

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

JANUARY 11, 2026

FROM OUR PRIESTS' DESKS:

Dear brothers and sisters of Sacred Heart,

As we have often said, little is known of the life of Jesus from the time of his birth and infancy to the time of his baptism, described in today's Gospel. Almost thirty years, by far the largest part of Jesus' life, are passed over by the Scriptures in silence. Many writers have speculated about those "hidden years", drawing more on imagination than on fact about the daily life of the Holy Family in Nazareth—about Jesus, Mary and Joseph. All we know for sure is what St. Luke tells us at the end of chapter two of his Gospel: that Jesus for his part progressed steadily in wisdom and age and grace before God and men. To speak about Jesus "making progress" sounds a little strange. In thinking about the perfection of his divine nature we forget that he was also human—that he was like us in all things but sin. So it was necessary for him, as it is necessary for us, to learn from the experiences of life, to discover who we are and what we are to do with the one and only life we have. And in this process of self-discovery, of self-acceptance, and of self-actualization there are turning points, important moments in which the choices we make determine in a very real way the future direction our lives will take. Perhaps we can think of these moments in our own lives—they may be connected with our families, our friends, our faith, or all three; they may have been well-planned for, or maybe they were unexpected and caught us by surprise.

For Jesus one of those moments was his baptism by John the Baptist in the Jordan River. That event, recorded in all four Gospels as a sign of its importance, speaks of a religious experience in which God is revealed as a Trinity of persons, loving and supporting each other: the Holy Spirit descends in the form of a dove; the Father speaks words of approval and encouragement; and Jesus is identified as the beloved Son. What this experience means to Jesus is clear from the actions he immediately takes. He withdraws into the desert for a period of reflection and prayer which will prepare him for the mission he has decided to undertake. No doubt he had been thinking about that mission even before the baptismal waters first ran down over his head; it was the fruit of perhaps years of prayerful reflection. It did not become real, however, until after Jesus' confronted the devil and rejected all the alternatives that Satan proposed as being untrue and unfaithful to the commitment he had made to carry out the will of his Father. We commemorate this rejection of evil and we make it our own, in the

baptismal promises that all of us make when we reject Satan, and all his works, and all his empty promises, and personally embrace the love of God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

For the majority of us Baptism was an event of the distant past, something we know happened to us but which we don't remember since we were only infants at the time. We do remember, hopefully, the principal effects of Baptism: to cleanse us of original sin, to make us children of God and heirs of heaven, and to incorporate us into the mystical body of Christ, the Church. These effects, of course, are not visible or tangible—we can't see them or feel them. It is only faith that makes us aware of them, of their meaning and challenge: Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel; come out of the darkness into the light; stop living for yourself alone; make room for God and make room for others. And when we do these things our Baptism becomes a living reality for us and we become vessels—open to receive and open to give.

Looking at our lives and our world in these first days of 2026 we can probably see much that is good, many things to inspire hope and gratitude, but also much room for improvement—problems that need to be addressed; relationships that need to be renewed; injustices that need to be corrected. How do we fit in? Where do we fit in? A New Year is a traditional time for making resolutions, some needed changes we want to make in our lives, perhaps above all life-style choices that will promote better physical, emotional, and spiritual health. In making these choices we should be realistic and practical as well as challenging ourselves to be more self-disciplined, more truthful and honest, more patient and more self-giving. The New Year will, no doubt, contain many surprises for all of us—some pleasant and others not so pleasant; some welcome and others unwelcome. May God's grace accompany us as it accompanied his Son; may it help us to promote love rather than hatred; healing rather than injury, and peace rather than conflict.

Fr. John Gruben, OAR

Fr. Eric-Antonio Crelencia, OAR

Fr. J. Michael Rafferty, OAR

DEBT AND DEFICIT REDUCTION COLLECTION

JANUARY 18, 2026

**FOR OUR ARMED FORCES & FIRST RESPONDERS
OF ALL KINDS, AND OUR DOCTORS & NURSES**

We pray for all the men and women serving our country AND especially the sons and daughters, grandchildren and loved ones of our parishioners.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

I have waited, waited for the Lord, and he stooped toward me and heard my cry. And he put a new song into my mouth, a hymn to our God.

Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

I announced your justice in the vast assembly; I did not restrain my lips, as you, O Lord, know.

CYO

**BASKETBALL CLINIC
GRADES K – 1ST AND 2ND
K – 1ST – 1:30
Grade 2ND – 2:30PM
RUNS FOR 8 SUNDAYS**

PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday, January 11

CYO Clinic – Gym 1pm

Monday, January 12

Novena Our Lady of Miraculous Medal after 9am Mass

Grupo Carismático-Cafeteria 7:30pm

Rel Ed. Gr. 6 – 4:30pm

CYO –gym

Tuesday, January 13

Rel Ed. – Grs 3-5 – 4:30pm

Rel Ed. Grs 7 & 8 – 7:00pm-

CYO –5pm gym

Wednesday, January 14

Immaculate Heart Prayer Group – 7:30pm Church

Grupo Estudio Biblico – 8pm in the cafeteria

Thursday, January 15

Friday, January 16

CYO – 5pm gym

Saturday, January 17

Rel Ed. Grs 1 & 2 – 9:30am

7:30am – St. Joseph's men's Bible Discussion- pre-k



Friday - January 23rd, 2026

~ more info will be shared in the near future ~

Questions: email-rocklandrighttolife@gmail.com

The Respect Life Office bus will depart at 5:00AM from **St. Joseph's Seminary**, 201 Seminary Ave, Yonkers, NY (new location!) and return between 9:00PM and 10:00PM.

2025 CONTRIBUTION OFFERINGS

The year-end reports for 2025 from the envelope company and parish pay if you have signed up for online giving, will reflect totals for the year 2025 for envelopes on which parishioners' numbers and amounts have been recorded on the outside throughout the year. Statements will be mailed by the end of January. **Thank you for your generous support!**

HOLY MOTHER PRAY FOR US

Pray for us, loving Mother,
and gain for our nation and world,
and for all our families and loved ones,
the protection of your holy angels,
that we may be spared the worst of this illness.
For those already afflicted, we ask you to obtain the
grace of healing and deliverance.
Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful,
wipe away their tears and help them to trust.
In this time of trial and testing, teach all of us in the
Church to love one another and to be patient and kind.
Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to
our hearts.

We come to you with confidence,
knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother,
health of the sick and cause of our joy.
Shelter us under the mantle of your protection,
keep us in the embrace of your arms,
help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus.
Amen.



SISTERS OF LIFE

Providing Life-affirming

choices for women: If you know someone who is struggling, please urge them to contact:

www.visitationcenterus.org or call (877)777-1277.

Have you suffered an abortion? Experience God's love and mercy and begin the journey of healing. Please call the Sisters of Life: 866-575-0075 or e-mail: hopeandhealing@sistersoflife.org. For men, call Theresa Bonopartis at Lumina: 877-586-4621 or e-mail: Lumina@postabortionhelp.org

SHARING WHAT WE HAVE IN JESUS' NAME

4th of Advent – \$12,485.

Last Year's - \$14,899.

Feast of the Holy Family – 13,524.

Last Year - \$13,062.

Solemnity of Mary - \$4,658.

Epiphany – \$12,411.

Last Year - \$17,856.



