

**Baptism of the Lord**

We come today to the end of the Christmas season. And we have the third great 'epiphany' or showing of God in the human person of Jesus. Jesus is now an adult, probably about 30 years of age. We are brought to the banks of the River Jordan somewhere north of Jerusalem where John the Baptist, a cousin of Jesus, is living out in the desert. In the Eastern Church this feast is called Theophany because at the baptism of Christ in the River Jordan God appeared in three persons. The baptism of John was a sort of sacramental preparatory for the Baptism of Christ. At Christ's baptism the Holy Spirit descended upon Him; at our Baptism the Trinity took its abode in our soul. At His baptism Christ was proclaimed the "Beloved Son" of the Father; at our Baptism we become the adopted sons of God. At Christ's baptism the heavens were opened; at our Baptism heaven was opened to us. At His baptism Jesus prayed; after our Baptism we must pray to avoid actual sin.

**Why baptise Jesus?**

We might ask ourselves: Why did Jesus need to be baptised? Most of those coming to John the Baptist were repentant sinners. Our baptism, too, is partly to rescue us from the power of sin by being bathed in the redemptive love of Christ. There are two answers we can give to this question:

- a. By being baptised in the River Jordan with all those self-proclaimed sinners, Jesus shows his total solidarity with us. "The Word was made flesh and lived among us," says John's gospel.
- b. Secondly, something different is happening here beyond an ordinary baptism. It was at this moment that the Spirit of God in the visible form of a dove comes down on Jesus. A voice of the Father, says, "You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you." It is clearly a form of "missioning" for Jesus. We could call it his 'Pentecost' experience. It is a clear endorsement from his Father for the work that Jesus is about to begin.

**Reflecting on our own baptism:** today we have an opportunity to reflect on our own baptism. It is not something which happened a long time and which "made" us Catholics. It is not just a ceremony lasting a few minutes which produces magical effects; it is the beginning of a lifelong journey. It is the beginning of a process of growing into the Body of Christ as its members. So let us today renew our faith in and our commitment to follow Jesus.

The tree that is beside the running water is fresher and gives more fruit.  
**St. Teresa of Avila**

**Vocations - The Baptism of the Lord** - As John the Baptist introduced the people of his time to Jesus "a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'" Perhaps God is calling you to do the same in our time as a priest. If so, contact Fr. Michael King, Vocation Director, Diocese of Hamilton at 905-528-7988 or [vocations@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:vocations@hamiltondiocese.com)

**Parish Events**

**First Holy Communion & Confirmation**

**Offertory Procession:** Confirmandi & First Communion candidates will bring the offertory gifts to the altar on the following Sundays:

**January 12<sup>th</sup> at 10: 00 a.m. Baptism of the Lord**

I would like to invite all First Communion children and our Confirmandi (students who received confirmation) and their parents for a solemn renewal of our Baptismal promises.

**January 23, 2020 at 7:00p.m.** Meeting with Confirmandi and their parents. Catechetical Session 3: "Eucharist – the gift of God's Love".

**February 2, 2020 at 10.00 a.m.** Holy Mass with First Communion children and blessing their medallions...

**February 6, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.** Meeting with First Communion children and their parents: Catechetical Session 3: "Discovering the gift of the Eucharist".

**Mass Intentions for 2020**

In order to give equal opportunity for all members in our parish who would like to request Mass intentions in 2020, I would like to propose the following scenario. Based on the number of families in the parish that are registered, each family may reserve 1 Saturday Mass and 1 week day Mass. Please make these requests during the next 3 weeks for the year 2020. After the 3 weeks, if there is space available you can request as many Mass intentions as you need. If there is a greater demand for Mass intentions, I will introduce a 'Group Mass Intentions' in order to respond to your needs.

