



Dear Friends in Christ,

Today's feast concludes the Christmas season, and we begin the next chapter of our Church year. Moving through the liturgical year is like reading through the chapters of a book or watching the seasons of a television series. Season one is Advent, focused on eager anticipation for the Messiah. Season two is Christmas, focused on celebrating the Incarnation: God with us. Season three is Jesus' ministry and today is episode one: his baptism.

After Jesus had been baptized, the Holy Spirit descended upon him in the form of a dove and a voice was heard affirming him as the beloved Son.

Jesus instituted baptism as a sacrament – an outward sign of inward grace. At baptisms now, we may not see the Holy Spirit descend like a dove, but we see the sacred chrism (oil) poured out, symbolizing the gift of the Holy Spirit. We may not hear the Father's voice from heaven, but we hear God's word spoken through Scripture. Jesus may not be there in person, but the ordained minister stands in his place, following his commission to baptize "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

Through these words and actions of baptism, we are given the grace of salvation through the power of the Holy Trinity. We need this because we cannot save ourselves. Left to our own devices, we succumb to worldly desires and take up godless ways. Our only hope is for God in his kindness and mercy to save us by the Holy Spirit, poured out on us through Jesus our Savior. So we are saved, not because of any righteous deeds we have done, but because of the mercy and love of God.

Sometimes Catholics are criticized for baptizing babies, who cannot speak for themselves. But infant baptism can be a powerful demonstration of the generosity and kindness of God's saving love. What sort of righteous deeds can an infant do to earn grace? How temperately and devoutly can a baby behave? None of that matters; they receive the grace of the sacrament all the same. Grace is not for those who can earn it, it is for those upon whom God bestows it, and often God prefers the most vulnerable, most humble, and most needy to bless.

On this feast, we give thanks for the saving grace of the sacrament and the generosity with which it is given. The next time we participate in a baptism, let us look to see the Holy Spirit, hear the voice of the Father, feel the presence of his beloved Son, and know how much we are blessed.

Yours in Christ Jesus,
Fr. Marco



IHM 75th Anniversary PARISH HISTORY NOTE

In 1795, still the early years of this nation's independence, Jesuit Father James Walton, woking out of St. Inigoes Manor, established St. Nicholas Church some 16 miles north of St. Inigoes near the Patuxent River. It was named after the patron saint of the owner of Mattapany Plantation, Nicholas Sewell. In this wooden church, a multi-racial Catholic community flourished during the 1800's, and by 1835 the community numbered six hundred.

By 1902, the deteriorated condition of the original wooden church led to a fund drive to build a concrete church. Construction of the new St. Nicholas Church began on December 19, 1915 and was concluded the following year. The old church remained in use as a parish hall until it was demolished in 1943.

In 1942, with the establishment of Naval Air Station Patuxent River, the former communities of Pearson, Susquehanna, Mattapany and Fordstown were swallowed up by the base, and St. Nicholas Church became the interdenominational St. Nicholas Chapel. Happily, St. Nicholas is the patron saint of sailors (although not of aviators; that honor belongs to St. Joseph of Cupertino).

At that time, the former Jarboesville was renamed Lexington Park. Jarboesville had previously been known as Centerville but was renamed in 1878 after its first postmaster, Jefferson Jarboe. Now it was renamed again after the USS Lexington, the Navy's second aircraft carrier (which had been lost in battle on May 8 of that year).

Next week: What does all this have to do with IHM?



WHERE HAS ALL THE MUSIC GONE? We are no longer livestreaming the Masses or making song sheets available online. Some parishioners might like to borrow a hymnal until the pandemic is over, for use in their car (while listening on 99.7 FM from our parking lot) or in the church. We have several hymnals that have been put aside during the pandemic. If you would like to borrow one long-term, please contact Mary at 240-434-8876 or mary@ihmrcc.org. You can also catch her at the piano at almost every Mass. She will be happy to bring one to your car!



75th ANNIVERSARY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Those interested in helping to plan for our 75th Anniversary celebration are invited to attend a meeting at 1 pm on Wednesday, January 12 in the Parish Hall (to ensure the ability to safely distance). Those interested but unable to attend, please contact Fr. Marco at schad@ihmrcc.org or 301-863-8144 x12.

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD



January 10 — January 16

Monday 9:00 am	1 Sm 1:1-8; Ps 116:12-19; Mk 1:14-20 Tweedale Family (L)
Tuesday 5:30 pm	1 Sm 1:9-20; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8; Mk 1:21-28 Davie Family (S)
Wednesday 9:00 am	1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-10; Mk 1:29-39 Cayetano Toledo (D)
Thursday 5:30 pm	1 Sm 4:1-11; Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25; Mk 1:40-45 Christian Marty (D)
Friday 9:00 am	1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Ps 89:16-19; Mk 2:1-12 Cayetano Toledo (D)
Saturday 9:00 am 4:00 pm	1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19, 10:1; Ps 21:2-7; Mk 2:13-17 Penny Gallagher (D) All IHM Parishioners
Sunday 8:30 am 11:15 am 1:00 pm	Is 62:1-5; Ps 96:1-3, 7-10; 1 Cor 12:4-11; Jn 2:1-11 Rev. Michael Dolan (L) Bruce Colby (D) Thomas Brown (D)

MASS INTENTIONS may be requested at the parish office during regular office hours (M—F, 8 am—4 pm) in person or by phone (301-863-8144 x11), or by e-mailing julian@ihmrcc.org. Your desired date may not be available. We now have the ability to accept offerings for Mass intentions online (but only **after** the date has been accepted by the office).

