

Parish News...

Starting this Saturday, anyone attending any Mass regardless of vaccination status will be required to wear a face mask in the Church.

Church Envelopes have arrived and in the back of the Church. Please take them home. If you cannot find yours, contact the Parish office for assistance.



Faith Formation

With the winter weather upon us, I need to inform families of the winter school protocol for the school.

Should it be necessary to cancel classes due to the weather, I will have it announced on the local weather channels as well as send out a mass email advising that classes are canceled no later than 8am. Should a family feel the weather is too bad for the family to come to faith formation, I leave up to the family's decision to decide if they should come. Safety for your family should always be first.

Classes Resume January 16th

Parents, please remember that all people entering the building are required to wear a face mask. NO exceptions. There will be extra if needed for the children if required

I will be on vacation the weekend of January 16 and 23rd. Mrs. P Doggett and Mr. M. Wolkowicz will be attending the school in my absence. Should classes need to be canceled for some reason, I will advise everyone via email of cancellation of classes.

CONFIRMATION STUDENTS 10th Grade: It is important that all students attend classes in order to make Confirmation in May. The attendance has been reviewed and a number of students have missed a number of classes. Effective January 16th, students will be allowed 2 missed classes unless due to illness. If more than 2 more are missed, the student may not be able to make Confirmation.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday @ 3:15pm prior to Mass and the 1st Thursday of the month after the 12:10 Mass

Mass Schedule

Saturday 4pm

Sunday 7:30 AM, 8:30AM, 10AM Polish Mass and 11am

Let's remember that as Catholics, it is important to attend Sunday Mass. At Mass we are able to stand mystically at the foot of the cross and witness for ourselves the same self-sacrifice of Jesus, in an unbloody manner. Mass is a celebration of this sacrifice. It is the active participation of all that come together in the place of worship. While Faith Formation before the 11AM Mass, all families are welcome to this Mass. If unable to attend this Mass, please attend the Church Masses. Faith Formation Classes alone do not teach your children about their faith. It is important they see their faith in the Mass.



January 9th, The Baptism of the Lord

First Reading Is 29:1-2, 3-4, 9-10

Responsorial PS 72:1-2, 7-8 10-11, 12-13

Second Reading Acts 10:34-38

Gospel: LK 3:15-16, 21-22



While I have found these wonderful reflections on the Gospel readings, it is not meant to take the place of the Sunday Mass. Remember to attend Mass to hear Fr. Arthur or Deacon Kirk's a much better spiritual teaching of the Gospel reading.

This week's reflections comes from Sr. Kristine Anne Harpenau OSB

The Baptism of the Lord – Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

Mark's opening words in today's Gospel are striking. He writes: "The people were filled with expectation and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ." The Israelites had been waiting for centuries for "the Christ:" the One who would come and save them. To some of the people, John may have been a likely candidate for the Christ who was to come. He was a mesmerizing and ascetical man. He was an engaging speaker and he was a prophet.

However, John clarified his role for the people. He told them: "I am baptizing you with water, but one who is mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals." Then John added, "He will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire." John is speaking of Jesus whom he had just baptized.

After Jesus was baptized, he went off to pray. While he was in prayer, the heavens opened up and the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus in the form of a dove. And then a voice from heaven said: "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

Wouldn't it have been wonderful to live when Jesus walked this earth? If we had lived then, we also may have been entranced by this man, Jesus. However, Jesus does walk the earth today. He baptizes with the Spirit and He is at our sides constantly. He walks with you and with me. Do we truly appreciate the gift of baptism?

Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life. It is the gateway to life in the Spirit. Through Baptism, we are freed from sin and reborn as sons and daughters of God. We become members of Christ's Body, the Church. Thus, as members of Christ's Body, we are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in the Church's mission. "Baptism is the sacrament of regeneration through water in the word."

Most likely many of us were baptized as infants. Thus we likely do not have a memory of receiving this sacrament. Yet Baptism is the keystone for the other sacraments. Sit quietly for five to ten minutes and reflected on the following questions: What gifts have I received from the Sacrament of Baptism? Am I grateful for this sacrament? Do I truly appreciate the Sacraments of the Catholic Church or do I take them for granted?

If you choose to do this, you may find a new appreciation for the gift of your baptism, and it may strengthen your appreciation for your parents, your faith, and for the love God has for you. You are a child of God. What more do you need or want?



Do you think God was pleased with His son, Jesus?

I know He was, because the Bible tells us that He was. When Jesus was baptized, the Bible tells us that there was a voice from heaven that said, "This is my Son and I love Him. I am very pleased with Him."

Why do you think God was pleased with His son?

Let's read that verse again to see what God said first: "This is my Son and I love him. I am very pleased with him."

What did God say first?

That's right! God said, "This is my Son!" God said, "This is my Son and I love him."

What's the second thing God said? (Allow time for kids to answer.)

That's right! God said, "I love him." God loves His son!

(Show kids the photo album again) These pictures show a lot of things that our children did. But more than anything, these pictures show that these are OUR kids. They belong to us. And we love them!

When we trust in Jesus as our Savior, we become the children of God. Our baptism is like an official adoption ceremony. God loves us from the very beginning when we become His children because that is what He wants us to be.

God says to us, "You are my son. You are my daughter. And I love you!" God loves you! That's pretty awesome, isn't it?

I wonder if God has a photo album in heaven with your pictures in it. I know He has a book with all His children's names in it.

God is pleased with you when you become His child. It's wonderful to hear God say, "You are my child. I love you. And I am pleased with you."

Dear God, thank You that You adopt us as Your children. Thank You for loving us so much. In Jesus' name, amen.

Weekly prayer

As we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, let us pray that thru Baptism we remain close to the Lord



*Spirit of God,
descending on Jesus,
make us your people,
in Baptism and now,
beloved sons and daughters,
with whom God can be well pleased.
May we never take
our Baptism for granted,
and may we look for new life
in every baptised person.
Amen*

www.archtoronto.org
Prayer from www.cccb.ca



COVID Update:

New York State has instituted a mask mandate in all public places effective December 13 until further notice. It is being done as a safety precaution and out of the utmost concern for one's neighbor. Bishop Lucia expects that all parishes in the Diocese of Syracuse will cooperate with this important public health matter and comply with the mask mandate.

World Marriage Day

The Diocese of Syracuse will celebrate *World Marriage Day* on Sunday, February 13, 2022 by hosting a special Mass with Bishop Lucia at the Cathedral at 2:00pm. Couples married 20, 25, and 50+ years in 2022 will be recognized by receiving a certificate during Mass. A mailing will arrive next week with flyers, posters and a letter with information from Bishop Lucia.

Have a blessed and safe week.

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