

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

JANUARY 13, 2019



Think of what it's like to wait a long time. Can you imagine what it would be like to wait for centuries? No one person lives that long, of course. But for the

Israelites, they had heard the stories from generation to generation. They had been conquered time and time again, and now "the people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ." They had been waiting for a Messiah, one who did miraculous deeds and said profound things; someone aglow with the glory of God. We all know what it's like to hope and be disappointed. But what if your hopes were fulfilled?

That day at the Jordan River, an audience had gathered. Among the crowd for baptism was an unknown man. Perhaps he was dirty from weeks in the desert. His hands had the calloused palms of a tradesman, a carpenter. He and John the Baptist may have embraced with the familiarity of the cousins they were. This man wades into the Jordan for a good, solid dunking. As he rises from the water, the One who breathed life into Adam gasps for air like any other man.

But then "heaven was opened." The clouds in the sky part miles above. "And the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove." An apparition with substance sails through the sky. It exudes gentleness and power all at once. "And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.'" Can you imagine the sight? For the crowd, there is no doubting what they have seen, who they have seen. Can you imagine this encounter with our God who keeps His promises? What are you waiting for?

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Please Pray For: Patsy R. Coleman, Reginald Douglas, Sonya Douglas, Sophia Eaglin, John Estorge III, Debra Evans, Rosalind Gardner, Herman Gary, Janet Gary, Mary Gilliard, Elizabeth Harris, Kandace Hebert, Florence Johnson, Jeanette Jones, Charles Julian, Mary Jane Julian, Robert Kirkland, June Marsh, Hazel McClinton, Verbal Martin, Michael Mitchell, Krista Moore, Montreal Moore, Ani Josephine Pendleton, Leslie Randle, Hazel Rem, Theresa Rideau, Genevieve Rousseve, Carolyn Softly, Urabell Thomas, Leroy Thornton, Jacob Viser, Melina Volair, Mary Ann Willis and Kyle Wright.

MINISTERS FOR JANUARY 19th & 20th, 2019

LECTORS

5:00 PM *Randel Sinnette, Umaja Savoy, Reginald Christy*

8:30 AM *Jr. Daughters / Jr. Knights*

11:00AM *Johnnie McGee, Edwina Broussard, Olivia Broussard*

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

5:00 PM *Robin Brown, Ann Terrell, Deirdre Guidry*

8:30 AM *James Andrews, Charlotte Thomas, Cathy Paul-Stewart, Robert Wesley, Stephanie Wesley*

11:00AM *Betty Aubepsin, Nicholas Aubespin, Edmund Broussard, Alex DeWalt, Tobin Hawkins, Maria Jackson*

ALTAR SERVERS

5:00 PM *Carl Cassel*

8:30 AM *Nathaniel Beal, Brain Stubblefield, Joseph Cazenav*

11:00AM *Naankwat Riemson, Rita Didikiri, Lucy Didikiri*

LIVING FAITH:

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE DAY

Monday: Heb 1:1-6 * Ps 97:1, 2, 6-7, 9 * Mk 1:14-20

Jesus said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." Then they left their nets and followed him.

Tuesday: Heb 2:5-12 * Ps 8:2, 5-9 * Mk 1:21-28

He who consecrates and those who are being consecrated all have one origin. Therefore, he is not ashamed to call them "brothers"...

Wednesday: Heb 2:14-18 * Ps 105:1-4, 6-9 * Mk 1:29-39

Look to the Lord in his strength; seek to serve him constantly.

Thursday: Heb 3:7-14 * Ps 95:6-11 * Mk 1:40-45

Take care, brothers and sisters, that none of you may have an evil and unfaithful heart, so as to forsake the living God.

Friday: Heb 4:1-5, 11 * Ps 78:3-4, 6-8 * Mk 2:1-12

Therefore, let us strive to enter into that rest, so that no one may fall after the same example of disobedience.

Saturday: Heb 4:12-16 * Ps 19:8-10, 15 * Mk 2:13-17

...everything is naked and exposed to the eyes of him...

Sunday: Is 62:1-5 * Ps 96:1-3, 7-10 * 1 Cor 12:4-11 * Jn 2:1-11

For Zion's sake I will not be silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet...

ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Mon.	7:00 PM	Saturday Choir Practice
Tue.	6:00 PM	Rosary Group
	6:30 PM	Pastoral Council Meeting
	7:00 PM	8:30 AM Choir Practice
Wed.	1:00 PM	Bible Study
	6:30 PM	Bible Study
Thur.	7:00 PM	11AM Choir Practice
Fri.	8:30AM	School Mass

DONATE BLOOD & SAVE A LIFE

Our First blood drive of 2019, sponsored by our Knights and Ladies Auxiliary court 159, will be on January 27th, from 9:00 am -1:30pm. Begin your New Year on a great note by donating blood and saving someone's life.

