



Scripture Readings for Today

1st Reading: Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7

2nd Reading: Acts 10:34-38

Gospel: Mark 1:7-11

Scripture Readings for January 18th

1st Reading: 1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20

Gospel: John 1:35-42

Dear Parishioners,

It used to be that three mysteries were celebrated on the Feast of the Epiphany: The Coming of the Magi, the Baptism of the Lord, and the Wedding Feast at Cana. After all, all three of these events are epiphanies (manifestations or revelations or showings) of God's glory in Jesus Christ. However, about fifty years ago, the Baptism of the Lord began to be celebrated as a separate feast.

People rightly wonder why Jesus came to be baptized. After all, he was without sin and had no need to repent. Some of the Church Fathers saw our Lord's baptism as a blessing of all the water that would be used in baptisms in the years to come. Furthermore, since Jesus came in the flesh to save mankind, his baptism identifies himself with sinful mankind. It shows that he intends to take upon himself all the sins of all mankind which he will eventually nail to the Cross.

Today as we celebrate our Lord's Baptism and his desire to identify himself with us, let us resolve to identify ourselves more closely with Jesus by becoming that suffering servant we read about in today's 1st reading from Isaiah with whom God is pleased.

Fr. Carl

THE COLLECTION FOR JANUARY 3-4TH

Envelopes	\$17,603.05
Loose	\$1093.73
Poor Boxes	\$847.03
Children's	\$39.54



Today we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. The U.S. bishop's pastoral on stewardship reminds us that Baptism gives all of His disciples a share in His priestly work and calls them "to offer up the world and all that is in it – especially themselves – to the Lord of all."

As we begin a new year, let us take time to make stewardship of time and talent a part of our lifestyle and stewardship of treasure a part of our budget.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS of our deceased parishioners.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS, especially those in hospitals – Dottie Lappe, Concetta Fowler, Mary Salapong, Cecelia Brushwiler, and Maribelle Kursch.

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED for all those recovering from surgeries and illness and for: Florence Fink, Betty Wissman, Milton Getka, Dolores Carver, Fr. Nicholas Vitesse, Audie Murphy, Lou Kaminski, Charles & Jacque Harris, John Joseph, Mr. and Mrs. William Lang, and Noreen Newcomb.

PRAYER FOR OUR SERVICE PEOPLE: We ask you to remember the parishioners, family & friends serving in the military: USMC – Pvt. Harry Harrison Bruns, Cpl. Joseph Bytella, LCpl. Sean Fitzpatrick, LCpl Alex Webb, LCpl. John J. Cohee, Jr., Sgt. David Burton; Nat'l Guard – Pfc. Ryan Kamauff, David Parker; Army – Andy Deponai, Timothy Muhl, Sgt. Joshua Callow, Specialist Stephen Grenfell, 1st Lt. Stephen Winter, 1st Lt. Sheldon Broedel, Recon Scout Matt Lambert.

THE MASS COUNT FOR JANUARY 3-4TH

5 PM – 250	7:30 AM – 161	9 AM – 331
10:30 AM – 366	12 PM – 238	Total – 1346

Mass Intentions**MASSES FOR THE WEEK OF JAN 12- 18TH**

MONDAY 1/12	6:30 a.m. – Genevieve Lewis 8:00 a.m. – Sr. Marie Edwina SSND
TUESDAY 1/13	6:30 a.m. – Louis Rettberg 8:00 a.m. – Msgr. Francis W. Fortenbaugh
WED. 1/14	6:30 a.m. – Mary Plazek 8:00 a.m. – Int. of Philip & Arlene Mango
THURS. 1/15	6:30 a.m. – Int. of Berlin Family 8:00a.m. – Joseph Johnson
FRIDAY 1/16	6:30 a.m. – Int. of Sheree Antoch 8:00 a.m. – Bob Wissman
SAT. 1/17	8:00 a.m. – Barbara Andresky 5:00 p.m. – Mr & Mrs Thomas Runkles
SUNDAY 1/18	7:30 a.m. – Bianco & Lancelotta families 9:00 a.m. – Int. of Kuzmak Family 10:30 a.m. – For the Parishioners 12:00 p.m. – Mary MacDaniel

