

January 10, 2021
The Baptism of the Lord
Stewards of God's Power

Isaiah 55: 1-11
Isaiah 12: 2-3, 4, 5-6
1 John 5: 1-9
Mark 1: 7-11

Stewards of God's Power

In the years I shepherded the children and families through the ministry of Catholic Charities, I recognized the awesome power given me by God. Called to be a priest I have to preach the Gospel more by the example of work than by speaking words. The work I do must put into practice the Good News. Vulnerable, hurt people needed to experience God's recreative love in real time. I had to discern God's way working in me to in order to advance salvation which only God has in his power to do.

God has always promised salvation to *all* people as part of His creation. This promise is illustrated in the first reading from the Prophet Isaiah 55. The banquet is now open to all people, beyond those of Israel. The benefits assured to David now extend to the world. God's power is exclaimed in this reading. God's rain comes down and does not return to him until it produces good fruit. John amplifies this.

In 1 John 5, we are told we conquer the world's evil by faith in Jesus Christ as God's son. Our obedience to God's commands permits us to find and use the power to overcome evil. The "Spirit, the water, and the blood" speak to God's Spirit extending divine power through Jesus Christ's life and ministry. The water and blood reference Jesus' baptism and the shedding of his blood on the cross. From these actions comes the Resurrection, Ascension, and sending of the Holy Spirit. Accepting the truth of the event of Jesus Christ's life we gain power. We accept Jesus Christ lives now and provides life.

The Baptism of the Lord not only introduces Jesus and his earthly ministry. It compels us to minister also.

The priesthood and my obedience to God's Church ended me up raising children and their families. Something unexpected, right? But by faith, the power of God worked through me and others to bring life to all we encountered.

Brothers and sisters, *Stewardship* begins with asking God what direction he has in mind for you. It is discerning the script he has written for the play of your life. God defines who you are and has already given you much value. Deliberate moments of prayer and reflection on the events and signs in your life, measured up to the Holy Scriptures preached to us each Sunday,

and having patience while reflecting on all this helps to recognize who you are and the direction you are to take in life.

Jesus' baptism was a revelation to the world of who Jesus is and what direction he would take in his earthly life. He submitted himself to the will of God the Father. As such he aligned himself with all of the Father's creatures by receiving the baptism all others received. The baptism said, "I am ready to empty myself of the worldly desires and distractions. I am ready to direct my life in the way God knows best. I will discern his guidance day by day and a little bit at a time. In this way I will know how to use God's Power in my life and how to take good care of that power.

Please join together as this parish community and discern your direction with the script God has written for you. Doing so, one by one we will be good Stewards of this parish. We will desire to build it as a place God's love shines through. Other people will see us as servants, and we will attract them to the love we know.

As we are now in the time of year to renew (or make for the first time) our Stewardship to our Parish and beyond it take a few moments to reflect on the following.

Self-Reflection

When did you first become aware of God's call to you?

Describe the sense of awareness that you had. How did you know God was reaching out to you?

How did you begin to respond? Was it immediate? Did you resist at first?

In adulthood what have been God's signs to you?

In what way, over the years, have you acted on God's call?

What should the rest of the people of the parish do to respond to God's call?

What goodness would come to us as we respond to God's call?

Stewardship

Attendance last week: 233
Tithes Collected: \$4,817.00
Online Giving: \$860.00
Total: \$5,677.00

Christmas Attendance: 252
Tithes Collected: \$7,132.00
Online Giving: \$1,785.00
Total: \$8,917.00

Attendance 12/27/20: 202
Tithes Collected: \$6,888.50
Online Giving: \$1,137.00
Total: \$8,025.50

Solemnity of Mary
Attendance: 93
Tithes Collected: \$1,335.00

Thank you!

CALENDAR OF SOME IMPORTANT EVENTS

Stewardship Sundays

January 10, 17, 24,

Stewardship Recognition Sunday

January 31st. Special Community Person besides a parish member.

Ash Wednesday. February 18th. Liturgy will be at 7:00pm.

Reconciliation Thursday. February 19th. A special prayer service and the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be at 7:00pm.

Holy Week Begins

Passion Sunday, March 28th

Holy Thursday, April 1st at 7pm

Good Friday, April 2nd at 7pm

Easter Vigil, April 3rd at 8pm

Easter Sunday, April 4th

Masses at 9am and 10:45am

STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship is the care we take of the gifts we have been given. The primary gifts are those of Time, Talent and Treasure. Within these are found all the other attributes you may find in yourself.

I think of the talents I have been given by God. They are many. I could not decide what course in life I should take. I wanted to do all the things I ever

dreamed of. Yet, in the practical sense I could only pick one way in life, one vocation.

However, once I said yes to God, all the things I thought of doing in my lifetime slowly began to unfold for me. By saying yes to God and accepting His call to the priesthood all my talents were put to good use.

