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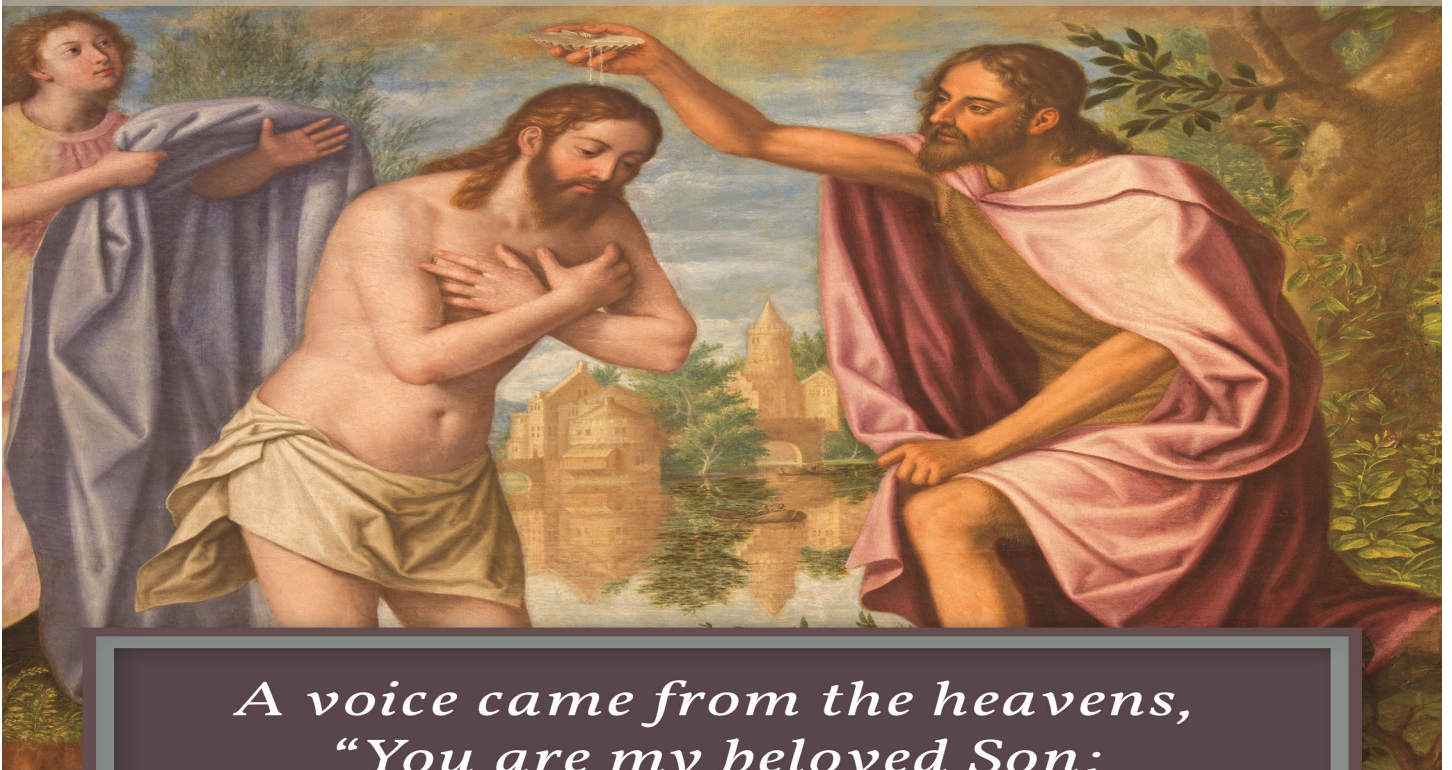
Maplewood, Missouri 63143

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THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

JANUARY 10, 2021



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

Mark 1:11

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Mission Statement

Called to be disciples of Jesus Christ, we strive to live His Gospel by answering daily, "Yes, here I am Lord". Strengthened by the sacraments and trusting in God's saving grace, we joyfully commit ourselves to sharing our gifts for the continual renewal of our parish and the Maplewood community.

