

# St. Mary's Catholic Church

160 North Spring Street • Bluffton, OH 45817

LORD'S DAY MASS SCHEDULE: Saturday at 4:00 p.m.

Sunday at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

WEEKDAY MASSES: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday at 9:00 a.m.

OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Closed

Tuesday - Friday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**PARISH OFFICE:** 419-358-8631

**PARISH FAX:** 419-358-0647

**PARISH STAFF:** 

Pastor: Fr. Luyen Dau, C.Ss.R <u>Idau2006@gmail.com</u>
Deacon – Rev. Mr. Michael Marcum <u>mmarcum1@yahoo.com</u>
Coordinator of Religious Formation – Kelly Honse <u>khski7@aol.com</u>
High School Team – Jason and Jennifer Swartzlander <u>SwartzlanderJ@bluffton.edu</u>
Jim and Amy Tabler <u>jimamytabler423@gmail.com</u>
Administrative Assistant – Rachel Rader <u>rawelch47@yahoo.com</u>
Preschool – Katie Hohenbrink, Amanda Stechschulte katiehohenbrink@hotmail.com

**INFANT BAPTISMS:** Please call the parish office.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: One half hour before Mass on Saturday and Sunday or by appointment.

**SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:** Six months notice and marriage preparation classes required. Please call the Pastor for arrangements.

SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Please inform us of your needs.

SICK OR HOMEBOUND: Please notify the Parish Office, Basil Meyer at 358-0631, or Deb Buck at 419-348-7266.

**PARISH MEMBERSHIP:** New parishioners, welcome to the Parish. Please register as soon as possible at the office. If moving, please notify us.

BLUFFTON UNIVERSITY STUDENTS: Welcome to St. Mary's! Fr. Dau is your Campus Minister.

**VISION STATEMENT** 

St. Mary's Parish is a home for our living a sacramental life, for following Jesus in our service and daily life, and in supporting one another on the journey.

# St. Mary's Catholic Church

The Baptism of the Lord

My brothers and sisters in Christ,

In most religions, there is always a belief in some form of Karma, the effects of what we do in life, good or evil. If we do evil, we will be punished. If we do good, we will be rewarded. In other words, we reap what we sow.

What about Christianity? What is unique about Christianity?

Some people say that incarnation or the resurrection perhaps are the core of the Christian faith, but it's not quite, because other religions also believe in some form of incarnation of gods, and even resurrection such as Hinduism, Zen Buddhism, Islam, Bahá'í...therefore, faith in the incarnation or the resurrection is not peculiar to the Christian Faith.

What makes Christianity different from other religions is that we believe in the doctrine of grace. In other words, salvation is purely the grace of God; not the work of man. Grace is given to us irrespective of what we have done in life. We cannot earn merits before God, but we are called to receive His love, mercy, and salvation graciously. This grace is given to us through Jesus Christ. Through Christ, we are given the grace of salvation freely and without reservation.



This Sunday we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord; this feast ends the Christmas season. The gospel we hear today describes Jesus being baptized by John in the Jordan River.

Jesus is no longer a child. He is an adult, beginning His public ministry. We know that John the Baptist preached a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. So, why Jesus would be baptized by John? Jesus had no sins to be forgiven. As the son of the Father, Jesus was without sin. And yet, in today's gospel we see Jesus standing in line with sinners, waiting for John's baptism. Jesus is there because He wants to make it clear that He does not intend to save us from a distance. He chooses to be a part of us, to mingle and identify with sinners. Beginning at His birth and continuing out throughout His entire life, Jesus was like us in all things but sin.

This is good news for us, because it means that whatever we experience in life, good or bad, is something that Jesus also experiences as one of us. For example, if we love to celebrate with family and friends, then in the gospel, it shows us that Jesus celebrates with His family at the wedding feast of Cana. If we grieve the loss of the people we love, then Jesus also grieved the loss of His friend Lazarus. We fear the future and our coming death, Jesus feared His death as He struggled in the garden of Gethsemane. We are disappointed when family and friends let us down, Jesus was disappointed when His disciples did not understand Him and when they abandoned Him and fled during His passion.

Jesus knows everything that happens to us, all that we experience. Even though He is without sin, He stands with us in our human condition.

### **Weekend Masses**

January 9, 2022

Sat Jan 8	4:00 p.m.	Robert Blake
Sun Jan 9	8:00 a.m.	Jan Schulte
Sun Jan 9	10:00 a.m.	For our parish
Sat Jan 15	4:00 p.m.	. For our parish
Sun Jan 16	8:00 a.m.	In thanksgiving
Sun Jan 16	10:00 a.m.	Ruth Ebbeskotte

#### **SUNDAY COLLECTION**

Adults	\$1,440.00	Loose \$1,024.00		
Children	\$0.00	Total \$2,464.00		
29 envelopes returned = 18%				
Christmas Collection to Date: \$7,440.00				





Thank you for your generosity!
Thank you also to those who give electronically!!

