



SATURDAY, January 10, 2009 VIGIL: Baptism of the Lord

4:00 PM ☩ People of the Parish

SUNDAY, January 11, 2009 The Baptism of the Lord

8:00 AM ☩ Jackie Benham req by her sister

10:30 AM ☩ Rev John J. Ayers

MONDAY, January 12, 2009

8:00 AM ☩ For our Seminarians and a continuing increase in vocations in the Springfield Diocese req by Rita Gallagher

TUESDAY, January 13, 2009

8:00 AM ☩ People of the Parish

WEDNESDAY, January 14, 2009

8:00 AM ☩ People of the Parish

THURSDAY, January 15, 2009

8:00 AM ☩ Mitchell & Sally Gonet, Stanley & Mary Czaporowski  
☩ Dave Loizzo 2<sup>nd</sup> ann req by his wife

FRIDAY, January 16, 2009

8:00 AM ☩ Morning Prayer

SATURDAY, January 17, 2009 VIGIL: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

4:00 PM ☩ Doris Ryan req by Terry & Ray Couture

SUNDAY, January 18, 2009 Second Sunday of Ordinary Time

8:00 AM ☩ Patrick Lund 2<sup>nd</sup> ann req by his wife Loretta

10:30 AM ☩ Florence Drewniak 7<sup>th</sup> ann req by Dan & Linda Drewniak & family

☩ Richard Morin req by Daryn Kelly



*On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."*

- Mk 1:10-11

**Readings for January 17-18, 2009**

*1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/Jn 1:35-42*

**Religious Vocations Corner** – Jesus' identity is revealed as "The Son of God" through His baptism in the Jordan. Our identity as "children of God" is revealed through our baptism. Our lives then, must constantly witness Jesus as Lord. If you think that God is calling you to a Church vocation, call Fr. Gary Dailey at 413-452-0816 or E-Mail: [g.dailey@diospringfield.org](mailto:g.dailey@diospringfield.org).

### *The Pastor's Thoughts...*

-This weekend, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord is the liturgical conclusion of the Christmas Season. Next weekend we will return to Ordinary Time until the beginning of Lent which will be on February 25<sup>th</sup>.

-This Sunday evening we will celebrate the Sacrament of First Reconciliation with our First Communion Class. We welcome them to this wonderful Sacrament of God's love and mercy and pray that they will celebrate it often as they seek to grow in holiness and grace.

-I was delighted with the response the "original Christmas gifts" received at last Sunday's celebrations. Many were quite interested in seeing the coffers of gold, frankincense and myrrh! The frankincense is like the incense we use at special Masses when we place incense on hot coals and it creates a sweet smelling smoke which rises up in prayer. The myrrh with a strange smell was used in burial preparations. Hence the "gold" symbolized the Kingship of Christ, the "frankincense" his royalty and the "myrrh" his ultimate death for our Salvation. My thanks to Deb Robinson for this delightful and original Christmas gift.

-I was delighted with the reception the release of my second CD received. NOEL was very well received and I am most grateful for all your wonderful comments. At this time we have sold close to 500 copies. Many were delighted to hear NOEL played over WJMJ during their 12 Days of Christmas Music. We have covered our original production costs and it is returning a profit to our Building Fund. Yes, there are copies for Christmas giving next year since a thousand were produced!

-This past Tuesday I was delighted to host a luncheon for the members of our parish staff and a few "unsung heroes" who do so much to keep us going. Did you ever wonder how come the altar servers robes are always bright and clean, or how the altar linens are washed and pressed each week, or who washes the fingerprints from the church door windows and dusts the place, or coordinates the ministries, trains our altar servers and all the like? These are our "unsung heroes" and we are so grateful for their behind the scene help and assistance. This is a very special parish because of so many people like them and like all of you who so generously give of yourselves in service to this community.

-As the Christmas decorations are returned to the attic I once again thank Sam, Gerry and Bob for all they did to make this Season so special for all of us. Their hard work in decorating the church for all of us was most appreciated by all!