DAILY READINGS

Monday 1/12	<i>Weekday</i> Reading: Hebrews 1:1-6 Gospel: Mark 1:14-20
Tuesday 1/13	<i>St. Hilary</i> Reading: Hebrews 2:5-12 Gospel: Mark 1:21-28
Wednesday 1/14	<i>Weekday</i> Reading: Hebrews 2:14-18 Gospel: Mark 1:29-39
Thursday 1/15	<i>Weekday</i> Reading: Hebrews 3:7-14 Gospel: Mark 1:40-45
Friday 1/16	<i>Weekday</i> Reading: Hebrews 4:1-5, 11 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12
Saturday 1/17	<i>St. Anthony</i> Reading: Hebrews 4:12-16 Gospel: Mark 2:13-17

CONGRATULATIONS to Audrey & Cletus Beckman who are celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary this weekend.

7TH GRADE CONFIRMATION MEETING: A meeting for all seventh grade students who wish to be Confirmed in 2009 will be held this Thursday, Jan. 15th at 7 p.m. in the Lower Church. Information regarding Confirmation will be explained and distributed. Please have a parent or guardian accompany you to this meeting.

OUR DAILY BREAD – the next food delivery date is Friday, January 16th. Drop off your donations at Church on Thursday evening 6:30 – 7:45 p.m. or Friday morning before the 8:00 a.m. Mass. Baking pans will be available on the radiator at the side entrances of church. Thank you to all who faithfully participate in this program for the poor and needy.

THE SECOND COLLECTION to be taken up at all the Masses next weekend will be the **Annual Archdiocesan Collection** for the **Special Care of our Archdiocesan Priests**. This collection will be for the sole purpose of caring for our retired Archdiocesan priests who are now in Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities. They have contributed many years of service to all of us. Please remember them now by contributing to this most essential collection. Your generosity is deeply appreciated!

CONFIRMATION INVITATION LITURGY – Please join us next Sunday, January 18 at the 9:00 a.m. Mass as we recognize and pray for our Confirmation candidates in a special way as they continue their Sacramental preparation.

You are cordially invited to the

St. Agnes School Open House
Sunday, January 25, 2009
10:15AM – 12 Noon

Please join us for a special Mass at 9:00 a.m.
followed by a School Open House

St Agnes Catholic School
An Exceptional Education and Faith Formation
Before & After School Care
Nursery – Grade 8

Registration is Friday, February 20th, 8:30-1:00 p.m.
Call 410-747-4070 for more info. Or visit
www.stagnesschool.net.

ST. AGNES SCHOOL NEWS!

Congratulations to our 2nd grade students who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on January 6th, and thank you to Mrs. Baldwin and Ms. Kraning for their dedicated preparation of our children for this beautiful Sacrament.

Re-registration forms will be sent home with your child this week. Please complete the form and return it to the School Office to confirm your child's place for the 2009-10 school year. Thank you.

Feast of St. Agnes Liturgy will be held on Friday, January 16th at 9:00 A.M. Please join us as we honor our school and parish's patron saint.

Trimester 2 Interim Reports will be sent home with your child on Thursday, January 22nd. Please sign the tear-off on the bottom of the report and return it to your child's homeroom teacher on January 23rd.

Catholic Schools Week: This year's theme is "Celebrate Service". Join us in celebrating the good news in Catholic education here at St. Agnes from January 25th-January 30th. Details about CSW events will be in next week's bulletin.

Dates to Remember:

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 1/13 | H S A meeting 7:00 P.M. |
| 1/14 | Re-registration forms sent home
12:30 Dismissal |
| 1/15 | 7 th Grade Confirmation meeting
7:00 P.M. lower Church |
| 1/16 | Feast of St. Agnes Liturgy 9:00 A.M. |
| 1/19 | School Closed – Dr. Martin Luther King Day |
| 1/22 | Trimester 2 Interim Reports |
| 1/23 | 12:30 dismissal |

LONGABERGER BASKET BINGO sponsored by St. Agnes Men's Club will be held on **Friday, January 23rd**, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Old School Cafeteria. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$17.00 at the door. Sorry, no one under 16 years old will be admitted. For ticket information contact Buck Sipes at 410-747-5143.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER: Let a marriage encounter weekend renew your love. Upcoming weekend is February 20-22, 2009. For more information or to register call toll free 1-877-558-LOVE (5683) or visit our website at www.wwme.net

St. Agnes Youth Ministry**Sunday, Jan 11 – Movie Night**

Please bring a G or PG rated movie to youth group tonight. We will watch whichever movie receives the most votes!