Please pray for those who are ill and have asked us to

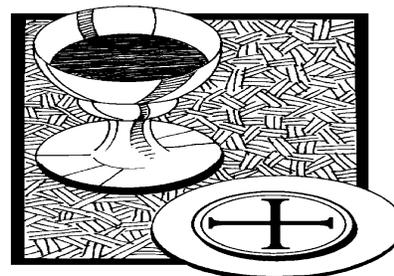
pray for them: Helene Marie Biby, Andrew Bylec, Elantoniette Camagong, Ronald Carlucci, Siobhan Casey, Ramon Noel Crelencia, Angie Clifford, Joseph Collins Jr., Robert Conly, Comerford Family, Gina Conklin, Teresa & Tom Consolo, Laudelina Crowley, Eileen Caulin, Janet Curcione, Joe Davey, William Daniels, Alice Diebner, Carol Deery, Anthony DeFrancesco III, Cledha Desir, Phyllis Domino, Marge Diebner, Karen DeJoie, Mary Discini, John Duffy, Jacqui Elder, Doris Fina, Ginny & Sonny Figula, , Teddy Girvan, Joseph Gilson, Spiros Grmmenos, Gail Griggs, Mary Guarnieri, Senan Halpin, Maureen Hayes, Catherine Howard, John Hughes, Rev. Charles Huse OAR, Domenic & Anthony Iannaccone, Rob Incognoli, Yvonne Gangone Ingui, Bob Janson, Fran Janson, Thomas Kelly, Eileen Kennedy, Rick Konrad, Steven C. Klumpp, Fred Lemoine, Elizabeth Lempka, Robert Liggio, Ginger Listwan, Vasily Lockhart, Laura Mack, Matthew Luludis, Thomas Mathai, Jeanne Matera, Chris Mayorga, Richard McCarthy, Thomas McGrath, Catherine McMenamin, John McLoughlin, Leonor Medranda, Jacob Mendelsohn, Joyce Miller, Iraida Molina, Aida Morales, Vanessa Morales, John Murphy, Thomas O'Connor, Jennifer O'Hara, Nancy Overend, Leona Overend, Nolita Padilla, Joseph Payne, Shace Paljusevic, Noreen Pidgeon, Barbara Procopio, James Procopio, Danny Ranke, Tony Ramos, Milton Ramos, Jerry Reilly Sr., Rose Romeo, Della Russell, Claudia Spallanzani, Joseph Pasculli, Abdul Shakur, Michael Shumway, Jean Simons, Thomas Sullivan, Grace & Patrick Sullivan, Rose Stark, Maureen Starke, Lindsey Sterling, Shaun Stein, Patricia Steiper, Barbara Veraldo Strano, Lisette Taylor, Gary W., Elisa Greco Wegman, Phyllis Varacalli, Kali Villela, and Yolanda Yarleque.

**ALTAR MEMORIALS
JANUARY 11, 2026**

**Altar Wines, Breads, Candles and the
Sanctuary Lamp
In Memory of
VIRGINIA SIMONE KLARE
&
MILDRED INGUI**



Let us pray for our deceased parishioners, and family members and loved ones, especially:



SCHEDULE OF MASSES

**7AM & 9:00AM DAILY – (MON. – FRIDAY)
SATURDAY – 9AM (FOLLOWED BY THE ROSARY)
SATURDAY VIGILS – 5:30PM AND 7:15PM
SUNDAYS
8:30AM, 10:00AM, 11:30AM 4:00PM (S)
& 5:30PM**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10

9:00am – † Virginia Simone Klare

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10

5:30pm – † Gina Gasparre East

7:15pm – † Rene, Arturo, Carlos Vicente /
Miguelino Arevalo

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11

8:30am – † William Van Dunk

10:00am – † Agnes & Harold Gravius

11:30am – † Mildred Ingui

4:00pm – Enriqueta Mendoza de Amaya

5:30pm – All Parishioners / Parish Memorial

MONDAY, JANUARY 12

7:00am – †

9:00am – †

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13

7:00am – †

9:00am – † James Edward Chessemann

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14

7:00am – – †

9:00am – † Catherine Howard / Fr. John Quinn

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15

7:00am – – † Mary J. Freeley

9:00am – † Palma & Henry Heck

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16

7:00am – † Fr. Esteban Soria Ullate, OAR

9:00am – † Deceased Members & Relatives of
OAR family

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17

9:00am –

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17

5:30pm – † Roger Carney

7:15pm – Karla Jackelin Martinez

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18

8:30am – † Knights of Columbus

10:00am – † Dennis O'Connell

11:30am – † Michael D'Avanzo

4:00pm – † Alejandro Carreño

5:30pm - All Parishioners / Parish Memorial

**BOOSTER CLUB
WEEK 17
JACK MEYERS**