**God bless you and keep you well! Fr. Vern**

**A Social Justice Workshop** experience that will be held for 7 weekly 2-hour, Friday night sessions starting Feb 13<sup>th</sup>. It will be held from 7-9 PM on Feb 13<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and the last class will be on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. The earlier sessions will meet in the Pine Room of the parish Social Center. Advanced registration is needed, but there is no fee. See the bulletin insert on the 17<sup>th</sup> for details and for the registration form. This workshop is great for teens –9<sup>th</sup> grade and older and adult. All materials are provided through the Catholic Charities Office of the Diocese. For more information, please contact the Faith Development Commission co-chair, Mary Ann at 323-6012.

## BAPTISM OF THE LORD

*In Gratitude to God for His many gifts,  
the members of this parish have returned  
the following resources in support of the parish  
and its ministries...*

The Sunday Collection for January 3-4	\$8,140.19
Weekly Sunday Average	6,335.02
Weekly Sunday Goal	6,500.00
Mortgage & Expansion Collection for Jan 4	4,695.50
Monthly Mortgage & Expansion Goal	6,000.00
Mortgage & Expansion January Shortfall	1,304.50
Solemnity of Mary	1,942.00

**Eucharistic Adoration and Visitation** - The Adoration Info Line number is 323-6272 Extension 6. Please, always call just before coming in for your hour to see if Adoration has been closed due to extreme cold or bad weather. The Adoration Chapel (entrance around the rear of the church) is open to all parishioners for a visit before the Blessed Sacrament. Hours of Adoration are 8:00 AM – 10:00 PM Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. If you would like to be a part of our Adoration program, either as an assigned adorer or substitute, please call Pam at 323-7416. **The following hours are in need of an Adorer: Tuesday 1:00 – 2:00 PM.**

## Liturgical Roles

*Weekend of January 17-18, 2009*

### Lectors

4:00 PM McKeon  
8:00 AM Forrest  
10:30 AM Abuselmii & Roux

### Ministers of the Eucharist

4:00 PM Abraham, Beaupre, Carney, Couture, Lemire, Yvon, Vanasse  
8:00 AM Moran, Waniewski, Barrett, Coty, Dubois, Miffitt, McGinnis  
10:30 AM Lawrence, Gary & Linda Racicot, Tyler, Fedora, Lattrell, Belanger

### Altar Servers

4:00 PM A. Muraczewski, J. Mazza, G. Terry  
8:00 AM S. & R. Forrest  
10:30 AM C. Grady, M. & F. Hegarty

**Pro Life Corner** – Those who support a woman's supposed "right" to end the life of her unborn child might want to reflect on how they will be able to explain their position to the victims of abortion when we meet them face to face in the next life – which we most certainly will.

**Our Lady of the Angels SFO** will meet on Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM in the Tovet Room of the church. All are welcome. For those with questions call Lynn at 323-5537 or Kathy at 323-0923.



**Brick Corner** – We would like to thank the following parishioners who have "purchased a brick" for our new church, either in their name or in the name of a loved one:

Gloria F. – One Brick In Thanksgiving to St. Jude and St. Anthony for favor granted.

Thank you for your support and please remind your friends that they, also, can "buy a brick". They are only \$10.00 each.

**Bereavement Group** – If you have lost a spouse, family member or someone close to you, the Bereavement Group at St. Francis is a place of quiet confidential discussion among others who have suffered loss. Come tell us, share your loss or just sit and listen. There are no requirements or dues. Everyone is welcome. It is a special, non-judgmental place where people listen and care. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7PM in the Tovet Room at the church.

**KofC Basketball Challenge** – The KofC will be sponsoring a basketball challenge for boys & girls, aged 10 thru 14 inclusive, on Monday evening, January 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM at the Belchertown High School. This competition is designed for players to demonstrate the most basic of basketball skills – the free throw! Each player will be allowed 25 shots at the free throw line. Each will be allowed 3 warm up shots. All participants receive certificates of participation, with winners receiving additional recognition. One does not have to be a great athlete to enjoy and do well in this event. Registration forms, requiring parental consent, are available in the back of the church or in the Town Rec Department office. Questions, please call 323-5822 or speak with any KofC member.

**The Family Life Commission** would like to begin a widows and widowers social group where we could meet each other to develop new friendships with periodic outings. If interested please call Beth at 323-5910 or Pat at 323-4602.