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** - The Eucharist is the center and origin of the life of the Church. Therefore, exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in our church (Divine Mercy Chapel) is taking place from Monday to Friday from 9:00 am – 9:00 pm. We would like to invite our parishioners to sign up for adoration and dedicate at least one hour a week to be with Jesus and nourish our spiritual life. "If you are passing before a Church, enter to greet our Lord. Could you pass the door of a friend without saying hello?" St. J. Vianney

**January 12 - 19, 2020**

**Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup> – 10 a.m. – Baptism of Emelio Vetere, Parents Jeff Vetere and Mary-Elizabeth Zister**

**Tuesday, January 14 – 7:00 p.m.**  
**NO MASS**

**Wednesday, January 15 – 8:30 a.m.**  
**NO MASS**

**Thursday, January 16 – 8:30 a.m.**  
**NO MASS**

**Friday, January 17 – 8:30 a.m.**  
**NO MASS**

**Saturday, January 18 – 9:00 a.m.**  
 +**Agnes Bender –MH & Hugh Stroeder**

**Saturday - 5:00 p.m.**  
 +**Lincoln & Lorne Snyder – Ann Snyder**  
 +**Don Williams – Williams Family**

**Sunday, January 19 – 10:00 a.m.**  
**Parishioners of St. Teresa Parish**

**Diocese of Hamilton Prayer Calendar 2020**

Monday, January 13– Rev. Adam Wroblewicz  
 Tuesday, January 14 – Rev. Kevin D'Souza  
 Wednesday, January 15 – Youth Ministers  
 Thursday, January 16 – Rev. Peter Ciallella  
 Friday, January 17 – Rev. Roshan Loy D'Souza  
 Saturday, January 18 – Rev. Francis Salasari  
 Sunday, January 19 – Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

**One Heart, One Soul - Parish Capital Campaign**

After a process of discernment and consultation the Hamilton Diocese invited parishes to enter the Parish Capital Campaign. It is an effort to raise money, within three to five years, to pay for significant projects, build up an endowment and or heritage fund for future use. During the next couple of weeks our team will provide more details concerning this project. Our parish community is invited to learn more about this program and discern the future projects for our capital campaign.

**What is a capital campaign?** A capital campaign is an effort to raise money in a fairly short time (three to five years) to pay for a significant project or build up an endowment or heritage fund for future use. For a Catholic diocese or parish, this refers to gifts and pledges over and above a parishioner's regular giving to the Sunday collection. Parishioners who make pledges to the Diocese of Hamilton's campaign will have three years to fulfill their commitment.

**Bingo Matinee on Saturday, January 18, 2020** from

1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the Charities Bingo Hall.

**Stewardship Report December 25, 2019**

Envelopes.....	\$3,720.00
Loose.....	508.15
Building and Maintenance.....	100.00
Regular Collection.....	480.00
Christmas Flower Donation.....	145.00
St. David's Secondary School Donation.....	180.00

**Stewardship Report December 29, 2019**

Envelopes.....	\$2,077.00
Loose.....	241.65
Building and Maintenance.....	759.00
Christmas.....	280.00
Christmas Flower Donation.....	5.00
Initial Offering.....	25.00

**Parish Family Christmas Dinner – Thank You!**

Thank you to all who helped in the planning, donations, cooking, serving, entertaining, setup and cleanup for our Christmas Dinner. We served about 100 meals and made \$1,119.85.

**Ornaments from the Christmas Trees:** the ornaments made by some of our First Communion and Confirmation students will be taken down this coming week and given to our sick parishioners during next pastoral visit. Thank you for this wonderful initiative in order to remember our shut-ins and also inviting our community to pray for them.

**TAX RECEIPT** – I would like to thank all those who use envelopes and so generously support our parish community. By using envelopes you can file your contributions along with your personal income tax return. Please make sure that we have your updated address information to mail your 2019 tax receipt. If not, please contact our parish office.

**Diocesan Bookkeeping Policy** - requires that parish books close on December 31st. Contributions made in January cannot be applied to 2019 offerings.

**Attention to all Parishioners**

We would like to ask our Parishioners to inform our office of any changes to your address. If you know of any older parishioners who are no longer able to come to Mass and have not been visited by the Pastor, please let us know so we can provide pastoral care to those who are sick and home bound. Thank you for your co-operation.

**Parish Capital Campaign on Wednesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>** at 7 p.m. There will be a meeting for which I invite members of Capital Campaign Committee, Parish Pastoral Council and Finance Committee. During our gathering we will discuss the details concerning Capital Campaign in our parish and discern the most important projects of our community. I'd like to invite our entire parish to pray for this campaign so that it becomes an opportunity to bring new life and new vision to our parish family.