

The Baptism of the Lord – January 9, 2022

Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-38; Luke 3:15-16,21-22

We relish the fact that in baptism we receive the Holy Spirit. The danger is that we may reduce the Spirit to a merely private encounter, a personal status symbol. Today's readings reflect on the transforming power of the Spirit, and challenge us to release that power for those who are most in need.

The prophet we call Second Isaiah, writing around 540 B.C., exhorts the exiled community in Babylon to return to the land of Israel. In this poem he speaks of the servant (himself) and all believers who are willing to participate in this new and daring challenge. The challenge will be to receive God's spirit and thus respond to the task of reviving and transforming the brokenhearted.

Luke, the author of Acts, shows in the second reading that salvation is for everyone. Jesus begins his ministry in Galilee after the baptism preached by John. The anointing is a prophetic one that empowers Jesus to exercise his office on behalf of others. For Luke this anointing is specifically a call to labor for the disenfranchised. Private belief is public service.

In the gospel account, Luke describes the wonder of the people as they experience John's baptism. John tells of one far greater than he, one with a more powerful baptism.

Our baptism is a prophetic and royal anointing. We receive the life of the Church and are called to sustain that life. Faith is about concern for others. Faith is a public -- not private -- responsibility.

-- John Craghan, Th.D., S.S.L. Copyright 1997, Liguori Publications / Liguori, MO 63057-9999

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Prayer. Jesus himself is baptized by John. Then he prays. In his praying, the Spirit comes and the Father speaks words of possessive pleasure.

- How will I pray this last day of the Christmas season?
- When I am quite enough, what do I hear God say?
- What mercy work does the Spirit empower me to do?

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Jan 16

Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 96; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; John 2:1-12



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Mission: Live Catholic teachings,

Participate in Sacramental and Liturgical Celebrations, Serve our Community

ST. PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH

2020 State Rte. 146 E, Vienna, IL – 62995

Parish Council Chair: Steve Pobst

Trustees: Matthew Slife, Jared Bergmann

Sundays – 8:00 am

Weekdays – Fri 6:00 pm

Who knew?

MAKING TIME AND SPACE

The Spirit descends on Jesus after he was baptized. It is the Spirit that anoints Jesus to “open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness, and to bring to the poor the good news of salvation.” This news is also “the good news of peace”: The Spirit comes in the form of a dove.

There is a gentleness about the dove that has earned for this bird a universal association with peace. But the dove also has a wail that reminds one of the wail of someone suffering, as in poverty or childbirth. The dove, therefore, joins together the themes of justice and peace, of compassion for the poor as well as harmony among people.

Luke makes clear that the descent of the Spirit in the form of a dove takes place as Jesus was at prayer. In other words, Jesus was open to the action of the Spirit. There is certainly a message in that for us.

Peace and justice will enter our lives only if we are open to the action of the Spirit, if we make time and space for the voice from heaven to be heard within our hearts. If we make that time and space, then “the Lord will bless his people with peace.”

In order that the demands of justice may be met and attempts to achieve this goal may succeed, what is needed is the gift of grace, a gift which comes from God. Grace, in cooperation with human freedom, constitutes that mysterious presence of God in history which is providence.

Pope John Paul II, Centesimus Annus, 1991: 59

---Gerald Darring from SLU Sunday Website

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Schedule of Masses

Sun Jan 9 8:00 am Mass For Parishioners
Fri Jan 14 6:00 pm Mass
Sun Jan 16 8:00 am Mass Billie Anderson

Birthdays
Jan 11 Al Stachowiak
Jan 15 Christine Deaton

Liturgical Ministers

	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>Servers</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
Jan 9	M Miller	L Coleman	V Anderson	Vol .	* M McMahan, D Zmada Sr.
		<u>Cantor</u>	C Ross		
	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>Servers</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
Jan 16	S Widowski	B Porter	P Widowski	M & C Bergmann	*F Dueker, R Weeks
		<u>Cantor</u>	C Ross		

STEWARDSHIP OFFERING Jan 2, 2022

Envelope (23) \$1495.00,
Holyday (2) \$140.00
Loose \$10.00
Initial Offering (7) \$110.00
Total: \$1755.00

THIS WEEK’S SCHEDULE

Sun Jan 9 Mass.....8:00 am
PSR.....9:00 am
Take down Christmas from Church
Tue Jan 11 Wellness Committee Mtg.....6:00 pm
Thu-Sat Jan 13-15 Faith Alive Work Days..
Fri Jan 14 Mass.....6:00 pm
Sun Jan 16 Mass.....8:00 am
PSR classes.....9:00 am
CCW Mtg.....9:00 am



CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE in the Church Foyer. If you can volunteer to deliver a calendar, Christmas book and the box of envelopes to a fellow parishioner who is not able to attend church, it would be greatly appreciated

JANUARY HEALTH FOCUS-HOW TO COPE: 4 MINDFUL TIPS TO DE-STRESS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON AND NEW YEAR. 1) Accept imperfection. 2) Don’t lose sight of what really counts 3) respond to kindness 4) re-think your New Year resolutions. Have a safe and blessed New Year.

FAITH ALIVE WORK DAYS FOR ST. PAUL ARE JANUARY 13-15. Volunteers are urgently needed. . This will be the first week the store will be opened since December 19. Lots of customers will be expected. The store will have brand new flooring. Any time you can spare, even if for two hours would be appreciated.

FORTHCOMING DATES TO NOTE:

Tuesday January 11- Wellness Committee meets at 6 pm in the Parish Hall
Sunday January 16- Council of Catholic Women (CCW) meets at 9 am in Parish Hall
Wednesday January 19- Parish Council meets after 5:30 Mass in Parish Hall

How do I respond to poverty and injustice? What tools does my Catholic faith have to offer? *Faith and Poverty: A Biblical Response* is an 8 week program that explores God’s call to respond to poverty in our local communities, equipping participants to take action in effective and sustainable ways. Meaningful prayer experiences in the context of a small faith community are an essential part of each session. The program will be offered virtually on Zoom for any interested adults in our diocese. For a short introductory video go to [youtube.com/watch?v=CRWqV_KhwLQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CRWqV_KhwLQ) . For more information go to <https://justfaith.org/faith-and-poverty-a-biblical-response-jfc/>. The program is sponsored through a local grant from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. To register contact Cheryl Sommer, Diocesan Director for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development at cchddiobelle@gmail.com or 618-624-2838.

VOCATION CORNER “I attended Catholic school in Guiana and the missionary priests there were my role models. Their authentic joy and unconditional love attracted me to religious life and I had a growing desire to respond to God’s love through service to the poor. As I.. began my career as a teacher, I made time to pray and attend daily Mass. One day, I was meditating on the verse: “For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope” (Jer 29:11). An online search led me to the Oblate Sisters of Providence. Despite the long distance, I felt an inner peace and happiness that I might join the congregation one day. I made my first profession in August 2019. Sr. Mary Pauline Tamakloe Oblate Sisters of Providence; *Columbia Oct. 2019.*