

02 • GET TO KNOW US

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FROM THE DESK OF FR. RICH

This weekend we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. In his gospel, Matthew makes the special status of Jesus very clear to the reader. Although He is like others baptized by John, sharing fully in John's conviction that repentance is necessary for salvation, Jesus is also unique. Marked by the Spirit now as the Messianic servant of God, He will also come to be recognized as God's beloved Son. As Jesus emerges from the water, something amazing happens: the heavens open, a dove descends upon Him and a voice from the heavens cries out, "You are my beloved Son, with you I am well pleased."

It must have been clear to those present at this moment that Jesus was more than an ordinary man – He is the chosen one of God, with a purpose and a mission and upon Him is God's favor. He is indeed more than an ordinary man. He is the Son of God, and when we make a conscious choice to follow Him by responding to our call at Baptism, amazing things happen in our lives, too. All we need to do is open our eyes and ears, to see and hear the great things that come with a relationship rooted in Christ.

Although the secular world may have tossed out their trees and taken down all the festive decorations the day after Christmas, the Christmas season officially ends today with the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord.

What better opportunity than today to remind all in our community of the significance and meaning of the Sacrament of Baptism and to remind all in our parish of the guidelines and understanding that should accompany those wishing to celebrate a baptism for their child or as an adult here at Queen of Peace.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

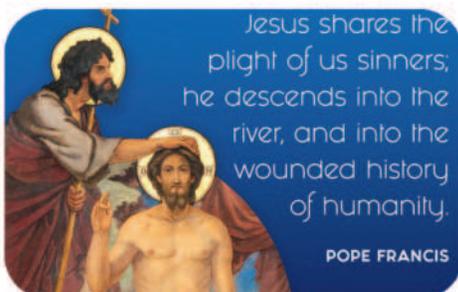
Congratulations on the planned baptism of your child! The Queen of Peace Parish Community welcomes her registered families to celebrate with great faith and joy the baptism of their children and is pleased to be the church where this first Sacrament will be celebrated. The Sacrament of Baptism is administered on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month at 1:00 p.m.

Baptism is the first sacrament of Christian Initiation. It is the sacrament that frees a person from original sin and makes that person a member of the Body of Christ and His Church, thus beginning the way to a new life in Christ. It is administered by a priest or deacon pouring Holy Water on the person's head "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."



ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

St. Eugene Church
Mondays 4 - 6 pm.
Benediction at 5:45 pm.



FROM THE DESK OF FR. RICH• 03

One must be baptized before receiving any other sacraments. Baptism is the foundation for all ministry and life in the church and confers a commitment to follow Christ and spread His message throughout the world. Furthermore, in baptism, one is incorporated into the life, death, and resurrection of Christ, and thus participates in the gift of the resurrection and eternal life with Christ.

Infants can be baptized soon after birth. At the time of baptism, parents vow to practice their faith and provide a Catholic upbringing for their child(ren). Adults who have never been baptized take part in the OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults), and will typically be baptized during the Easter Vigil Mass.

Next week's bulletin will contain important information regarding the requirements for both choosing and accepting the role of a godparent.

Next Thursday, January 22, 2026, is also the 53rd Anniversary of Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton, the U.S. Supreme Court decisions that permitted abortion on demand throughout all nine months of pregnancy. It has also been designated a Day of Prayer and Penance for Life. Although this decision has recently been overturned, thousands of children continue to be aborted in our nation. This national tragedy has a tremendous local impact. Tens of thousands of abortions took place in Cook and Lake Counties over the past decade – a number that continues to increase from previous years.

As a result of this reality, thousands of women and men suffer post-abortion aftermath in silence in the pews of our churches, while many more have left the church. As the Body of Christ, we are left with the significant task of reaching out with Christ's hope and healing to those who are suffering from post-abortion aftermath, while peacefully working to prevent the additional killing of thousands of innocents right here in our own communities. The prayers and penance of the faithful for the cause of life will ultimately transform the broken, the guilty, and the vulnerable.

The Archdiocese invites you to contact Project Rachel, a path of healing and reconciliation if you have been injured by abortion. Project Rachel is a sensitive, private, free, and confidential experience with a network of specially trained priests and caring people who understand the painful road back from abortion. It is open to Catholics and those of other faiths. To begin the healing journey, simply call Project Rachel at 1-312-337-1962 or 1-888-456-HOPE, for a referral to a priest, counselor, or support group. In your meeting with the priest, he will guide you to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Generally, the process will include counseling, prayer, and scripture. There are also periodic retreats, overnights, days of prayer and healing and special gatherings.

Next Sunday and always, I ask you to remember the unborn, the most innocent and helpless of our brothers and sisters, in your prayers. An innocent child is a human person created by God with a specific purpose in life. Every unborn boy and girl should be cherished, since each one has been created out of love.

God knows each one of us by name; he has counted every hair on our heads and every minute of our lives. We, then, must cherish all human beings, including the new children with which he blesses us.

Finally, I want to offer my sincere thanks and gratitude to a group of volunteers that go about providing service and ministry to all those who attend Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction on Monday evenings here at St. Eugene Church. These are the men and women, some of whom who have been doing this for over twenty-five years, who set-up, organize, take down and assist with our prayerful Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament as well as Benediction at the end of Adoration. I cannot thank you enough for your selfless dedication and commitment to this beautiful ministry here in our parish. It is due to your commitment and those that attend Adoration and Benediction that we are able to offer and continue this meaningful and prayerful experience for all in our parish. God bless you all!

Fr. Rich Yanos