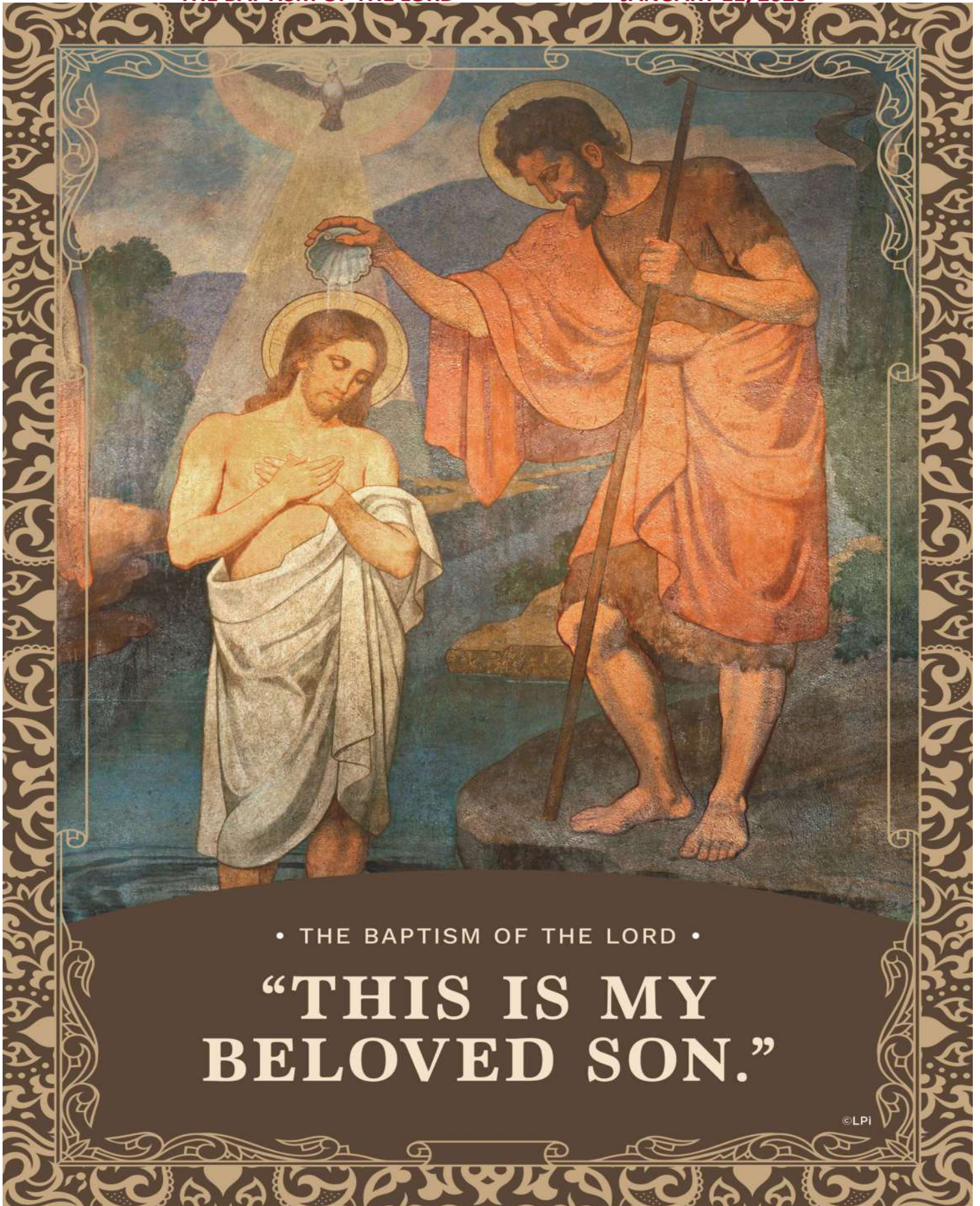


THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

JANUARY 11, 2026



• THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD •

“THIS IS MY
BELOVED SON.”

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Parishioners,

A man wrote to a magazine recently and said, “When my niece was a student, her class of six-year-olds sang ‘Hark, the Herald Angels Sing’ at a Christmas concert. The line ‘God and sinners reconciled’ was a tricky one for this age group. One little boy, with a voice that completely drowned out the rest of the choir, happily belted out, ‘God and sinners dressed in style!’”