From Deacon John:

The Baptism of the Lord – This Ends the Christmas Season

This year we focus on the Gospel of Mark on Sundays. While Luke and Matthew have many details about the birth of Jesus (the Annunciation, born in Bethlehem, no room at the inn, shepherds and magi) Mark's gospel moves very quickly. Mark 1:4 *“John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a gospel of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.”* Today John the Baptist proclaims *“One mightier than I is coming after me”*. And by verse 9 Jesus comes from Nazareth and was baptized by John. Jesus has gone from a newborn baby lying in the manger to an adult (age about 30) beginning his mission.

Mark is the shortest and probably the oldest gospel. But he often includes important details. *The heavens being torn open*—they open for the spirit to descend upon Jesus. They open for the voice to speak *“You are my beloved Son, with you I am well pleased.”* Jesus opens the heavens for us with how he spends the rest of his life.

What happens when we are baptized? We receive the holy spirit. We also become God's beloved children. We also share in the mission of Jesus.

Suggested New Year's Resolutions:

Before coming to mass (whether in church or being live-streamed) **try to read the Sunday scripture readings** ahead--during the week and again just before mass. Ask the holy spirit to open your mind and heart as you read them.

Imagine yourself in the readings. Imagine the words spoken to you?

What is the “Good News” in the readings?

What would you say if YOU were giving the homily.

God has given us this New Year of 2021. Nobody knows how much time we have to live. But God gives each of us ENOUGH TIME to choose to follow him. How will you use his gift of this year, 2021? How does this compare to your resolutions?

EXAMPLE: The first reading—Isaiah 55:1-11

An invitation from the prophet Isaiah:

All you who are thirsty, COME to the water!

You who have no money, COME receive grain and eat.

COME, without paying and without cost, drink wine and milk.

At the time of Isaiah people were living in a land with little water, limited food and here is an invitation to a banquet. Water is life-giving and necessary for plants, animals and people to live and grow. We can also look at this reading as an invitation to baptism (the water) and ultimately the eternal banquet.

They are invited to *“seek the Lord...call him while he is near.”* During Advent we sang *“O come, O come, Emmanuel.”* and Emmanuel means “God-with-us”. This is a God who is not far distant from us but who is near, who listens, and we can *“turn to him for mercy for God is generous in forgiving.”*

Isaiah later explains just as rain falls from the heavens watering the earth and making it fertile to grow grain and fruit, so the word of God comes down and accomplishes the will of God.

God uses ordinary rain to make the earth fruitful. God calls us, ordinary men and women and children, to become his “beloved children” through the waters of baptism. As we receive the Holy Spirit and his graces we join Jesus in his mission.

Thank you, God, for giving us a new year to be alive.

Thank you for letting us be your beloved children.

Thank you for forgiving us and giving us new chances – this new year.

May God bless you in a special way,
Deacon Johns

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IC - Due to your generosity, we were able to provide an amazing **Christmas for 5 MRH families**. Each child received warm cozy outfits, socks and undies and several gifts including books, toys, craft projects and sporting goods. Each parent received a \$100 gift card and a \$50 grocery card. Special thanks to Gretchen and Jim Patterson for their wrapping and delivery assistance and to Olivia Arias for her shopping expertise! Thanks again! Anne

St. James the Greater Early Childhood located in Dogtown has a **job opening for a lead teacher** in a multi-age (3-5 years old) classroom. Please contact Katie Ryan at kryan@stjamesthegreater.org for more information.

2021 MARCH FOR LIFE in Washington, DC

Seats still available with Missouri Life Caravan - Ages 7-107
January 28-30, 2021 - Thursday - Saturday
Buses depart from several areas throughout St. Louis.
Cost: \$230. Registration deadline in Jan. 22nd
Register online or download the form: www.MissouriLifeCaravan.org
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- ✓ Find out how you can help...even from the comfort and safety of your own home
- ✓ How the American Red Cross is delivering our mission during the Coronavirus Outbreak

2020-2021 Upcoming Dates

Thursday, Dec 3 rd 12pm	Thursday, Dec 17 th 4pm	Tuesday, Jan 5 th 12pm
Tuesday, Jan 12 th 4pm	Thursday, Jan 21 st 12pm	Tuesday, Jan 26 th 4pm
Thursday, Feb 4 th 12pm	Tuesday, Feb 9 th 4pm	Tuesday, Feb 16 th 12pm
Thursday, Feb 25 th 4pm	Tuesday, Mar 2 nd 12pm	Tuesday, Mar 9 th 4pm
Thursday, Mar 18 th 12pm	Tuesday, Mar 23 rd 4pm	Thursday, April 1 st 12pm

Please **REGISTER** here: www.redcross.org/ARCVolunteerFair

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Kristin Pendleton kristin.pendleton@redcross.org or call/text 314-281-7968

You can also schedule a virtual presentation for your company or organization to find out how little time it takes to have a huge impact on your local community.