ALTAR FLOWERS/SANCTUARY CANDLES If you would like to donate the Altar Flowers or Sanctuary Candles in memory or for special intentions of a loved one, please call the Parish Office or email at cindy@ihmrcc.org.

LAZARUS COMMITTEE The Lazarus Committee provides funeral repasts for the funerals of active and registered parishioners. If interested in joining the Lazarus committee or for more information, please contact Pat at 301-863-5133 or Linda at 240-298-5264.

BULLETIN DEADLINE Please email your submission to bulletin@ihmrcc.org by Wednesday at 10 am prior to the Sunday of publication. All entries are subject to editing.

FIRST TUESDAY COFFEE The January First Tuesday Coffee will be held on the *second* Tuesday, January 11 from 9 am until 11 am in the parish hall. Bring a friend and a non-perishable item for the food pantry.

SYNOD LISTENING SESSION The entire Catholic Church is called to participate in the upcoming Synod of Bishops! In preparation for the international Synod of Bishops in 2023, Pope Francis wants your input on the topic of “For a Synodal Church, Communion, Participation, and Mission.” You are invited to join Fr. Marco and Fr. Dan for a parish listening session on Saturday, January 29th, 10 am - 1 pm with a snow date Saturday, February 12th at 10 am to 1 pm. Invite family, friends, neighbors- we want everyone to participate in this listening session. To RSVP, please email: julian@ihmrcc.org. If you can't make the parish listening session, share your opinion online at www.adw.org/synod.

SURVIVING DIVORCE brings hope and healing to those who have experienced the pain and loneliness of a broken marriage. It is for the newly separated and divorced and those still struggling with issues many years later. This group will meet at IHM on Sunday evenings from 6:30 pm until 8 pm starting on January 16, 2022. To register or to learn more about this program, email divorce@ihmrcc.org or call 240-298-4044. A suggested donation of \$25 covers the cost of materials.

FORMED To sign up to Formed, the premier site to access Catholic Media online, go to www.formed.org and press “sign up” and then “sign up as a parishioner”. Type in the ZIP code of the parish “20653”, follow the directions to create an account, and then enjoy!

PLEASE PRAY FOR

THE SICK THAT THEY MAY BE RESTORED TO FULL HEALTH

Audrey Somers, Louise Shafer, Helen Daye, Kathleen Floyd, Mary Oliver, Judith Ann Allgood, Vince Guerin, Jane Keyon, Linda F. Gieser, Ralph Gough Sr., Betty LePore, Bill Wagoner, Paula Coxon, Vincent Campanella, Joseph Hugh Weiland, Rylee Corliss, Rose Marie Weiland, Alan Stapanon, Ruby Garcia, Mia Garcia, Matthew Riddell, Marie C. Williams, Jim Hoffman, Kaylee Klier

Please note: names will remain on this list for two months, unless otherwise notified. To keep a name on the list, please resubmit by contacting bulletin@ihmrcc.org, or call the Parish Office.

PAPAL PRAYER INTENTION FOR JANUARY

Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Follow us on



MASS IN THE PARKING LOT As a reminder, during IHM's weekend Masses we have in-parking lot options available. While parked at IHM, if you tune to 99.7 FM you can hear the Mass broadcast live. If you park in the second, smaller parking lot, we will bring out Communion at the appropriate time.

TO THOSE WHO HELPED DECORATE FOR CHRISTMAS Our church was decorated for Christmas by many volunteers who shared their time and talents. Pat and I really appreciate your taking the time out of your busy schedules to make our church beautiful. We look forward to working with you again throughout the coming year in celebration of our 75th anniversary. You've got talent and great ideas. Again, thank you,
Pat and Linda

HELP NEEDED TAKING DOWN CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS Now that the Christmas season is ending, help is needed taking down the Christmas decorations in the Church. To help, please come (or stay) after the 9 am Mass this Wednesday, January 12. Thank you in advance!



IHM MUSIC MINISTRY If you are interested in sharing your musical talents with the parish, there is a place for you in this ministry! Please call Mary at 240-434-8876 (leave a message!).

GARDEN AND GROUNDS MINISTRY We have various projects around the church that need to be completed. Any adult or child would be welcome. If you want to volunteer, please contact Martha Davie by phone or text at 240-434-3510. Thank you!