**The Family Life Commission** would like to begin a cancer support group. We need cancer survivors who would be willing to help those presently going through cancer treatment or newly diagnosed with the disease. If interested please call Beth at 323-5910 or Pat at 323-4602.

**Adult Confirmation Classes** – A series of 4 sessions for adult Catholics who wish to receive the sacrament of Confirmation will be offered at St. Mary's High School, Westfield, on Thursdays, Feb 26<sup>th</sup>, March 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>, April 2<sup>nd</sup> all from 7:00 – 9:00 PM. The program will end with a retreat on a Saturday morning to be determined. These classes are intended for adults who are practicing their faith and never completed their Christian Initiation. Registration forms, which require a pastor's signature, are available from the Rel Ed office. Call 323-6272 x 2 for details or contact the Diocese at [j.Dougherty@diospringfield.org](mailto:j.Dougherty@diospringfield.org).

**The St. Francis of Assisi Food Pantry is in need of coffee and hot chocolate. Thank you for your continued support.**

***Michael Sweeney Prayer Line***

From December 30<sup>th</sup> through January 5, 2009 the following intentions were added to our already long list of requests for prayers. Won't you please join us in praying for them all.

For a successful pregnancy and safe delivery for Lisa  
Thanksgiving for prayers answered for Shawn  
For a safe delivery for a young woman with a high-risk pregnancy  
For a safe and enjoyable trip to Honduras for a group of UVM students  
For a successful semester in Ghana for Ryan Jan-May  
For a safe and enjoyable trip for a family 12/31 – 1/4  
For complete healing and peace for Jessica  
For Samantha, healing after knee surgery  
Renewed intention for Gloria Slate  
Prayers that Lucy will find a good job  
For Irene, successful surgery Feb 5<sup>th</sup>  
Thanksgiving for successful surgery for Gloria Slate  
Thanksgiving for prayers answered for Ted  
Healing for Gary Raymond after a stroke and prayers are asked for strength for his family  
For successful replacement of his pacemaker for Stu Jan 6<sup>th</sup>  
Successful brain surgery for 14 year old Matthew Bergstrom  
Thanksgiving for successful surgery for Matthew and prayers are asked for continued healing  
For a safe trip home from Florida for a family  
Thanksgiving for all God's Graces and His answers to the requests of the prayer line. If you would like to have the prayer line members pray for you or a loved one, please call Chris McGinnis, 323-6622, Louise Groux, 323-4046 or Marion Masse, 323-7169.

***Flowers – We wish to thank all of you for your holiday flower donations in memory of your loved ones. Your kind generosity has made it possible to decorate our church during this very special time of year. Thank you!***

***In Memory of:***

*Gloria & Rob Scully, Dick Rivest & Cassidy  
Walter Wodyka  
Hugh & Mary Moriarty  
Kenneth & Clair White  
M/M Joseph Lamoureux  
Maurice Fortin  
Florian Czapkiewicz  
Edna & Ellsworth Forgue  
Rudolph J. Kocik  
Edna Ritter  
Gene Whitney  
Ida & Alcide Decoteau  
John T. Austin  
Norman Jasmin & Lawrence Brzycki  
Reardon & Donohue Families  
Deceased Members of the Rakouskas,  
Geoffroy, Lussier & Roux Families  
Husband Philip and children Rick, Lori & Phil  
Deceased Members of the Akins  
And Fogarty Families  
Anthony A. Ricardi*

***Donated By:***

*M/M Michael Collins  
Mrs Marilyn Wodyka  
Mr Hugh Moriarty  
M/M Robert Opalenik  
M/M Michael Lamoureux  
Mrs Priscilla Fortin  
Mrs. Vivian Czapkiewicz  
M/M Michael Forgue, Sr  
Mrs Juanita Kocik  
M/M Francis Provost  
Mrs. Theresa Whitney  
Rev Vernon Decoteau  
Mrs Mary R Austin  
M/M Edward Brzycki  
M/M Edward Reardon  
M/M John Rakouskas  
Mrs Irene Methe  
M/M Ronald Akins  
M/M Todd Duga*

Continued next week