

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

"Behold, the heavens were opened for him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon him." Mt 3:16

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

SERVING ST. MARY'S/ MALTA, SACRED HEART/ DODSON, ST. FRANCIS /SACO

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2026

Contact Us

Fr. Felix Nayak, Pastor

Cell 406.946.2195 or Rectory 406.654.1446

Deacon Tom DePuydt

deacontom@saintmarysmalta.org or 406.674.7060

Administrative Assistant (Macie Hould) office hours are Tuesday and Thursday, 10am to 2pm at RE Center

office@saintmarysmalta.org or (406) 654-1311

Please check our website for additional information.

Weekly bulletins are posted in full color with several additions – check them out here: <https://www.saintmarysmalta.org/bulletins>

Confession – Friday's 9-10am, Saturday's 11-noon or contact Fr. Felix directly for an appointment.

Adoration – every Friday 9:00-10:00am immediately following daily Mass.

MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturday vigil – Malta 5:00pm Sunday – Saco 8:30am, Malta 10:30am, Dodson 12:30pm

Daily Mass (Monday thru Friday) – Malta 8:30am

Homily by Fr. Felix:

The Baptism of Our Lord – (A): Isaiah 42:1–4, 6–7, Acts 10:34–38, Matthew 3:13–17

Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ,

Theme of today's liturgy is in the baptism of the Lord, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son and humble Servant, anointed by the Spirit to inaugurate God's saving mission for all humanity.

In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah presents to us the mysterious figure of the Servant of the Lord. This servant comes gently, quietly, and compassionately. God's servant brings justice not through force, but through fidelity, mercy, and obedience. This reading prepares us to understand the meaning of Jesus' baptism. Jesus is revealed as the Servant who stands in solidarity with humanity, especially the weak and sinful. Though sinless, he enters the waters of the Jordan, identifying himself with those who seek repentance. His mission is not self-glory but service; not privilege but humility.

Isaiah also tells us that this servant is called to be "a light to the nations," opening the eyes of the blind and freeing captives. At Jesus' baptism, this mission begins publicly. The waters of the Jordan become the threshold of a new creation, where God's servant is commissioned to restore dignity, bring healing, and reconcile the world to God. The first reading invites us to recognize in Jesus the servant who saves by love.

In the second reading, Peter proclaims that the baptism of Jesus reveals a God who is open to all, Jew and Gentile, saint and sinner. God's saving action in Christ is universal, offered to every human heart. Peter summarizes Jesus' mission beginning with his baptism. God anointed him with the Holy Spirit and power, and Jesus went about doing good, healing all who were oppressed. The baptism at the Jordan is the moment of divine commissioning. Jesus is anointed, empowered, and sent.

Through our own baptism, we too are anointed with the Holy Spirit and called to continue

Christ's mission. Baptism is both about forgiveness of sins and participation in the life and work of Jesus. Like Christ, we are called to do good, to stand against injustice, and to become instruments of God's healing presence in the world.

In the Gospel, we witness the powerful and humble scene of Jesus' baptism. John the Baptist hesitates to baptize Jesus, recognizing his own unworthiness. Yet Jesus insists that it is proper to fulfill all righteousness which means total obedience to the will of the Father. Jesus' baptism reveals the heart of God. As Jesus emerges from the water, the heavens open, the Spirit descends like a dove, and the Father's voice proclaims: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." This is a Trinitarian revelation, Father, Son, and Spirit, marking the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. By entering the waters, Jesus sanctifies them. He transforms a baptism of repentance into a baptism that gives new life. He shows us that true greatness lies in humility and obedience.

For us, the Baptism of the Lord calls us to remember our own baptismal identity. We are beloved sons and daughters of God. The same Spirit rests upon us and call us to live as God's children, to walk in obedience, and to reflect Christ's love in the world.

As we renew our baptismal promises, may we live out our faith with courage, humility, and joyful trust in the God who calls us beloved. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

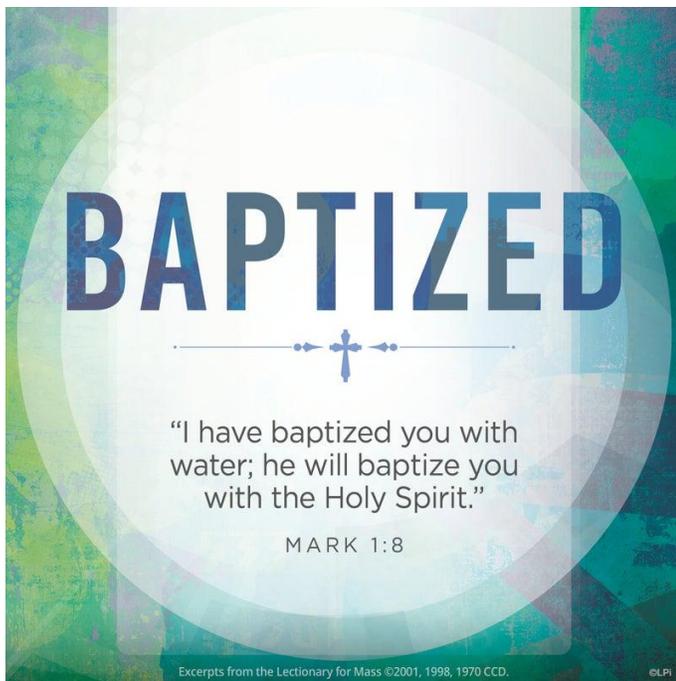
We are in the process of updating our **volunteer information in the Ministry Scheduler program**. If you are on the list to serve a ministry, please email office@saintmarysmalta.org with any dates you do not want to be scheduled &/or any mass requests you have (Sunday only or Saturday only, ect.) We appreciate your continued service to the church with grateful hearts.

