. As a parish, we collected over \$14,000 and provided 300 holiday dinners through Holy Family, St. Anastasia, and Midwest Veterans food pantries.



We will continue to support our local food pantries by distributing the remaining money throughout the coming year to feed those within our community who remain food insecure.

Words like "thoughtful...caring...giving" are not enough to describe your level of generosity. Again, a very special thank you to an awesome parish!

CATHOLIC TRIVIA JUST FOR FUN!

Question:
What feast is celebrated 40 days after Christmas in Catholic tradition?

Answer:
The Feast of the Presentation (Candlemas)

**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.

Lpi

St. Paul the Apostle is working to open a **Legal Aid Clinic** on Feb. 7, 2026.



**Administer
Justice**

We are especially in need of Attorneys to serve for 4 hours, one Saturday morning, a month to advise clients on a pro-bono basis on a variety of common legal matters, including landlord/tenant, debt collection, immigration, child custody, estate planning, criminal records, and more.

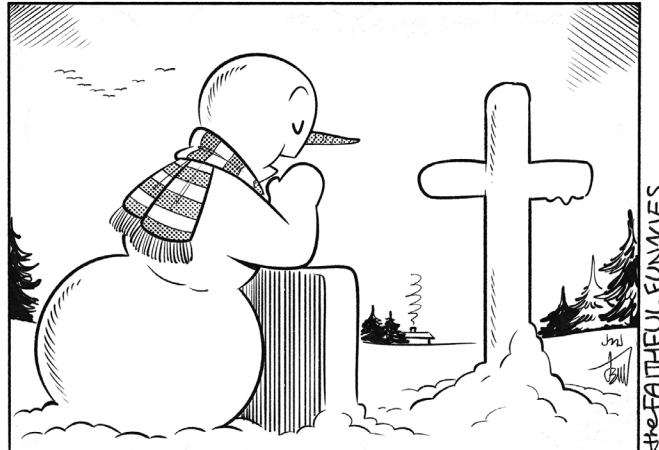
Attorneys work with the client to develop a next steps plan to address the problem and provide peace of mind. Training is provided to all attorneys at no charge.

We are also in need of interpreters who speak various languages to translate for clients as needed.

Training for interpreters is also available free of charge.

For more information, contact legalclinic@spa.church with your name, email address, and phone. One of the co-team leaders will be in touch.

"What's a snowman's favorite devotion?"



theFAITHFULFUNNIES



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EMERGENCY AND TRANSITIONAL ASSISTANCE, FISCAL SUPPORT, HELP WITH LOCATING AVAILABLE RESOURCES AND OTHER SERVICES AIMED AT ADDRESSING ALL ISSUES A PERSON OR FAMILY MAY BE FACING WITH THE INTENT OF SUPPORTING SUSTAINED POSITIVE CHANGE.

Crisis Support Resources

DOMESTIC ABUSE

A Safe Place Hotline: 847-249-4450

Sexual Abuse: 847-872-7799

PREGNANCY SUPPORT:

Aid for Women: 847-249-2700

POST-ABORTION

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT:

Project Rachel: 800-SWE-CARE

EMERGENCY SHELTER:

PADS: 847-689-4357

Catholic Charities: 847-782-4000

COUNSELING:

Holbrook Center: 312-655-7725

SUICIDE PREVENTION

Emergency: 911
988

FOOD PANTRIES:

Avon Township: 847-546-1446

Holy Family: 847-782-4166

Saint Anastasia: 847-623-2112

Warren Township: 847-244-1101



Saint Paul the Apostle

847-918-0600
6401 GAGES LAKE RD
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CLERGY

FR. CHRIS CIASTÓŃ | PASTOR
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FR. MARTIN SZCZYPULA | ASSOCIATE PASTOR
frmartin@spa.church

FR. JOE CURTIS | WEEKEND ASSISTANCE
frjoe@spa.church

FR. JOHN GUTHRIE | WEEKEND ASSISTANCE
jguthrie@usml.edu

DEACON MICHAEL PENICH
mpenich@spa.church

DEACON IVAN SIAP
isiap@spa.church

DEACON BOB BIRCK
bbirck@spa.church

DEACON ROD REYES
rreyes@spa.church

DEACON ANDY BAKER
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bbertke@spa.church