IT SHOULDN'T HURT AT HOME The Catholic community cares about families experiencing violence and unhealthy relationships. Visit www.CatholicsforFamilyPeace.org to learn more about this issue, how to help, who to call, and the rich Catholic teaching that supports survivors. If you need help now, contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline, 800-799-7233 (24 hours); 800-787-3224 (TTY); www.ndvh.org to find assistance near you.



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL OF IHM Our food pantry provides food to those who need assistance. We'd like to have you help us bag groceries from the food in our food pantry for our clients, or to pick up food from grocery stores in our area that donate to us. We do this throughout the week, excluding weekends. We have meetings just once a month. If you'd like to volunteer in our food pantry, please call 301-863-8193 on Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays from 8:30 to 11:30 am, which is when the pantry is open. Leave your name and number and we will work to get you started as soon as you'd like.

MASS WITH HEALING PRAYERS Come experience the healing power of Christ at our monthly Mass with Healing Service at 7 pm on Monday, January 31. Father Larry Swink, pastor of St. Cecilia's, will celebrate Mass. After Mass, we will have Eucharistic Adoration and prayers for healing with laying on of hands. Confessions begin at 6:30 pm and continue as long as there are customers!

WOMEN'S NIGHT OF REFLECTION with Fr. Larry Swink on Tuesday, January 11, 7 pm at St. Cecilia's in St. Mary's City. "Living the Message – What's Your Plan?" How can 2022 be the year you resolve to live more like the daughter of God He created you to be? When the 3 shepherd children of Fatima saw what was at stake, their daily habits were never the same. It's time to establish good spiritual habits. Evening includes Eucharistic Adoration, talk, Confession, and healing prayers.



THE NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE will be Friday, Jan 21 in Washington, DC. There will be a bus leaving IHM at 10 AM. For details, contact Mark Baysinger (240-925-2677 or nbay9@hotmail.com).

LUMINOUS MYSTERY ROSARY PILGRIMAGE/RETREAT Camp Maria Spiritual Center in Leonardtown invites you to explore the Mysteries of Light in the Life of Christ through a one-day retreat/virtual pilgrimage. Visit the Holy Land! Connect the New Testament to the Old Testament! Consider what the "Mysteries of Light" mean for your life! Saturday, February 12, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm, Cost is \$50.00, which includes continental breakfast and lunch (scholarships available). To register, submit your name, address, and phone number to normayearick80@gmail.com by February 8. <http://campmaria.org>

PERSONAL RETREAT DAY Are your days overcrowded, jam-packed, and busy, busy, busy? Jesus tells you to "Come away with me..." to Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center where your very own personal retreat awaits. During your personal retreat, from 8:30 am to 4 pm, an experienced retreat director will guide you to a place of rest with Christ. The retreat schedule allows for one-on-one spiritual direction (optional), quiet reflection, Mass, Confession and Eucharistic Adoration, plus continental breakfast and lunch, so you will be nourished and cared for while Our Lord speaks to your soul about the depths of His love for you. Cost is \$120 per person. Advance Registration is required, and registrations will be limited to facilitate appropriate social distancing. Visit our website to register and to find more dates, visit www.ourladyofbethesda.org or call 301-365-0612.



January 9, 2022

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

The Baptism of the Lord

Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 40:1-5, 9-11 | Acts 10:34-38 or
Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7 | Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

For cradle Catholics, baptism may be the most important step on the Christian journey that none of us actually remembers. Which is too bad! After all, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* instructs us that baptism is “the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit.” (#1213) Yes, baptism cleanses us of original sin, but it’s much more than that! We need only look to Jesus to see that. Though without sin, Jesus’ baptism is a turning point in his life all the same. The Holy Spirit descends upon him and a voice from heaven cries out, “You are my beloved Son.” So begins the public ministry, in which Jesus would carry out his Father’s saving mission. Through our baptism, at any age, we, too, become God’s beloved sons and daughters. Through word and sacrament, Jesus invites us to share in his mission by turning our lives over to our Father as we embrace our Christian journey.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Baptism is often referred to as “the doorway to the Church” because through this sacrament, our sins are forgiven and we are united to Christ and his Church. It is the door which gives access to all the other sacraments. (Cf., CCC 1213) At the conclusion, the celebrant asks God to continue to pour out his blessing upon those being baptized, and send his peace to all who are gathered. As baptized Christians, we are now adopted children of God; we are disciples who are empowered, through the wisdom and strength of the Holy Spirit, to share the Good News and help build the kingdom of God on earth. Sound intimidating? It shouldn’t. Each day that we “put on Christ” and do his work, God is re-creating us and making us into something far better than we could ever be on our own. Embrace this faith you have been given and go out and share your gifts and talents with others, confident in the Spirit that guides you.

SERVE Think of something you have been told you are very good at by friends or coworkers – something for which you have been “anointed,” in a sense. In what way can you do something specific to lead others with care in this area, or perhaps do a very particular good yourself?