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BEHOLD, is a ministry for separated and divorced members of the body of Christ. Through the use of the image of the Ecce Homo during this 12 week program, each person may be met through the Church in Encountering Christ's Compassionate Embrace. Contact Don Gayou at donaldedwg@gmail.com or call 314.406.3098 for more information and to register.

Our Lady's Inn Maternity Homes is having their Virtual Trivia Night - Saturday, January 23rd. Trivia begins at 7:00 pm on Zoom. Cost is \$25 per person and \$200 for a team of 8. For more information or to register, visit www.ourladyssinn.org or call Katrina at 314-736-1544. Join the fun from the comfort of your own home.

STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.

Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

For more information: www.cdc.gov/COVID19

Schedule For The Week

Sunday, January 10

8:30 a.m.

Mass-Also streamed on Facebook Live

Monday January 11

Parish meetings suspended

Tuesday January 12

Wednesday, January 13

Thursday, January 14

Friday, January 15

9:00 a.m.

Mass

Saturday, January 16

4:00 p.m.

Mass-Suspended

4:15-4:45 p.m.

**CONFESSIONS—with Fr. Pete
St. Luke's Parish**

Sunday, January 17

8:30 a.m.

Mass-Also streamed on Facebook Live

Weekly Offering



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Online Giving at:

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www.osvonlinegiving.com/1357

December 19th/20th:

1st Collection: \$1,478.25

2nd Collection: \$601.00

Online Giving: \$2,137.25

December 24th/25th:

1st Collection: \$57.00

2nd Collection: \$146.00

December 26th/27th:

1st Collection: \$1,603.00

2nd Collection: \$844.00

Online Giving: \$1,850.25

January 2nd/3rd:

1st Collection: TBD

2nd Collection: TBD

Online Giving: \$732.25

OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS: I want to remind you that collections remain essential to the continued operation and existence of our parish and our mission. Thank you to all who use online giving. It helps so much during times like this. You may make one-time payments or set it up for automatic payments—it is very flexible. Otherwise, please mail or drop-off your contribution. Many expenses continue.

Stewardship

For the love of God is this, that we keep His commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whoever is begotten by God conquers the world. And the victory that conquers the world is our faith. Who indeed is the victor over the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? 1 John 5:3-5

On this day when we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus, the readings remind us of our place and purpose in the world. So often in our lives we want to be "the best", "the winner", "the victor", and never apply that desire to our faith. John tells us that we can "conquer the world with our faith." By keeping God's commandments we can be "the best" and our faith in Jesus will make us "the victor".

Stewardship is: "knowing that we love the children of God when we love God and obey His commandments". 1 John 5:2 This knowledge will open our hearts and minds!

Prayer For A Pandemic

May we who are merely inconvenienced
Remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors
Remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home
Remember those who must choose between
preserving their health or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for
our children when their schools close,
Remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips
Remember those that have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money
in the tumult of the economic market
Remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home
Remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country,
Let us choose love.

During this time when we cannot physically
wrap our arms around each other,
Let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace
of God to our neighbors.

Amen.



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Prayer: Historic Saint Paul Catholic Church, Lexington, KY

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PARISH PASTORAL STAFF

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johnflanigan@hotmail.com
Father Peter Blake, Sacramental Minister
314-644-2144

Deacon Clyde McEntire, Deacon (Retired)
Kathleen O'Reilly, Parish Nurse, 314-644-6805
Father Michael Esswein, Pastor 314-962-5955

PARISH STAFF

Eva May, Administrative Assistant, 314-645-3307 Ext. 202
Colleen Eichler, Campus Manager, 314-645-3307 Ext. 206
Daniel Jenkins, Maintenance Assistant

Parish School of Religion

Karen Lightfoot, PSR Coordinator, psricmaplewood@gmail.com

St. Vincent DePaul Help Line

314-289-6101 ext. 2226

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Tim Yohe, Chair	Mary Bankston
Nikki & Todd Bircher	RJ & Suzee Irwin
Deacon John Flanigan	Becky Konersmann
Laura Miller	Ken Amend

Schedule

Sunday Mass: 8:30 a.m.

