

The Baptism of the Lord

January 10, 2021

Calendar

Saturday, January 9th

4:00pm Vigil Vincent Boudreaux Sr, Alberto Hand, Geraldine McKigney, Joseph & Yvonne Vonderhaar, Sylvia Williams, and the Intentions of the Haynes Family

Sunday, January 10th

8:00am Mass For all parishioners

10:30am Mass Joy Nalty Hodges, Deacon Paul Nalty, Michael J. Rapier, Lisa Childress Sheridan, the Burch & Pfister Families, and the Normand Family

5:00pm Mass A Special Intention

ORDINARY TIME

Monday, January 11th

6:30am Mass Intentions of the Reverend Douglas Brouger

Tuesday, January 12th

6:30am Mass Alma Champagne

6:00pm Mass Intentions of Phillip Bellini

Wednesday, January 13th

St Hilary of Poitiers, bishop and doctor of the Church

6:30am Mass Intentions of Dianne Caverly

6:00pm Rosary (@ Our Lady of Good Counsel)

Thursday, January 14th

6:30am Mass Intentions of the Reverend Monsignor Christopher H. Nalty

Friday, January 15th

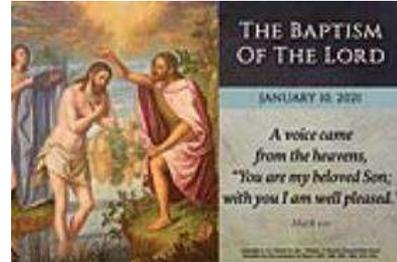
6:30am Mass Intentions of the Caverly & Lapeyre Families

Saturday, January 16th

10:00am Rosary (@ Church of St Henry)

The Sanctuary Lamp in St Stephen Church will burn this week for the repose of the soul of William Joseph Allen.

The Sanctuary Lamp in the rectory chapel will burn this week for the Intentions of the Pope.



Mass Setting

Our Mass setting is the Gregorian *Missa jubilata Deo* and is found in the *Seasonal Missalette* from number 176.



Banns of Matrimony

Meredith Desporte Provensal & Blake Christopher Buras

Alexis Christine Blanch & Edwin Luke Langley

Lay-minister Schedule

January 17th

4:00 pm

Lector: Daniel Jens

Extraordinary Eucharistic Minister: André Mouldoux

8:00 am

Lector: Linda Tufton

Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers: Maria Brady and Jeff Vinson

10:30 am

Lector: Bob Vaughn

Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers: Christine Cooper,

Apostolates & Volunteer Groups

The Monthly Prayer-request for Priests

January

- Altar Society
Cindy Gainsburgh, @ 899-2637
- CCD (Confraternity of Christian Doctrine)
Phillip Bellini, @ 227-3795
- Center of Jesus the Lord (Charismatic)
The Center, @ 529-1636
- The Good Shepherd Choir [on hiatus]
Brian Morgan, @ 227-3793
- Event Planning
Rhetory Office, @ 899-1378
- Friends of Our Lady of Good Counsel
Barbara Fortier, @ barbaraf13@aol.com
- Friends of St Henry
Alden Hagdorn, @ 891-3410
- Knights of Columbus
Patrick Guisz, @ 812-6941
- Life Apostolate
Kathy Fayard, @ 905-7676
- Mass Volunteers
Brian Plauché, @ 289-6799
Phillip Bellini, @ 227-3793
- Rhetory Volunteers
Ivy Rohr, @ 227-3792
- Society of St Vincent de Paul
Laura Finnegan, @ 899-1378

