

THE WATERS OF BAPTISM

JANUARY 10, 2021

All you who are thirsty, come to the water!

— *Isaiah 55:1*



THE WATERS OF BAPTISM

When new sod is put in, it needs constant saturation with water. Landscapers say that this "knits" the sod to the soil. The same when a branch is grafted onto a tree: the poultice that joins them at the splice must be kept wet at all times. Water is the stuff that binds the very cells of our bodies together. No wonder religions throughout all times and cultures have used it so prominently. When Jesus stepped into the Jordan for baptism, he "knit" himself to what had come before him. By going to the Jordan, he made himself one with the people of Israel who had crossed it into their Promised Land. With John the Baptist, Christ wove himself into the prophetic tradition that heralded the coming reign of God. He had become fully human in the waters of Mary's womb, and by partaking in the rite of the baptism of repentance, Jesus identified himself with our sinful, frail humanity. It is through the waters of baptism that Christ continues to graft new members onto his Body, the Church; through these waters we are cleansed from sin and filled with the promise of grace, given our destiny for eternal life. For us, as for Jesus, it is also the waters of baptism that inaugurate our mission to proclaim the Good News. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Behold my servant with whom I am pleased; he shall bring forth justice to the nations (*Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7*) or *Isaiah 55:1-11*.

Psalm — The Lord will bless his people with peace (*Psalm 29*) or *Isaiah 12:2-6*.

Second Reading — God anointed him with the Holy Spirit (*Acts 10:34-38*) or *1 John 5:1-9*

Gospel — You are my beloved Son, with you I am well pleased (*Mark 1:7-11*).

SPECIAL PRAYER LIST

Edith Bolder	Holmesdale Care Center
Jeanette Hamilton Evans	Home
Inell Hunter	Home
Carlos Nix	Home
Lavel McCullough	Home
Rosa Birch	Home
Sandra Cloyd	Home
Kevin Brown	Home
Jackie Countee	Home
Sharon Shackleford-Allen	Home
Earnestine Nard	Home
Earl Greene	Home
Michael Mize	Home
Chaunceyetta Mize	Home
Margaret Jones	Home
Flora Waddell	Home
Delores Bazy	Home
Deacon Greene	Home
Vera Brown	Home
Ovell Thomas	Home
Joann James	Home
Dorothy Wyatt	Home
Terese Spears Chambers	Home
Alvin Brooks	Home
Cathy Johnson	Home
Mary Ann Grayson	Home
Herman Lovett	Home
Mabel & Donald Parson	Home
Ramonda Doakes	Home
Annie Lovett	Home
Marjorie Green	Home
Carolyn Jones	Homestead Assisted Living

FAMILY MEMBERS: Please inform our Pastor, Fr. Tom, when a loved-one is home bound or has been hospitalized. Call 816-471-3696 or email: stmonica1616kc@hotmail.com

This is My Beloved Son



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READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Heb 1:1-6; Ps 97:1, 2b, 6, 7c, 9; Mk 1:14-20

Tuesday: Heb 2:5-12; Ps 8:2ab, 5, 6-9; Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday: Heb 2:14-18; Ps 105:1-4, 6-9; Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: Heb 3:7-14; Ps 95:6-11; Mk 1:40-45

Friday: Heb 4:1-5, 11; Ps 78:3, 4bc, 6c-8; Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: Heb 4:12-16; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mk 2:13-17

Sunday: 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19; Ps 40:2, 4, 7-10; 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20; Jn 1:35-42



Must wear mask at all times— to attend

SUNDAY:

8:00 a.m. (Live)

10:00 a.m. (Live & Recorded)

WEDNESDAY

9:00 a.m. MASS (Live)

6:00 p.m. PRAYER MEETING

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: The Baptism of the Lord

Monday: First Week in Ordinary Time begins

Wednesday: St. Hilary

Saturday: Blessed Virgin Mar

FEAST OF FAITH

The Sign of the Cross

At the beginning of our prayer, we make the sign of the cross together. This sign, simple and powerful, operates on many levels. We trace the sign of the cross over our bodies, reminding ourselves that the cross of Christ has become our source of resurrection, life, and grace. With this sign, we also profess our faith in the Trinity: the presider does not say "in the *names*," but "in the *name* of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit"—three persons, one God. The sign of the cross is also a baptismal reminder, for every sign of the cross echoes the words spoken over us at our baptism, which marked our entry into the saving mystery of Christ. This many-layered sign is also our primary sign of blessing: the cross is traced over people, places, and things upon which we ask God to impart divine benediction.