Religious Education News**Sunday, January 25**

No Class – Catholic Schools Week

MEN'S WEEKEND RETREAT – The St. Agnes and Patapsco Knights of Columbus Councils invite the men of our parish to attend a weekend retreat at the Loyola Retreat House in Faulkner, Md., from Feb. 27- Mar 1st. Cost is \$215.00. For more information call Clif Ziegler at 410-747-2532 or Tom Slifker at 410-465-3485.



FRESH START!! A New Year may mean a change in the way you love. It's never too late to learn Natural Family Planning. A local NFP course will be offered for engaged and married couples starting soon. For more information, call Tom and Patty Strunck at 410-696-2269 or email them at strunckfamily@cclcentralmd.org.

ALL MARRIED COUPLES are cordially invited to join Archbishop Edwin O'Brien for the special World Marriage Day Mass and Reception at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, February 8, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. The Mass will be interpreted for the hearing impaired.



LONGEST MARRIED COUPLE: Our parish is participating in Worldwide Marriage Encounter's search for the longest married couple in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. One nominee from each parish will be honored during a special Mass celebrated by Archbishop Edwin O'Brien. Please give the names of your candidates, married 50 years or more, to the parish office. Please include their names, address, telephone and wedding date.

DONATE YOUR CAR TO CATHOLIC CHARITIES
Call 410-625-8444 or toll free at 1-866-486-6140 or donate online at www.cc-md.org. FREE pick-up and towing!

RESPECT LIFE CORNER

January 22, 2009, marks the 36th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, the infamous Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion on demand for all nine months of pregnancy. As we begin the new year, more than 50,000,000 innocent unborn children will have lost their lives to abortion. Join tens of thousands, Jan. 22 at the **MARCH FOR LIFE** in Washington D.C., to show the new administration and our legislators that we will not tolerate abortion on demand, partial-birth abortion, assisted suicide and euthanasia. Please plan to participate in this March!

St. Agnes will sponsor a bus. If interested in attending, please call Lois Nejfelt at 410-788-9414 for details and to reserve a spot on the bus.

RESPECT LIFE SYMPOSIUM – will be held Monday, January 19 from 7 – 9 pm at the Church of the Ascension in Halethorpe. Join us to learn why the Church teaches what it does about abortion, stem cells, euthanasia, and capital punishment.

For more info, please visit www.usccb.org/prolife

Pregnant, Need Help?

Call the Gabriel Network – 1-800-ANGEL-OK
Suffering Post-Abortion Stress?
Call Project Rachel – 1-800-286-4224

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES! Each year the Maryland State Council of the Knights of Columbus awards several four year college scholarships to sons and daughters of members of the K of C and to Catholic students in general and several scholarships for students entering Catholic high schools. Interested parents and students may obtain specific information and applications by writing to: Maryland State Council Knights of Columbus, 10815 Stang Road, Owings Mills, MD 21117, or visit www.kofcmd.org/state/committees/scholarships.htm

BALTIMORE CURSILLO: “A Spring Spiritual Treasure Hunt”, The Baltimore Diocese Cursillo weekends are being offered, Feb. 5th for men and Feb. 19th for women in Spring of 2009. This is a great opportunity to hear God’s message for the preparation of Lent and for the rest of your life, what we call “Fourth Day”. Do you have an “ideal”? Come and find yours! For more info, call Han Lee at 443.570.4067.

SPECIAL REQUEST: Due to our recent financial audit by the Archdiocese, beginning January 2009, we will be unable to record a check designated for more than 1 purpose in the offertory collection. If you wish to make donations to two or more collections, please include separate checks in your envelope. As a reminder, we cannot record loose checks put in the collection basket. Please use an envelope for all donations. Thank you.

RACHEL’S VINEYARD RETREAT: January 23-25, *“Something inside died following the abortion”*

A Rachel’s Vineyard weekend retreat for spiritual and emotional healing after abortion trauma will be held in Baltimore, MD. The confidential retreat may assist you in the journey toward healing and reconciliation. Please call 1-800-286-4224. Or visit www.project-rachel.net.