- 1st The Reverend Father James Carter, SJ
- 2nd The Reverend Francis Ferrié
- 3rd The Reverend Pedro Felix Nuñez
- 4th The Reverend Patrick Carr
- 5th The Reverend Father Thomas T. Pham, CSSR
- 6th The Reverend Father Leo Nicoll, SJ
- 7th The Reverend Douglas Brougher
- 8th The Reverend Father Scott O'Brien, OP
- 9th The Reverend James Jeanfreau, Jr
- 10th The Reverend Father Eduardo J. Gabriel, OP
- 11th The Reverend Father Frank Reale, SJ
- 12th The Reverend Father Etido Jerome, SSJ
- 13th The Reverend Daniel Darmanin
- 14th The Reverend Bac-Hai Viet Tran
- 15th The Reverend Damjan Zablocki
- 16th The Reverend Father Michael Burke, OP
- 17th The Reverend Denzil Perera
- 18th The Reverend Father Earl Muller, SJ
- 19th The Reverend Jeffrey Montz
- 20th The Reverend Patrick Collum
- 21st The Reverend Kenneth Allen
- 22nd The Reverend Father Gregory Ross, OCD
- 23rd The Reverend Father David Begany, SSJ
- 24th The Reverend Salvador Galvez
- 25th The Reverend Paul Clark
- 26th The Reverend Robustiano Morgia
- 27th The Reverend Garrett M. O'Brien
- 28th The Reverend Monsignor Christopher H. Nalty
- 29th Pope-Emeritus Benedict XVI
- 30th Pope Francis
- 31st The Reverend Andrew Gutierrez

† deceased

Collection Report	December 27 th	July 1 st -Dec 27 th
Total Collections	\$14,049.00	\$161,639.00
Budget	<u>\$9,368.71</u>	<u>\$243,586.46</u>
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$4,680.29	(\$81,947.46)

Second Collections/Miscellaneous Donations	
St Stephen Restoration Fund	\$10,780.21
Retirement Fund for Religious	\$40.00
#iGiveCatholic	\$200.00

Lightning Apologetics



by Phillip Bellini, DRE

The Heart of Christmas

For those of you who think Christmas is over, well, only Advent is over. Now we are in the Christmas season. So, let's talk about!

All through the pages of the Old Testament, God had protested on how much He loved man. At Christmas, on almost the first fresh page of the New Testament, He proved it. Only a Christmas crib can tell the story, only going back in spirit to Bethlehem and the Silent Night. But the day had not been silent. On the eve of the big census the little town was bulging with visitors, bustling with activity, buzzing with excitement. In the bazaar (the nearest thing to our department stores or supermarkets), merchants and customers were haggling over prices like chattering birds. In the streets, peddlers tramped from door to door offering bargains from the goods which they had. The high and mighty on their tall proud horses rode past with amused tolerance. Any nobody noticed—who ever would? —a bearded peasant leading a gray donkey that carried Mary, even as Mary carried the unborn Christ.

Nobody noticed. Nobody cared. For them that first Christmas began with the saddest of all feelings, the loneliness of not being wanted by anyone, not being welcome anywhere. They were despised by the Romans because they were Jews and despised by the Jews because they were poor. For them, there was not only no room in the inn; there wasn't any room in the whole town! So out of the town they trudged, seeking any kind of shelter at all. Does it bother us to admit that today this wandering pair might be lined up at some relief agency?

At last they came in desperation to that stable cave which G.K. Chesterton poignantly called "the place where only God was homeless, but all men are at home." And there, while Joseph's lantern flickered from a beam, and the ox moved restlessly in his stall, and the donkey blinked, and the pale, heavy-laden Virgin sank wearily to the floor, it happened. The Child was born. One moment He was not there, and the next He was in her arms, born without pain, the blessed fruit of her womb, Jesus.

Yet this was not the wonder of Christmas, not the intact and instant virgin birth. Not even that a Virgin should become a Mother. Not that a village carpenter should find himself the guardian of the Savior of the world. Not that a star should stream like a spotlight above a stable. Not that an angel choir should shimmer in the sky and set the night resounding with brilliant music. Not that poor shepherds should kneel shoulder to shoulder with eminent kings. The wonder of Christmas, the glory of Christmas, the incredible miracle of Christmas was that God, not matter how or when or where, should become man, and a little baby at that!