Take a good look at yourself. What talents do you have? What gifts stand out to you? How might you put them to use for the glory of God and His people?

You are gifted. You are a unique creation of God. Take care of all that you are and take care of all that is around you. Be a good steward.

Stewardship Days begin January 10th. Everyone will have the chance to contribute his and her Time, Talent and Treasure.

Let us join together and make the Lord appear in our world by supporting this parish and beyond!

This Year's Witness Speaker. Winsome Connell

Winsome has served the Church in many different ways over many years. First and foremost, she is a wife and mother. You mainly know her as one who reads the Sacred Scriptures to us at Sunday Liturgy. You also know her daughter to be one who shares her talent in the parish music apostolate.

Winsome has been reflecting on the items presented above for your own reflection. Please listen to her with much attention.

Stewardship Letters of Commitment

By now you have received the Stewardship Letter and the Letter of Commitment in the mail. Or, you have read it on our website. Please reflect deeply on your necessary support of the parish and beyond the parish. Be deliberate in making a responsible and just tithe (on-going financial support) to the parish and the ABCD as it is described in the letter.

We want to spread the Good News of God's holy power to others.

Thank you.

Fr. Bob Tywoniak

LITURGY FOR JANUARY 10th, 2021
BAPTISM OF THE LORD

HYMN No. 1: COME TO THE RIVER

**Come, O Come, come to the river flowing from the
body of Christ. We'll go down, deep in the water, but
in the Lord we shall a rise.**

1. Washed in waters of rebirth, we have put on Christ Jesus.
2. Priestly people are we, sealed and sent by the Spirit.
3. Blest are those who thirst for the reign of God's justice.
4. Let us walk in the light of God's holy promise.
5. Those who sow in tears reap the harvest rejoicing.

HYMN NO. 2: COME TO THE WATER

1. Let all who thirsty, let them come to the water.
And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord: without money, without price. Why should you pay the price, except for the Lord?
2. And let all who seek, let them come to the water.
And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord: without money, without strife, why should you spend your life, except for the Lord?
3. And let all who toil, let them come to the water.
And let all who are weary, let them come to the Lord: all who labor, without rest. How can your soul find rest, except for the Lord?
4. And let all the poor, let them come to the water.
Bring the ones who are laden, bring them all to the Lord; bring the children without might. Easy the load and light: come to the Lord.

HYMN NO. 3: THE EYES AND HANDS OF CHRIST

**Where two or three are gathered in my name, love
will be found, life will abound. By name we are
called, from water we are sent; to become the
eyes and hands of Christ.**

1. One we become, no longer strangers. No longer empty or frail. Filled with the Spirit, ev'ry hunger satisfied. Christ is the center of our lives.
2. One in the Spirit, one in the Lord. One in the breaking of the bread. Life giving witness of our dying and new life. Held by the promise in our hands.
3. Not what we are, but what we become. Not what we say, but what we do. Living the challenge as bearers of light. We are the eyes and hands of Christ.

HYMN NO. 4: SHOUT TO THE LORD

1. My Jesus, my Saviour, Lord, there is none like you; all of my days I want to praise the wonders of Your mighty love.
2. My comfort, my shelter, tower of refuge and strength; let every breath, all that I am, never cease to worship you.
3. Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing. Power and majesty, praise to the King. Mountains bow down and the seas will roar at the sound of Your name. I sing for joy at the work of Your hands, forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand, nothing compares to the promise I have in You.

HYMN NO. 5: WE BELONG TO YOU

**We belong to you, O Lord of our longing, we belong
to you. In our daily living, drying and rising we
belong to you.**

1. In the waters of your mercy, when the old become the new, souls united in the myst'ry; we belong to you.
2. Filled with gifts and filled with goodness, spirit breathing life into, all who seek to find their purpose; we belong to you.
3. When we share the bread you've broken with the many and the few, we are blessed and we are broken; we belong to you.
4. We are called to share your word, Lord, in all we say and all we do. As our journey moves us onward, we belong to you.