SVDP Food Pantry: Saturdays from 9:30-11:00am

Ministry Schedule-Suspended



Hope and Healing

Did you know that there are more than 3,000 abortions in our country every day? And for every baby there is a broken-hearted mom or dad who will often suffer from anger, guilt and

grief for years. If you know someone who has suffered through an abortion experience, you can be a voice of compassion by telling them about Project Rachel-Project Joseph – free, professional counseling for anyone wounded by an abortion experience. Get in touch with this healing counseling at 314-792-7565 or visit STLprojectrachel.org or STLprojectjoseph.org.

REHEARSAL

Psalms are sung in the home and rehearsed in the streets.
—St. Ambrose

AN ANCIENT BAPTISTERY

One of the most ancient and enduring sites for baptism in Rome is the church of San Giovanni in Fonte. This church is in fact a baptistery, and houses the font for the Lateran Basilica, the cathedral of Rome. The Emperor Constantine sponsored its construction in the year 315, and it is therefore the oldest baptistery in the world. It is the model for nearly all later baptisteries, including perhaps the font in your own parish church.

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



Sunday, January 10th:
For the people of the parish

Please Pray For:

Mike O'Reilly, Johnnie Evans, Phyllis Lee,
Charlene Konersmann, Jim Higgins, Jim Haislip,
Alice Hezel, Gary Gray, Mona Tillman, Heidi Barks,
Madelyn McClure, Paul Rygelski, Mary Johnston,
Jim White, Everleigh Lauber, Jack & Pamela Warner,
Pam MacDonald, Nancy Maurer, Linda Amend
Gort Haislip (brother of Jim Haislip)
Vera Thigpen (mother of Barb Bouvatte)
Terry & Ron Kippenberger (family of Rita Kippenberger)
Lisa Massack (sister of Joshua Capstick)
Sr. Barbara Paul (former parishioner)
Jan Pilla (daughter in law of Eddie Pilla)
Nick Simmons (son of Tom & Ellen Simmons)
Carl & Susan Case (brother and sister in law of Pat Curtis)
Mary Lucas (friend of Al & Maureen Daniels)
Drew Becker (son of Paul Becker), Deimeke Family
John Graves (brother of Karen Bish)
Lisa Hanley Blake (daughter of Celene Hanley)

PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING OUR COUNTRY

Col. Peter White, USAF, son of Jim & Lucy White

Senior Chief Matthew J Paul, USN,
son of Maria and Gary Gray

William Patrick Flynn, USN,
son of Patrick & Michelle Flynn

Henry Kloeckener, USA
grandson of Ken & Barb Kloeckener

Michael Garland & Stephen Garland, USA
Great-Grandsons of Annabelle Moran

To add your loved one's name (s)
contact Eva at the rectory. 314-645-3307 or email at
icmaplewood@gmail.com

CONFESSIONS—with Fr. Pete

St. Luke's Parish Saturdays 4:15-4:45

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Heb 1:1-6; Ps 97:1, 2b, 6, 7c, 9; Mk 1:14-20
Tuesday: Heb 2:5-12; Ps 8:2ab, 5, 6-9; Mk 1:21-28
Wednesday: Heb 2:14-18; Ps 105:1-4, 6-9; Mk 1:29-39
Thursday: Heb 3:7-14; Ps 95:6-11; Mk 1:40-45
Friday: Heb 4:1-5, 11; Ps 78:3, 4bc, 6c-8; Mk 2:1-12
Saturday: Heb 4:12-16; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mk 2:13-17
Sunday: 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19; Ps 40:2, 4, 7-10;
1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20; Jn 1:35-42

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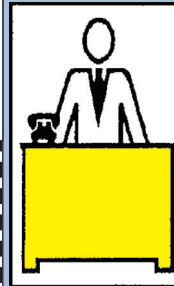
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