

✠ ♦The Baptism of The Lord ♦January 12, 2025♦ ✠

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

The baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ is an extremely difficult subject to comprehend. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC 1265) baptism not only erases our original sin, purifies from all current sins, but also makes the neophyte “a new creature,” an adopted son of God who has become a partaker of the divine nature, and a temple of the Holy Spirit.

Clearly, Jesus has no original sin, no current sin, is already Son of God and God in person, and has the fullness of the Holy Spirit. So, the question is: Why is He being baptized? The Eucharistic Prayer IV says, “Jesus shared our human nature in all things but sin”. Today’s gospel says:” After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized....” The mystery of Jesus is and will always be impenetrable to us, and we will never know nor understand (here on earth) how in Him both natures coexist, that means the divine and the human natures. Finally, we are baptized in Christ. The logical question we can ask as Pope John Paul II asked in May 1980 is: What have we done of our baptism?

ORDINARY TIME

After the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, Ordinary Time begins. We learn from the Ordo (Order of Prayer in the Liturgy of the Hours and Celebration of the Eucharist) that, besides the times of the year that have their own distinctive character (Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter....), there remain the cycle, a time, in which no particular aspect of the mystery of Christ is celebrated, thus Ordinary Time. So, Ordinary Time this year begins tomorrow Monday, January 13 and continues through Tuesday, March 4 (Mardi Gras) the day before Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the Lenten Season, followed by Easter and the Easter Season, which will end on Monday June 9, the day after Pentecost. Green being the church’s color in Ordinary Time.

SLEEPING BAG PROJECT

All are welcome to come help make sleeping bags for the homeless in the St. Pat’s Hall on Saturday January 18th from 10am to 4pm. No sewing skills required. Donations of blankets, fabric, thread, yarn, toiletries, and men’s ties can be placed in the blue barrel at the Hall entrance. For information, please call Joan at 570-942-4481.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

On Sunday January 12 we will be removing the Christmas Decorations at all churches. OLA at 10am, SP after 11am Mass and SML at 1pm. Many volunteers are needed to remove the decorations from all our churches. We appreciate all who can come.

ST. PATRICK MUSIC MINISTRY THANK YOU

We are so grateful for your generous Christmas gifts. Thank you for your support all year long as together we "Sing to the Lord, praise His name; proclaim his salvation day after day" (Psalm 96:2). Soli Deo Gloria!

THE SANCTUARY COURSE FOR CATHOLICS

This course is being offered at Our Lady of the Snows and St. Gregory churches. It is an 8-week course for anyone 18 years of age or older who wants to raise awareness, to learn about faith and mental health. The course is on Wednesday mornings at the Church of St. Gregory, January 22 to March 12, 10:30am to 12pm and Thursday evenings at Our Lady of the Snows, January 23 to March 13, 7 to 8:30pm. Zoom is available on Thursday evenings. Register by 1/20/25 at <https://catholicmhm/csdeanery-mhm>. For more info email: mhmclarkssummit@gmail.com.

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING

Training will be at Our Lady of Snows on January 25, 2025, from 8:30am to 3:30pm. It is free of charge and includes a light breakfast and lunch. This training is for any adult who interacts with youth 12-18 years old. This in person training program requires approximately 2 hours of online prework. Register by January 22, 2025, at <https://catholicmhm/csdeanery-mhm>. For more info email: mhmclarkssummit@gmail.com. The training objectives are to: 1) recognize the signs and symptoms of mental health challenges that may impact youth. 2) explain the impact of traumatic experiences and the role of resilience on adolescent development.

SP POTATO PANCAKE FUNDRAISER NEWS

Thank you to everyone who bought some yummy potato pancakes on January 3 as well as all the volunteers. We raised a total of \$ 551.84.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS / LECTORS SCHEDULE

January 18 & 19

Eucharistic Ministers

4 pm (OLA) Carmel Williams

9:00am (SML) Len Nash

11 am (SP) Chris Stutzman

Musicians

4 pm (OLA) Maria Fay

9:00am (SML) Danny Williams

11 am (SP) Maria Fay

Lectors

4 pm (OLA) Becky Mozeleski

9:00am (SML) Seb Naro

11 am (SP) 5th Grade Class

Altar Servers

11am (SP) Kali & Maci Harvatine

Shadow – Kevin & Margaret Jones

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Jan 18 – Sleeping bag project SP Hall 10am to 4pm

2024 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Before the end of January 2025 Contribution Statements For 2024 will be available for all registered parishioners. These statements may be used for tax purposes. Contact the office at 570-563-1622 if you need a statement.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL NEWS

Due to the weather this week the first meeting with the Coordinating Teams was postponed. The PPC and Coordinating Teams will now meet on February 4th @ 6:30pm in the OLA hall. Ann Marie Cawley from the Diocesan Office for Parish Life will share information regarding membership in a Coordinating Team and how we can proceed in planning action steps to bring the Pastoral Plan to life.

SP/OLA FAMILY FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Upcoming Events:

Jan 19 – 5th grade Mass at SP 11am

Jan 26 - Class

Feb 1 – 4th grade Mass at OLA 4pm

Feb 2 – Class & First Communion Parents Mtg. 10am

SML FAMILY FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Upcoming Events:

Jan 19 – Class

Jan 26 - Class

FIVE YEAR TREND REPORT

This weekend in the bulletin of each church there will be an insert of the five-year trend report for that church. Extra copies of all our church trend reports will be available at all churches.

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday (January 14) Weekday

8:00 am (OLA) Diane Green

By Mary Ann Ketchur

Wednesday (January 15) Weekday

8:00 am (SP) Maria Diaz

By Barry & Cynthia Singer

Thursday (January 16) Weekday

8:00 am (SML) Thomas & Rose Janoski

By Lisa Janoski

Saturday (January 18) The Vigil of The Second

Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 pm (OLA) Jeff Fleming

By Jim & Anne Millett

Sunday (January 19) The Second Sunday in

Ordinary Time

9:00 am (SML) Ronald Gorko

By The Zdaniewicz Family

11:00 am (SP) Mary Ann Sabuacak

By A Friend

WEEKLY OFFERINGS (COLLECTIONS)

SP Weekly \$ 2,543.00 Loose \$ 53.00 Christmas \$ 5,724.00

OLA Weekly \$ 3,627.00 Loose \$ 35.00 Christmas \$ 6,346.00

SML Weekly \$ 1,696.00 Loose \$ 33.00 Christmas \$ 3,210.00

May the Lord reward your generosity.

PENNSYLVANIANS FOR HUMAN LIFE

PRAISE 4 LIFE EVENT

There will be a FREE family-friendly potluck event with food music and encouragement at St. Mary's Center 320 Mifflin Ave. Scranton on Sunday, January 19th, 1pm. Bring a crock pot of your best chili to participate in the chili contest or bake your greatest pie and win a prize. Praise with us as we sing some contemporary Christian songs. Hear words of encouragement as we pray for LIFE! There will be activities for the kids! To register for this free event, call the Scranton PHL office at 570-343-5099.

DIOCESAN WOMAN'S RETREAT

The Bold & Beautiful Woman's age 18+ Retreat will be at Holy Transfiguration Retreat center in Dalton Pa. on January 24 to 26. This retreat is inspired by the teachings of St. Catherine of Siena. For more information contact the Office for Parish Life at 570-207-2213 ext.1100.

POWER OF THE HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS

"How happy is that Guardian Angel who accompanies a soul to Holy Mass." Saint John Vianney.