Offering for January 5th & 6th, 2019

Regular Offering	\$ 12,083.99
Mail-In Offerings	\$ 2,665.00
Online Giving	\$ 5,405.01
Total Offering	\$ 20,154.00
New Year Offertory	\$ 1,035.00
Capital Improvement Fund	\$ 2,141.00

Thank you so much for your generosity!

ONLINE GIVING

www.stmaryshouston.net

(click on **online giving**)

DIOCESAN SERVICES FUND (DSF)

As of 01 -10- 2019

Parish Goal	\$ 64,000.00
Total Pledged	\$ 34,645.00
Total Paid	\$ 33,645.00
Total Number of Participants	151
Total Number of Households	1080

Thank you so much everyone for answering the call to express God's Mercy and compassion through your commitment to this Year's DSF. This has been our best participation in DSF in years. But we definitely can do better. We hope to meet our goal next year.

MASS INTENTIONS

- Sat. 5:00 PM** Fred D. White by Hilda Mitchell & Family
- Sun. 8:30 AM** +Helen Reaux Oliver by Her Family
+Wilton Benjamin by the Benjamin Family
- Sun. 11:00 AM** For our Parishioners
+Clayton Tolliver by Sandra Tolliver & Family
+Consuella Broussard by Freia Malone

CATHOLIC VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

"COVENANT"

A solemn agreement between human beings or between God and a human being involving mutual commitments and guarantees. The Bible refers to God's covenants with Noah, Abraham, and Moses as leader of the chosen people, Israel. In the Old Testament or Covenant, God revealed his law through Moses and prepared his people for salvation through the prophets. In the New Testament or Covenant, Christ established a new and eternal covenant through his own sacrificial death and Resurrection... which will never pass away and no new public revelation is to be expected before the glorious manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

ATTENTION AREA NEIGHBORS

If you live within the areas of N. MacGregor Way, Highway 288, Blodgett and the Columbia Tap Trail, The Riverside Civic Association wants to hear from you!

The association invites you to its general membership meetings at 6:00PM every 2nd Thursday of the month at the Energy Institute High School, 3501 Southmore. We need your voice in helping keep our neighborhood safe and beautiful!!

YEAR END GIFTS

As we get to the close of the year 2018 you probably are prayerfully considering making end of year gifts at this time. As you review your yearly blessings and finances please consider making a gift to our Parish, St. Mary's. You may give Gifts of Stock as well. Consider also donating towards DSF which reaches out to the needy and poor through some 60 ministries in the Diocese.

MLK MASS 2019

Please join Daniel Cardinal DiNardo and the family of our Archdiocese as we celebrate the 34th annual observance of the birthday of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The **MLK Mass of Remembrance** will be held on Sunday, January 20, 2019, at the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, 1111 St. Joseph Parkway (Downtown) Houston, TX 77002 at **3:00 p.m.** • Reception immediately following • For further information, please call 713-652-8203 or dladet@archgh.org.

STEPS FOR STUDENTS

Steps for Students is an annual archdiocesan-wide event where all school and parish communities can come together as one to support Catholic education. The goal of Steps for Students is to raise awareness of the importance of a Catholic education and provide much needed resources for all our Catholic Schools. This event will take place on February 16th, 2019, Saturday at Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, 1111 St. Joseph Parkway, Houston.

I request our parishioners to support our school by registering online at www.steps4students.org

When you register, please make sure to join our school, St. Mary of the Purification from the list of schools from the list of schools.

OR

Simply Visit my (Fr. Justin) personal page @ <https://www.steps4students.org/p2p/62008/fr-justin-arockiasamy>. Even if You don't want to participate in the 5k Run/Walk, you can still support our school by donating. Every donation counts. I am counting on your help and Support to our school. All the money raised here will directly go to our school.

2019-2020 REGISTRATION

Registration is now open for students in PreK-3 through the 8th Grade. That's right, St. Mary's is extending its program to a full middle school including an athletic program among other advance programs. Please call the school for further information and to schedule a tour, 713-522-9276 or email rtaylor@stmaryshouston.school.org. We are waiting for you.

ALUMNI BASKETBALL GAME

St. Mary's vs St. Peter's Alumni Basketball Game is scheduled for Saturday February 2, 2019. Please contact the school office at 713-522-9276 or rtaylor@stmaryshouston.school.org.