

# SAINT STEVEN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH



## THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD



After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove.  
- Lk 3:21-22a

**January 9, 2022**

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### MASS SCHEDULE

#### **MONDAY—FRIDAY**

8:00 A.M.

#### **SATURDAY**

4:00 P.M. (vigil)

#### **SUNDAY**

8:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m.

#### **HOLY DAYS**

8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

#### **CONFESSION**

#### **SATURDAY**

3:00 p.m.—3:30 p.m.



#### **PRIEST**

**Rev. Eric Houseknecht,**  
Parochial Administrator

#### **DEACONS**

**Rev. Mr. Richard Corwin**

**Rev. Mr. David Runyan**

#### **Mission**

Through actively living the sacraments, our community is made new by Christ to love God and one another.

#### **ADORATION**

#### **MONDAY—THURSDAY**

(only)

8:30, 9:30, 10:30 a.m.

1:30 & 2:30 p.m.

#### **OFFICE HOURS**

#### **MONDAY—THURSDAY**

9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. (Noon)

Friday—Closed

#### **GIFT SHOP HOURS**

#### **MONDAY—THURSDAY**

9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. (Noon)



# SUNDAY'S READINGS

## FIRST READING:

Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together;  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken. (40:5)

## PSALM:

O bless the Lord, my soul. (Ps 104)

## SECOND READING:

He saved us through the bath of rebirth  
and renewal by the Holy Spirit. (Ti 3:5)

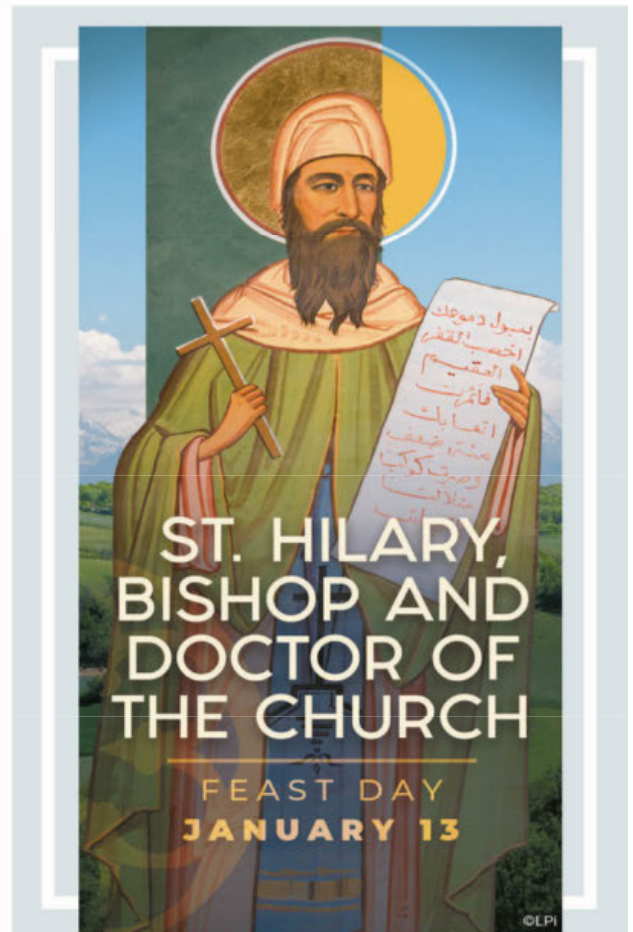
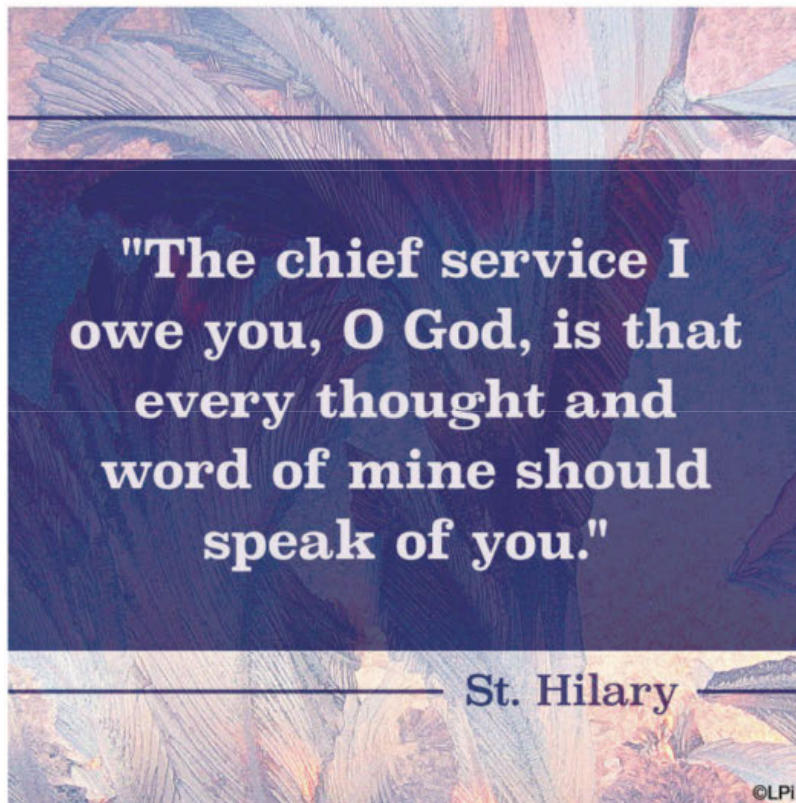
## GOSPEL:

After all the people had been baptized  
and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying,  
heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended  
upon him  
in bodily form like a dove. (Lk 3:22)

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## OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 9, 2022

Sunday: The Baptism of the Lord  
Thursday: St. Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church  
Sunday: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time



## Saint of the Week

Born a pagan, St. Hilary (c. 315 – c. 367) studied philosophy and the meaning of life, eventually making his way through the bible. He became a convert and was appointed bishop of Poitiers in 353. Sometimes referred to as the Hammer of the Arians, St. Hilary defended the Nicene Creed against a popular heresy, Arianism. He was exiled to Phrygia for opposing Roman emperor Constantius II, who preferred the heresy which denies Christ's divinity. From Phrygia St. Hilary fought with his pen, zealously writing against the heresy.

Eventually he was allowed to return to Poitiers, but did so by a circuitous route, preaching against Arianism all the way. St. Hilary was likely the first writer of hymns in the West, his writings on the Trinity, Psalms and Gospel of Matthew survive today. St. Hilary was created Doctor of the Church, a title given to those who provided important contributions to theology and doctrine, in 1851 by Pope Pius IX.

## MASS INTENTIONS & CELEBRANTS

### Weekend of January 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>—[The Baptism of the Lord]

4:00 pm (S.I.) Luella Heim..... Fr. Eric  
 8:00 am *Pro Populo* ..... Fr. Eric  
 10:00 am ✕ Loretta & Lester Dingeldine ..... Fr. Eric

### Monday, January 10<sup>th</sup>—Weekday [1]

8:00 am ✕ Nick Cordaro ..... Fr. Eric

### Tuesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>—Weekday [1]

8:00 am ✕ Daniel Mulgrew..... Fr. Eric

### Wednesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>—Weekday [1]

8:00 am (S.I.) Carol Fawdry ..... Fr. Eric

### Thursday, January 13<sup>th</sup>—Weekday [1]

8:00 am ✕ Anna Call ..... Fr. Eric

### Friday, January 14<sup>th</sup>—Weekday [1]

8:00 am ✕ Rosemary Shutts..... Fr. Eric

### Weekend of January 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>—[Second Sunday in OT]

4:00 pm ✕ Mike & Donna Grindey ..... Fr. Eric  
 8:00 am *Pro Populo* ..... Fr. Eric  
 10:00 am ✕ Donald Sandene ..... Fr. Eric

## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Robert & Sharon Rowland .....61  
 Larry & Sue Michelbrink .....59  
 Richard & Diana Johnson .....58  
 Dan & Patti Prinz.....56  
 Fred & Eileen Majerus.....56  
 John & Linda Dreyer .....50

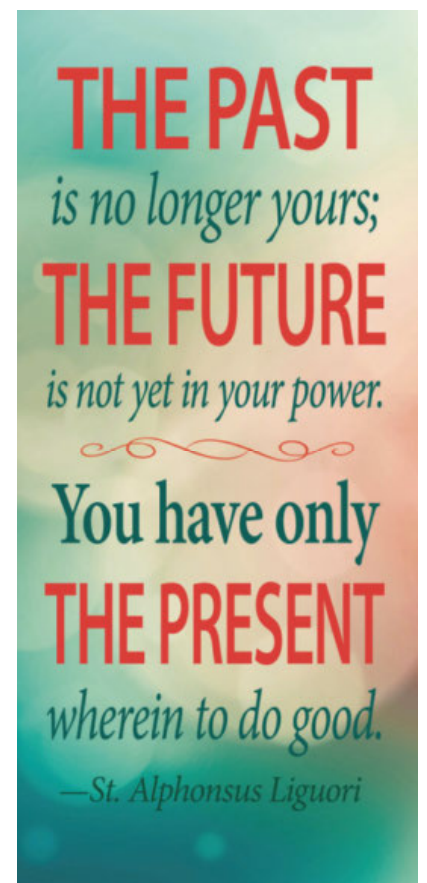
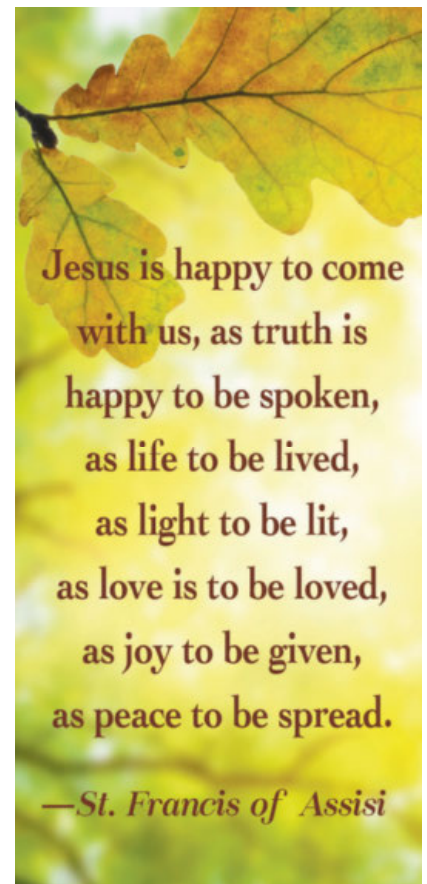
## NOVEMBER FUNERALS

<u>Funeral</u>	<u>Deceased</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>
Nov. 4.....✕	Mary Tomlan .....	March 1, 2021
Nov. 8.....✕	Virgil Einck .....	Oct.4,2021
Nov. 11.....✕	Connie Hurley .....	Oct.31, 2021
Nov. 15.....✕	Jan Figura .....	Nov.07, 2021
Nov. 16.....✕	Rosemary Shutts.....	Oct. 22, 2021
Nov. 17.....✕	Karen McDermott .....	Nov. 5, 2021
Nov. 18.....✕	Donald Zimmer.....	Jan. 19, 2021

## DECEMBER FUNERALS

<u>Funeral</u>	<u>Deceased</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>
Dec. 7.....✕	Robert Mersino.....	Sept. 30, 2021
Dec. 9.....✕	Andrew Hoge .....	Nov. 21, 2021
Dec. 15.....✕	James Mariner .....	Sept. 27, 2021
Dec. 23.....✕	Harry A. Hall.....	Dec. 17, 2021*

\*(interment only)





## LIVE THE LITURGY

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Jesus stood in line with everyone else and was baptized. There is something incredibly humbling about how this must have played out. Then, God did something truly awesome and inspiring. Through a very gentle and simple action he let the world know about the special relationship He shares with Jesus. That's exactly what is so incredible about our baptisms as well! Through those holy waters God announces to the world the special place we also occupy in His heart. We no longer have to wonder about the purpose of our lives or struggle to find our way. We do not need to fumble around, tripping over ourselves and wondering why we are even here. The answer has been given. All we have to do is live out the vocation we have received, to live the Gospel in fidelity to our Creator. There is nothing to fear and worry has no place. Standing in line with other sinners, we have our anchor and God is very pleased.