A MARRIED COUPLES RETREAT will be held at Priestfield Retreat Center, WV, on Feb. 27, March 6, March 13, March 20, March 27, and April 3. These retreats have been held for over 35 years and couples who attend come away feeling spiritually refreshed. For more info, call Elaine & Frank Galeone at 410-252-5355.

CATHOLIC ALUMNI CLUB – is a social organization for those free to marry in the church. Monthly activities include dinners, movies, cultural events, religious and charitable activities. For information call Tina at 443.922.9824 or Pat at 410-580-1250.

END OF YEAR TAX STATEMENTS – Contribution statements for the year 2008 will be available beginning in mid-January. Please fill out the form below and place in the collection basket or return to the parish office.

PLEASE SEND ME A COPY OF MY 2008 CONTRIBUTIONS.

NAME: _____

ENVELOPE #: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

Baptism of the Lord

By Paul Turner



The Christmas season comes to its close when we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, an event recorded in all four Gospels. To begin his public ministry, Jesus presented himself to be baptized by John the Baptist, and God manifested Jesus as the divine Son.

Because we associate baptism with the forgiveness of sins, the idea that the sinless Jesus would undergo baptism seems out of place. The evangelists must have thought the same; as a whole, they downplay the incident. But the baptism of Jesus had nothing to do with forgiveness; it had everything to do with manifestation. It was a new beginning because it publicly revealed Jesus' identity, and that testimony came not from just any witness but from God.

Three incidents in the Bible are traditionally called the "epiphany" events or the "manifestations" of Jesus, newly arrived on the biblical scene: the visit of the magi, the baptism, and the miracle at the wedding in Cana. Prior to 1969 we heard all three of these Scriptures in successive weeks: Jan. 6, Jan. 13, and on the following Sunday. All three stories form a unit because they progressively reveal the identity, the authority and the power of Jesus.

In today's calendar the Sunday readings spread over a three-year cycle. On the Baptism of the Lord we hear a different evangelist's account each year. Only in year C does the following Sunday feature the Gospel of the wedding at Cana to unify the three celebrations.

In the United States we celebrate Epiphany on a Sunday. But in countries where the Epiphany is a holy day of obligation, it is celebrated on Jan. 6. In the United States, the Baptism of the Lord is usually the Sunday after the Epiphany, but if Epiphany comes late, falling on Jan. 6 or 7, the Baptism of the Lord goes to the next day, Jan. 7 or 8, a Monday, in order to make room for ordinary time.

ST. ANTHONY, ABBOT

Feast Day – January 17th

"Seeing the kind of life he lived, the villagers and all the good men he knew called him the friend of God, and loved him as both son and brother." We read these words from the *Life of St. Anthony* by St. Athanasius in our Office of Readings today.

What we know of St. Anthony (or Antony, 251-356) is from St. Athanasius. Born in Egypt, he is honored as the founder of monasticism. St. Athanasius wrote his life shortly after his death, writing that "you also, once you have heard the story, will not merely admire the man, but will wish to emulate his resolution as well." Athanasius presents a model of a life consecrated to God. St. Augustine in his *Confessions* tells us that the book had a decisive influence on his own conversion and on the vocations of others to the monastic life.

Anthony at age 20 took literally the gospel injunction to sell what he had and give it to the poor. For the next 85 years he lived an austere, ascetical life, devoting himself to prayer, and reading the scriptures. He did manual labor to earn his food, and gave any excess he had to the poor.

Though he preferred solitude, he took time to give guidance and instructions to the many who lived an ascetical life in the desert. He organized them into monasteries, laying the foundation for monasticism.

Another great desire of Anthony's was to be a martyr, but he failed to obtain this grace. Athanasius tells us that he then "went back to his solitary cell; and there he was a daily martyr to his conscience, ever fighting the battles of the faith. For Anthony, the monk was the successor to the martyr. St. Anthony died in solitude at the age of 105.

He had renounced the world to serve God in the solitude of the desert and was "called the friend of God." We ask through his intercession the grace to keep in proper perspective the material things we have and to live in a spirit of detachment from them through self-denial. We also ask for the grace to understand the love of God above all things.

MEMORY VERSE

MARK 1:11

And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."