In blessing ourselves with the sign of the cross at the beginning of Mass, we acknowledge the mystery that has gathered us together: that Christ, the crucified and risen One, is living, and that we are members of his Body. Our response, our Amen, is our yes to all this, our first profession of faith.

—Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

CONDOLENCE

We extend our deepest sympathy and prayers to the Mize Family, for the sudden loss of their loved one, **Mr. Leroy Walker**, who died on Sunday, January 3, 2021. Funeral arrangements are incomplete at the time of publishing this bulletin. Please call the Church Office for more information.

Please lift up the Mize/Walker Family in your prayers, as they come together to plan the home going celebration of their loved one.

REFLECTING ON GOD'S WORD

This is one of the key moments in the life of Jesus. Up north in his hometown of Nazareth he must have heard about John. At some point an inner voice must have said, "Go south, go to the desert. Go listen to this preacher John."

When he came to the desert, he may have stood in a long line before that moment came when he entered the water and John baptized him. Mark gives us only the briefest account of their meeting, but does present John as expecting someone mightier than he who would baptize with the Holy Spirit.

It is this same Holy Spirit who came down on Jesus as he was coming out of the water. At that moment, the heavens were torn open, heaven reached down to touch the Galilean, and the Spirit descended like a dove. Have you ever seen a gull descend to snatch a fish or a hawk swoop down to seize its prey? By contrast, the image of a descending dove is one of beauty and grace, of gentle alighting.

The words do not announce Jesus to others, as in Matthew's account, but they are spoken only to him: "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased" (1:11), echoing the words the Lord speaks in the first song of the Servant in the book of Isaiah.

The descent of the dove did not mean an easy life for Jesus, but God had penetrated his being in a way that would then drive him into the desert to begin his mission of confronting the powers of sin and death. This gentle dove came—and continues to come—with a mighty power.

—James A. Wallace, C.Ss.R.

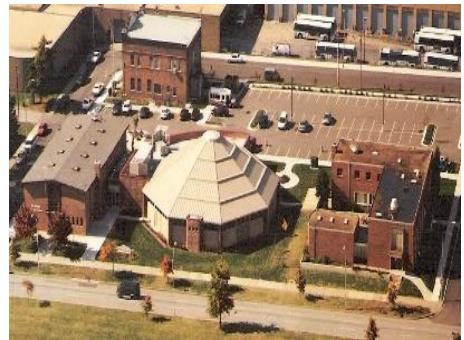
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2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES

This year, our 2021 Offering Envelopes will be mailed to your homes. If you have not yet received yours, please use the Supplemental Envelopes / located on the two small tables behind the back pews at the entry of the Sanctuary.

FORWARD IN FAITH



The Stewardship Committee extends a heartfelt thank you to all the St. Monica parishioners for the success of our 110 Anniversary Celebration and Virtual Silent Auction. The Committee worked with precision as a team, under the capable leadership of Mrs. Shirley Thaw, with expert guidance on the auction from Mrs. Angela Curry. Kim Urenda's technical assistance, and Dwight's performance as the announcer contributed to raising a total amount that exceeded our goal! Our success would not have been possible without your support. You donated and bid on many of the 56 available items.

During the process, we added St. Monica Twitter and Instagram accounts to expand our reach on social media. We expect the addition will attract new members as the downtown and 18th and Vine areas expand housing opportunities near the church.

Thank you again and look forward to future events to work on together as our parish moves "Forward in Faith."

Our goal is, to raise \$150,000 by October 2020. So far, we have received \$47,411.20, and \$102,588.50, still to go.

The goal is huge, but God is faithful. God bless you all.

Fr. Leonard

Bulletin Deadline

Wednesday / NOON