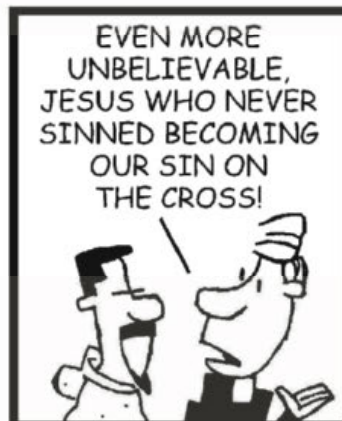
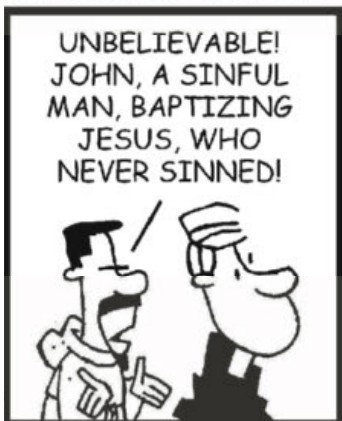


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### BAPTISM OF THE LORD





## GOSPEL MEDITATION

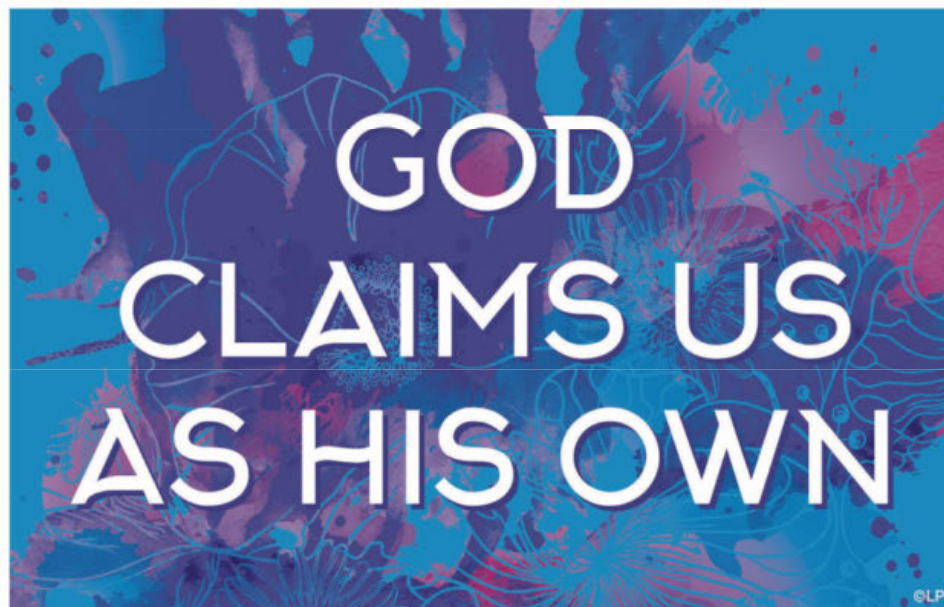
### ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

*"We are called to live our baptism every day, as new creatures, clothed in Christ."*

— Pope Francis

What reference point do you use when making decisions? Many times, impulse takes control and decisions are made based solely on emotion and desire. We all know that these types of decisions can often get us into trouble. When a person has a confident sense of who they are and a real understanding of what is important and of value, the likelihood of kneejerk impulsive choices diminishes. Baptism gives us what we need to make well informed and purposeful decisions. By this simple gesture, God claims us as His own and provides us with the identity and purpose we need to properly live life.