#### Assignments for January 15 & 16, 2022

#### 4:00 p.m.

Cantor: Courtney McLaughlin

**Ushers:** John Parinello and Bob Minto

**Lector:** Jim Kinn **E.M:** Jennifer Tschuor **Server:** KJ Hohenbrink

### 8:00 a.m.

Cantor: Courtney McLaughlin

Ushers: Volunteer Lector: Caitlyn Couch

**E.M:** Deacon Michael Marcum **Server:** Shylee and Ronald Kaufman

#### 10:00 a.m.

**Cantor:** Courtney McLaughlin **Ushers:** Greg and Gabe Denecker

Lector: Chris Denecker

E.M.: Deacon Michael Marcum

**Servers:** Conner Gerten

### Readings for January 16, 2022 2<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Sunday

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 Gospel Reading: John 2:1 – 11

# St. Mary's Catholic Church

The Baptism of the Lord

January 9, 2022

That gives us confidence and hope. Jesus always knows what we feel. Jesus always knows what we fear. Whatever happens to us, Jesus always understands.

As it is said, what makes Christianity different from other religions is that we believe in the doctrine of grace. This grace is given to us through Jesus Christ. In Him, we are given the grace of salvation freely and without reservation. Our Baptism is the expression of this grace of God given to us freely for our salvation. There are no conditions for baptism except faith in His grace alone. We are justified through faith in Jesus Christ who wrought for us the grace of reconciliation. St Paul, in his letter to the Romans wrote, "This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood – to be received by faith." (Rom 3:22-25).

As we celebrate the Baptism of our Lord, we are reminded to be grateful for our own baptism. Being baptized is not just for our own salvation but baptism also means that we are given a mission as well to bring others to Christ. The baptism of Jesus was the beginning of His mission.

Whereas the feasts of Christmas and Epiphany celebrate the human face of God in Jesus, the feast of baptism reveals the divine face of man by showing our real identity as God's sons and daughters. This is who we are. Necessarily, baptism obliges us to live out our sonship and daughtership seriously so that others will come to see the human face of God in us and the divine face in man.

Many people today are too wounded to be able to see the face of God because of the injustices they suffered or their pride of intellect, thinking they can solve all problems of life and find happiness in pleasure, power, and success. To such people, we bring the Good News, words of consolation and encouragement. Our baptism imposes on us the duty of witnessing to the Lord and to be apostles of Christ to show the way for people to accept the Lord into their lives by helping them to remove all the obstacles that prevent them from coming to the Lord because of pride, fear, selfishness, and brokenness.

This mission is possible only when we become conscious of the dignity of our sonship and daughtership in Christ. We read, "While Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from the heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favor rests with you." To regain our sonship and daughtership, like Jesus, we need to enter into prayer and intimacy with the Father so that the Spirit of God can rest upon us anew and reinforce our consciousness that we are sons and daughters of God so that we can live accordingly in the power of His Spirit.

Your brother priest, Fr. Luyen Dau, CSsR

**Bible Study** Please let Deb Hohenbrink know by January 23<sup>rd</sup> if you are interested in joining the next Bible Study Group, which will start on Monday, February 7 at 6:30 p.m. The study will focus on Mary, and the books are \$10. If interested, please call or text (567) 204-

**Registration is open** for our preschool program. If you have any questions, please see Katie Hohenbrink or Amanda Stechschulte



**Don't forget** to pick up your new box of offertory envelopes. Please be attentive to the numbers as they have changed once again this year. If you cannot find your box, please ask the office before taking

one. If you want envelopes and were overlooked, please sign up and we will gladly issue you a box.

Online Giving If you would like to give online, please visit our website and click on "E-Giving" under the "Home" tab. Create your profile and set up the amount and rate t which you'd like to give. If you have questions.

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**Please pray for** Deb Niswander, who is entering the catechumenate stage on her journey to full communion with the church at Easter. If you see her, be sure to offer an encouraging word.

Mass Intentions The books for 2022 Mass intentions are now open. To request an intention, please contact the office. Reminder: intentions can be made for weekend Masses as well as daily Mass which is celebrated Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday at 9 a.m.

# P.R.E.P

**K-5:** Class will meet January 12 from 6:30 - 7:30.

**6<sup>th</sup>,7th and 8th Grades:** Class will meet January 23

God Squad--High School Youth Group

God Squad High School Youth will meet January 23