– It's not too late to be added to the ministry list! If you would like to volunteer, please send an email to the office or contact Macie Hould or Anne Boothe

*The 2026 SEARCH date has been set: March 20th, 21st, and 22nd.
Contact Dianne Salsbery for more info*

If you would like to have another Priest perform a service (funeral, wedding, baptism, ect.) in our Parish, please contact Fr. Felix so he may grant his permission.

Week of January 4th, 2026 Donations: Malta \$1904, Saco &650, Dodson \$965



Prayer Requests

*If you have a prayer request, please contact **Dianne Salsbery at 406-654-4675**. Names will be listed in the bulletin for a minimum of 30 days.*

Please pray for –Kylie Starkey, Chuck Nurville, David Cochran, Dawn Goodheart Jones, the family of Skyla Sisco, Leona Kienenberger, the families of Staci French, Carletta Benson, Joe Simanton, Judy Henry, Adalyn McCollom, Gloria Combs, Corky LaBrie, Dianne Salsbery, Bob Kaluza, Tammy Peterson and those from our area serving in the military.

For the repose of the souls of – Skyla Sisco, Staci French, Shirley Eklund, Alvina Doucette, Derek Davis, KJ Wilke, Jim Robinson, David Williamson, Lee Stevens and all souls in need and pray also for their families that they find comfort and peace.

Blessing for Baptismal Graces

Dear God,

Through Baptism, You called and claimed us as Your own, chosen and loved. Pour Your blessing upon us as we remember our Baptism. Plant Your identity in our hearts. Help us to live as Your beloved. Amen.

Next weeks Ministry Volunteers: January 17&18

	Sacristan	Lector	Hospitality	Money Counter
Saturday, 5:00 PM	Gina Webb	Shawn Bleth Meagan Bleth	Darlene Cummings	
Sunday, 10:30 AM	Diane Liebel	Tom & Heather Knowles Dianne Salsbery	Mary LaFond	Becky Bruce - Money Counter Alanna Mahan - Money Counter

Mass Intentions - to schedule an intention,
please fill out an envelope at the back of the church.

Each intention is \$10.

Saturday 1.10.26	For Derek Davis Family r/b Lana Fortin
Sunday 1.11.26 10:30 Malta	- For Pete & Clarine Weise r/b Cummings
8:30am Saco	- For special intentions r/b Lana Fortin
12:30 Dodson	- For the faithful in our Parish
Monday 1.12.26	For the injured r/b Lana Fortin
Tuesday 1.13.26	For Camryn Mears r/b The Mears Family
Wednesday 1.14.26	For Immaculate Conception r/b Lana Fortin
Thursday 1.15.26	For all LaFond relatives r/b Cummings
Friday 1.16.26	For Dan Ducan Family r/b Cummings
Saturday 1.17.26	For my family r/b Lana Fortin
Sunday 1.18.26	For the faithful in our Parish

**Daily Readings for the Week of
January 11th:**

Sunday:	Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10/Acts 10:34-38/Mt 3:13-17
Monday:	1 Sm 1:1-8/Ps 116:12-13, 14-17, 18-19/Mk 1:14-20
Tuesday:	1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sam 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Mk 1:21-28
Wednesday:	1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Mk 1:29-39
Thursday:	1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/Mk 1:40-45
Friday:	1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19/Mk 2:1-12
Saturday:	1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 2:13-17
Next Sunday:	Is 49:3, 5-6/Ps 40:2 and 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10/1 Cor 1:1-3/Jn 1:29-34

Finance Council members include:

- Mike Ereaux** 406-658-2613 (H), 406-654-7803 (C),
7mfe7195@itstriangle.com
Deb Sjostrom 406-654-1451, sjostrom@itstriangle.com.
Lance Hould 406-539-5772, lanceh_99@hotmail.com
Scott King 406-654-7302, sbking1959@gmail.com
Heathyr Knowles 805-264-7350, hjknowles@msn.com
Shyla Sunford 406-399-1484, shylasunford@gmail.com
(Saco)
Bonnie Lankford 406-390-2276, Bonnie4339@hotmail.com
(Dodson)

Meetings are generally the 3rd Thursday of the month. If interested in serving please contact a member of the finance council.

Parish Council members include:

- Alora Snider**— 406-399-1675, alora_lynn_09@hotmail.com
Shawn Bleth— 406-654-7303, shawn.bleth@gmail.com
Nancy Ereaux—406-658-2613
Jeff Van Heel—406-266-1133
Joy DePuydt—406-674-5560, joyful@itstriangle.com (Saco)
Leona Kienenberger—406-383-4459,
leona_kienenberger@yahoo.com (Dodson)

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