PARISH OFFICE

CATHERINE KARL | OFFICE MANAGER
info@spa.church

BUSINESS OFFICE

JOE PERRY | BUSINESS MANAGER
jperry@spa.church

FAITH FORMATION & CATECHESIS

TAMMY OBERSTAR | ADMIN ASSISTANT
tobestar@spa.church

MARY JO URQUHART | ADMIN ASSISTANT
murquhart@spa.church

AMY RUSSELL | K-6 CHILDREN'S COORDINATOR
arussell@spa.church

CASSIE BERTKE | CONFIRMATION COORDINATOR
cbertke@spa.church

TOM WATTELET | YOUTH & ADULT MINISTER
twattelet@spa.church

MUSIC LITURGY

RUTH PECK | DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY
rpeck@spa.church

JULIE JESTER | DIRECTOR OF LITURGY AND MUSIC MINISTRY ASSISTANT
jjester@spa.church

ANCILLARY STAFF

CESAR VICARIO | FACILITIES MANAGER
cvicario@spa.church

JERRY SIMPSON | LITURGICAL PROJECTIONS COORDINATOR
jsimpson@spa.church

KERI SEKANY | BULLETIN EDITOR
bulletin@spa.church

PARISH OFFICE

MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY

HOURS: 9:00AM - 5:00PM

FRIDAY HOURS: 9:00AM - 12:00PM

847-918-0600

BUSINESS OFFICE

HOURS: 9:00AM - 4:00PM

MONDAY & WEDNESDAY

FRIDAY HOURS: 8:30AM - 12:00PM

847-918-0600

FAITH FORMATION OFFICE

MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY

HOURS: 8:30AM - 3:00PM

FRIDAY HOURS: 8:30AM - 12:00PM

847-816-8677

MASS SCHEDULE

WEEKDAY MASS:

MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY

7:30AM

SATURDAY EVENING:

5:00PM

SUNDAY:

7:30 | 9:30 | 11:30AM | 5:00PM

ADORATION

TUESDAY/THURSDAY MORNINGS

8:00AM

RECONCILIATION

SATURDAYS IN THE BLESSED
SACRAMENT CHAPEL

11:00AM

The advertisement features a green gradient background. At the top, the company name "McMurrough" is written in a large, bold, serif font, with "Funeral Chapel" in a smaller, italicized serif font below it. To the right of the text is a black and white photograph of two men in suits standing together. The man on the left is smiling, and the man on the right is looking slightly to the side. Below the photo, the text "Three Generations Since 1947" is displayed in a large serif font. Underneath this, there is a bulleted list: "• Traditional Funerals", "• Cremations", and "• Pre-Arrangements". At the bottom, the names "Brian & Mark McMurrough" are in a large serif font, followed by the address "101 Park Place, Libertyville" in a smaller serif font. The phone number "847-362-2626" is in a large, bold, sans-serif font, and the website "www.libertyvillefuneralhome.com" is in a smaller, bold, sans-serif font at the bottom right.

An advertisement for Strang Funeral Chapel & Crematorium, Ltd. The top half features a woman in a white uniform with a name tag that says 'MEDALERT'. To her left is a red 'MDMedAlert!' logo with a 'TM' symbol, a 'STARTING AT \$19.95/mo.' price, and a 'MedAlert' badge. Below the logo is a red checkmark next to 'Ambulance' and another next to 'Police/Fire'. To the right of the price is a red checkmark next to 'Family/Friends' and another next to 'GPS & Fall Alert'. Below these are the words 'CALL NOW! 800.809.3570' and the website 'md-medalert.com'. The bottom half features the text 'Strang Funeral Chapel & Crematorium, Ltd.' in a serif font, followed by 'Family Owned & Operated!!' in a larger, bold, sans-serif font. Below that is the address '410 E. Belvidere Road, Grayslake' and the website 'www.strangfuneral.org • 847-223-8122'. To the right is a crest featuring a shield with a cross and a sword. The bottom left corner contains a stylized illustration of a building with a bridge and mountains in the background.

LET'S GROW YOUR BUSINESS
Place Your Ad Here
and Support Our Parish!

CONTACT ME
Jeff Hansen

jhansen@4LPi.com
(800) 950-9952 x2683

An advertisement for Assisted Living By Theresa in Gurnee. The top half features a green banner with the text 'Assisted Living By Theresa ~ In Gurnee'. Below the banner, on the left, is a yellow box containing text about caring for loved ones and providing a pleasant environment. On the right is a photo of two hands clasped together. The bottom half features a large red phone number '847-525-2816' and a red house icon with a heart, next to the address '6455 Cunningham Gurnee'.



Connie J. Crawford, O.D., P.C.
Parishioner

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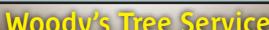


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