

Baptism of the Lord

2025 January



Today we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. In today's Gospel, as in the other Gospel accounts of Jesus' baptism, we hear John the Baptist address the confusion of the people who thought that John might be the Messiah. In response, John contrasts the baptism that he performs with the Baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John the Baptist says that he has baptized with water, but that someone will come and baptize with the Holy Spirit. The type of baptism that John performed was not yet a Christian Baptism; it was a preparation for Christian Baptism through which sins are forgiven and the gift of the Holy Spirit is received.

The baptism of Jesus is reported in each of the three Synoptic Gospels-Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Clearly, it was an event of great significance for Jesus and for the early Christian community. The Evangelists Mark and report the story from the voice from heaven perspective; addressed to Jesus. Compare this Matthew's Gospel in which the voice from heaven speaks to everyone. In Luke, however, the Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus during his time of prayer after his baptism. Through his Gospel, Luke will show Jesus to be a person of prayer who withdraws regularly from the crowds and his disciples to pray to his Father.

As we gather, let us remember and pray for . . .

Monday, January 13 St.

St. Hilary of Poitiers, Bishop & Doctor

(8:25 a.m. rosary)

9:00 a.m. †Giuseppe Sacco

### Tuesday, January 14

(8:25 a.m. rosary)

9:00 a.m. †Betty Rocco

#### Wednesday, January 15

(8:25 a.m. rosary)

9:00 a.m. †Giovanni & Pia Pizzi

## Thursday, January 16

(8:25 a.m. rosary)

9:00 a.m. ♦In Thanksgiving

#### Friday, January 17

(8:25 a.m. rosary)

St. Anthony, Abbot

9:00 a.m. †Anna & Giuseppe Vergalito

#### Saturday, January 18

5:00 p.m. †Philip Pitney

#### Sunday, January 19

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 a.m.

♦ People of the parish

11:00 a.m.

†Calvin MacWhirter

5:00 p.m.

♦Special Intention Carole Blande

# MAY GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP! Sunday Collection

Christmas Offering \$13,116 Christmas Memorial Flowers \$1,090 December 29 \$6,719 Repairs \$1035 New Year Offering \$3,423 January 5 \$6,001

# Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for the Month of January

For the right to an education

Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

#### **LEGION OF MARY**

### Our Lady of the Assumption Praesidium

Legion of Mary meet every Wednesday at **5:00pm** at the Church. Come and pray the Rosary.

#### Please note the time change for the winter season.

The Legion is an organization of lay men and women who work to bring Glory to God through the sanctification of its members and those we serve.

If you need to learn more about the Catholic faith..

If you have a need to enrich your prayer life....



Legion of Mary

If you have a need to develop close Catholic triendship... If you have a need to grow closer to Jesus and Mary.. Then come as a guest to a Legion of Mary meeting! Meetings every Wednesday at 6:00pm at the Church You can become an auxiliary member who prays the Rosary daily plus prayers of the Tessera or an active member who comes to meetings weekly and does 2hrs of volunteer work

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#### THE JOURNEY OF FAITH: A TRIP FOR A LIFETIME!

**Date:** Sat. JAN 18 9:30am-3:30 Cost: \$70 (includes lunch) Spend the day discerning where you are in your spiritual life and find ways to nurture it. Explore your spiritual journey, as you reflect on the ups and downs, the challenges and triumphs, and the moments of profound insight and inspiration. Discover new depths of meaning and purpose in your life as you find ways to grow in faith, clarity, and wisdom.

"The most important trip you will ever take is the path towards a richer, more meaningful spiritual life."

# "THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN" – A RETREAT FOR WALKING THE PATH OF CHANGE AND TRANSITION IN YOUR LIFE

**Date: Jan 24-26**, 2025 Cost: \$350

Life is full of changes. Sometimes those changes are welcome and sometimes they are not. Are you feeling as if you are in transition as you navigate a new phase of life? Maybe there are dramatic changes that are out of your control - the loss of a loved one, a relationship, change in health or a job? Perhaps there are expected shifts in your life such as retirement, empty-nesting, or moving into a new house, and you are surprised it is taking time for you to adjust.

This weekend is an opportunity to think deeply about the times of change in your life and how to transform them into periods of creativity and growth. Find strategies and tools to adapt to the changes and begin to rebuild and create your new life. Find meaning out of your time of transition and feel supported as you navigate this uncertain time. "Be open to the transformation that change can bring."

#### THE PURPOSE OF MASS

Usually, when we gather as a family or as friends for a meal, we begin with a conversation telling our stories. Likewise, after the gathering rites during Mass, the Liturgy of the Word follows. God speaks to us in the inspired Words of the Bible and we listen to Him. Having heard him speak, we thank Him by saying "Thanks be to God". On Sundays, there are three readings. The first reading, except during the Easter Season, is from the Old Testament. It relates to the Gospel and so it sounds like a background and insight to understand better what Jesus speaks to us in the Gospel. After the first reading, there is a Responsorial Psalm. The second reading is, usually, from any one of the letters of St. Paul or from one of the letters by other Apostles. The third reading is from one of the four Gospels. Just before reading the Gospel, the priest bows before the altar and prays that God may grant him the grace to proclaim the Gospel.

We all remain standing while the Gospel is read because Jesus speaks to us and so we show our attentive reverence. The priest greets the people, then introduces the Gospel writer and makes the sign of the cross on the forehead, lips, and heart, in order to clean his mind, lips and heart and thus enable him to proclaim the Gospel in a worthy manner. Following the priest, the people also make the sign of the cross for cleansing them and to enable them to listen with faith. The Gospel is concluded with the response of the people, saying: "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ", and thus praise Him for having spoken to us. Homily follows the readings. Its purpose is for "breaking the Word of God" and applying it to our life situation today. Unlike a talk or speech given in a meeting, the homily is an interpretation and application of God's Word to our personal life. Hence the assembly is expected to keep the heart and mind open and personalize God's message.

#### **INFANT BAPTISM PREPARATION**

Sessions are on the third Thursday of the month. **January 16<sup>th</sup> for parents considering** baptism for their child will take place from (6:00-7:00 p.m.). Anyone attending this session should have already had contacted the office.

#### BINGO! BINGO! BINGO!

Please come out and support St. Thomas More Bingo **January 15 & February 5 & 12**. Delta Monte Carlo Bingo Hall

Our goal is God, the source of all good. Place your trust in God and in no one else. -St. Jerome Emiliani