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OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

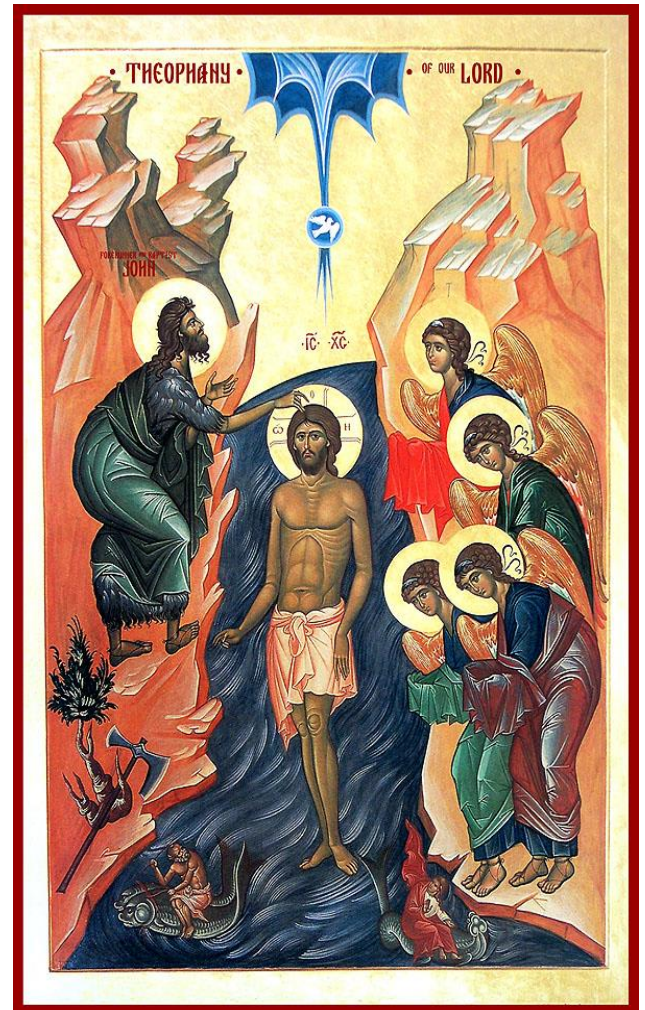
We are aware many of you did not get your tithe envelopes in the mail this quarter. Due to overwhelming volume and the depletion of our Mail Service, they have not kept up with bulk deliveries. Please use pew envelopes or an envelope you bring from home.

PRINT YOUR FULL NAME AND ENVELOPE NUMBER ON
THE ENVELOPE YOU USE.

Remember to place your tithe in the wooden pillars that are at the ends of the last pews. Or you may use the large basket that is in the foyer.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Joe Alfaro, Jordan Almendral, JoAnn Anderson, Michael Beard, Karen Becker, Mary Benivegna, Kyle Brincat, Margarita Bogle, Tom Carver, Sean Chin, Robert Clark, Mary Collis, John Cooper, Logan Costante, Gregoria Daen, Sam DeMarco, Ines DeSalle, Roseanne DeSimone, Lisa DeStasio, John Dooney, Nelson Douaihi, Peggy Duff, Susan Fabbri, Lisa Findlay, Megan Forrester, Joshua Freeman, Richard Gossett, Ana Gilajota, Stephen Goch, Keri Greenan, Tyler Harrison, Cindy Hogman, Kara, Nancy Hernandez, Tiffany Kentosh, Butch Klinger, John LaNeve, Rey Lizcano, Judith Kolo, Tamika Lee, Bernie Ligget, Gail Martin, Sean Martin, Mary McKelvey, Betsy McMahan, Clare McMahan, Frank McNeil, Dan Murphy, Teresita Nazareno, Lauren Nicole, Thomas O'Brien, Barbara Perry, Della Mae Reblin, Lucy Reitano, Coleen Riley, Dee Ripple, Matilda Rivier, Charles Rousseau, Anthony Ruggiero, Theresa Schluter, Brad Schroder, Ellen Seaman, Roger Sherman, Jim Smullen, Vivian Spasiano, Rick Steffan, M. Stoufer, Richard Taylor, Antoinette Teresi, Constantino Thomas, Margarita Verano, Peggy Weiss, Ed Wisley, Nancy Zakem, Marie & Jeff

The Baptism of the Lord



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MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 9

- 4:00 p.m. † Delores Schwenk by Joseph Johnson
 † Edward Ford by Judy Droder

Sunday, January 10

- 9:00 a.m. Blessed Sacrament Parish
 10:45 a.m. † Peter Quintero by Miriam
 † Patricia Brown by uncle Dan & Dil

Monday, January 11

- 8:00 a.m. NO MASS

Tuesday, January 12

- 8:00 a.m. † Fr. Thomas Foudy by Nelly Kane & Family

Wednesday, January 13

- 8:00 a.m. Past & Present Members & Benefactors of SVDP Society

Thursday, January 14

- 4:00 p.m. Dwayne, David, Whitley by Ed Batcho

Friday, January 15

- 10:45 a.m. † Andrew Murphy by Doris Emmett

Saturday, January 16

- 4:00 p.m. † Rafick Henein by Vivian Fuentes
 † Louis & Mary Michel by Anthoy & Rosemary

Sunday, January 17

- 9:00 a.m. † Danny Touhy by Joyce
 10:45 a.m. † Tina Bishara by Family
 † Jean Ingraham by Dan Murphy & Dil Hatchett