Other miracles would come as the baby in the manger grew older. At His word the modest water at the wedding feast of Cana would turn into wine. At His touch blind men's eyes would see the Light. At His word the wind-blowing sea would level off, smooth as a sheet of glass. At His command the dark mask of death would lighten, and dead men would stand up alive. But these would only be gestures of the Almighty's hand. They could never approach the most incredible of all miracles: That God Himself, the Eternal, the All-Knowing, the All-Powerful, the Creator, should become a mere Man, and a little child at that! "Who," asks St Alphonus, with tears in his eyes, "who would have ever thought of it, if God had not thought of it and done it? King of this earth, King of all the universe, King of Heaven, He becomes a King whose palace is a stable, whose throne is a manger, whose scepter is a stick of straw, whose royal garb is swaddling

clothes, whose retinue is dumb animals!"

That is what the angels announced in song, that the star signaled with fire, that the shepherds rushed to see, that our Blessed Mother clasped to her breast, that theologians call the Incarnation; namely, that He who was great became small, and He who was powerful became weak, and He who was rich became poor, and He who was Divine became human. Just stop to meditate on this, just sit down with yourself in a quiet place and in a corner of your mind and realize this tremendous truth: that God so loved the mankind He became one of us Himself so that He could go through the entire human experience and repair for our sins!

Would not your first reaction be one of awe and amazement? Think of how incomprehensible it would be for an aircraft carrier to fit into a bathtub, or the Sears tower in Chicago fit into our house. Yet this is utterly nothing compared to the God of infinity lowering Himself, lessening Himself to the body of a baby and to a little cradle. So, when we kneel by a Christmas nativity scene and look down with thoughtful eyes, we can never be surprised enough.

It's not bells clanging overhead, or carolers singing before candle-lit windows that best express the spirit of Christmas. If we really love the Baby of Bethlehem, let us light candles not only in our windows but in *our minds*, candles that will illumine the truth that all people are our brothers and sisters, and that all men have certain basic human rights, ever since God became a man Himself. Let's not just have holly in our homes but also our hearts by letting Christian kindness (not just for Christmas), which is rooted in our hearts, flower at our lips. Let us deck not just our trees but our lives with shining glory, meaning good deeds for those in trouble. How better can we atone for the time that the unrecognized Christ was turned away at the Bethlehem Inn? In fact, once we get beyond the walls of the Church, how else can we serve God except in our neighbor! I think if we do this, then it must follow that, as bright as Bethlehem's star, as rich as the treasures of the Three Kings, as serene as the peace of the Silent Night, our Christmas will be! God bless and keep you this Christmas!

Pray for the Sick

Ron Behler, Lois Boboa, Anthony Burns, Mimì Carpenter, Ray Chagnard, Beverly Couch, the Honorable Martin Feldman, Ellie Fogarty, David Forly, Audury Guillot, Virginia Hamrick, Janet Hopkins, Jaylynn Jackson, Rebecca Larousse, Charles Margavio, Rita Roccaforte, Frederick Henry Taylor Sr, Gerald Troups, Angela Villanueva, and Jena Wilson.

This is My
Beloved Son



Pray for the Dead

Beverly Bellini, Sister M. Angela Bergeron CIC, Alma Champagne, Alethea Gernard, Theodore H. Sorina Jr, and Vetter Amadeo Taylor.

News

The Monthly Food Pantry Request for "Love Thy Neighbor" (a project of our Society of St Vincent de Paul) for January is tuna-fish. We will have a Second Collection this week-end, for the St Stephen Restoration Fund.

"Basic workshops for new Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and basic workshops for readers will be presented this Spring by the Office of

Worship. Attendance at the workshop for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion is required before a person can be delegated by the Archbishop to serve in this ministry. Attendance at the workshop for readers is strongly recommended for new readers and all readers who have not previously attended a workshop. The complete schedule can be found on the Office of Worship web-site, at <https://nolacatholic.org/lay-liturgical-ministry-formation>. Participants are to be pre-registered by their parish before attending. Information on Spanish-language workshops may be found through the Hispanic Apostolate. If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Worship at 861-6300, or worship@arch-no.org.”