It is tremendously reassuring, when we truly embrace this revelation and realize that we no longer have to wonder about the purpose of our lives or struggle to find our way. The answer of who we are in God has been given to us. We no longer have to fumble around, trip over ourselves or walk aimlessly about. Issues surrounding the sacredness of life, the meaning of death,



the protection of those most vulnerable, care for the weak and the poor, offering hospitality to those in search of a home, the purpose and proper place of work, how to create a just social order, caring for creation, and understanding our roles as heralds and stewards are just a few of the wonderful gifts baptism brings. When we make decisions based on things such as these core Gospel truths we really act as Christ himself, revealing to others the new creations that we are. This is how we live our baptism.

It is difficult to walk against the tide. Yet, that is precisely what

baptism calls us to do. Although we are sinners, in need of mercy and far from perfection we are called to order our life and make decisions based upon the wisdom and guidance of Almighty God. He alone is the one who can claim us as His sons and daughters. Standing up for our principles will not make us popular. But who ever said Christianity is a popularity contest? Baptism calls us to stand up for that which goes against the grain of secularism. Standing in line with other sinners, we have our anchor to steady us in the tempests of life and God is very pleased. Forge ahead. There is nothing to fear.

*"I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."*  
- Lk 3:16bc

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## I HOPE I AM LIKE HIM

"Who is this Christ? Is he like you?"

Perhaps you've heard this story, often attributed to the life of St. Teresa of Calcutta. A sick man asked her this question, as he marveled at her tireless service to himself and others in the name of someone named Jesus Christ.

"He is nothing like me," the saint is said to have answered. "But I hope I am like him."

Though the authenticity of this exchange cannot be verified, its message rings perfectly true: all the value of our stewardship lies in its relativity to the one in whose name we perform it.

Consider the figure of John the Baptist — a magnificent, towering character even purely

from a literary or historical perspective. A martyr who fed on wild locusts and boldly spoke truth to power — a man so great some mistook him for the Messiah.

But why is he great? Because he prepared the way. All his accomplishments and escapades mean nothing if they are taken out of the context of salvation history. He only makes sense relative to Christ — and this is exactly as he wanted it. "One worthier than I is coming," he insists. And because of that humility and that total embrace of God's will, he is given one of the greatest honors in the New Testament — he baptizes the Son of God.

Let's examine our lives in the light of their relativity to Christ. How do we prepare the way? When Christ comes to us, what do we do? How do we leave ourselves open to be actors in God's plan?

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

## AT MY GRANDSON'S BAPTISM, THE PRIEST PUT A BIB ON THE BABY. I DO NOT REMEMBER SEEING THIS BEFORE. WHY IS THIS DONE? IS IT SOMETHING NEW?

When an adult is baptized, there is a part in the ceremony when the newly baptized is vested in a white garment. It is symbolic of the changes that baptism brings in the life of the baptized as they are freed from the bonds of sin and brought into the saving grace of Christ. Realities that are so profound are symbolically

presented so that we might better grasp and understand them.

Infants are often dressed in a baptismal dress, which is the baptismal garment. In some places, the bib is used as a kind of baptismal garment. At the place in the ceremony where the investiture takes place, the bib is used. Some are poncho-like and fit over the baby's head. Others are simply

placed on the baby's chest. If the baby is dressed in a white garment, nothing else is needed. The prayer says it all: "See in your white garment the outward sign of you Christian dignity ... bring that dignity unstained into the everlasting life of heaven." In baptism we are given our purpose and goal in life as believers, and this is symbolized by the white garment.







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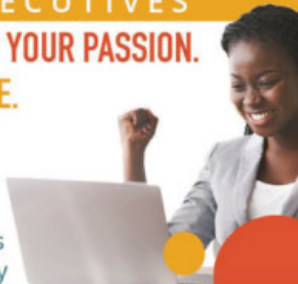
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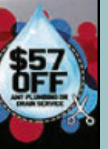
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