During the Christmas Season, which ends with today’s Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, we have rejoiced from the depths of our heart that the Son of God became the Son of Mary with the result that God and sinners are reconciled. Admittedly, this Christmas Season may be a burden for some of our brothers and sisters, perhaps due to illness or to the recent loss of a loved one. Maybe a job has vanished and making ends meet right now is a tall task. We’re praying for you!

Some time ago, a priest I read about was tasked with delivering the toast to the Pope at a dinner in Rome attended by American bishops, priests and seminarians. He said by way of introduction to the toast that at one point while he was studying in Rome for the priesthood, he was selected to be a book bearer at a Mass celebrated by the Pope. Father said that when he arrived at St. Peter’s Basilica to join the others who would be taking part in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the Pontiff came around and greeted them all personally, smiling, joking, making everyone feel welcome and comfortable.

Then the Papal Master of Ceremonies came up to him and informed him that he had to hold the book not only for the Mass, but also for the Pope’s private vesting before Mass. He walked the priest into the reserved sacristy and gave him just one instruction: “Don’t talk to the Pope!” Before long the Holy Father walked in, the priest said, and they were alone.

In that moment, he said, the Pope seemed to sink into himself, not as if he had been putting on an act and could now be himself, but rather, said the priest, that he was carrying this overwhelming weight, the weight of the whole world and the entire Church. He said the Holy Father then prayed the prayers of vesting with an intensity, and a reverence, which, profoundly impacted the priest. The experience made him pray differently before he himself would celebrate Mass from then on. What he saw in that moment, the priest said, also influenced the way he prays for the Pope now. He said he now prays for the Pope not only as the occupant of the Chair of St. Peter with its central role in the Church, but also as a man, a human being, called by Providence to struggle under that enormous burden. (For further reading see John Allen, “America’s Seminary Beachhead in Rome Neither Accidental or Unimportant,” www.cruxnow.com, 9 December 2021).

As wonderful as Christmas is, even for those who don’t sing their lines correctly, our earthly burdens do not disappear merely because a wreath hangs on our front door. However, the burden of sin does disappear because of the birth of Jesus Christ (blessed be His Name) and the amazing grace given to us as a consequence. The reconciliation with God that Jesus came to bring us means that the hope of perfect freedom and happiness sings within, side by side with our burdens that try to menace us. The former voice drowns out all the negativity coming from the latter.

God bless you!
Father Eric



ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH
16 POPLAR AVENUE
STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK 10309

Saturday, January 10, 2026

5:00pm(Vigil) Ann Quinn-Living

Sunday, January 11, 2026

8:00am Anne Byrne

10:00am Loreti & Ungarelli Family-Living & Deceased

12Noon Brother Charles M. Cully C.F.X.

WEEKDAYS

Monday: 9:00am People of the Parish

Tuesday: 9:00am Deceased at St. Joseph Cemetery

Wednesday: 9:00am Giovanni Lofaro

Thursday: 9:00am Cathy Imbemba Calcagno

Friday: 9:00am Connie Travolino

Saturday, January 17, 2026

9:00am Carmine Loffreno

5:00pm(Vigil) John & Angela Luppachino

Sunday, January 18, 2026

8:00am Maureen Rafferty

10:00am Joseph & Jane Magro

12Noon Hugh Donohue



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHURCH
6123 AMBOY ROAD
STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK 10309

Saturday, January 10, 2026

6:00pm(Vigil) Pat & Flo Merli

Sunday, January 11, 2026

9:00am Anthony Sutter

10:00am(It) Vito & Maria Iacoviello

11:00am Thomas P. Monahan Jr.

1:00pm Saverio Bavaro

2:30pm Jennie Franca—*Special Needs*

6:00pm Connie Saltzman

WEEKDAYS

Monday: 7:00 am Priests of the Parish

8:00am Marilyn Riedel

Tuesday: 7:00am Valerio LaRocca

8:00am Rocchina D'Ambruoso

Wednesday: 7:00am Lucia Busconi

8:00am Nicholas Paul Conte

Thursday: 7:00am Pasquale LaRocca

8:00am Sylvia G. Bentley

Friday: 7:00am Rolando Santos Villacorta, Jr.

8:00am Ana Maria Correa

Saturday, January 17, 2026

8:00am Frank Raspente, Jr.

6:00pm(Vigil) Marie Garuccio Catalosi

Sunday, January 18, 2026

9:00am Ismael Diego

10:00am(It) Sibilila, Pietro & Michael Dellegrazie

11:00am Barbara Cannizzaro

1:00pm The Grisanti Family

6:00pm Mary Walsh

BAPTISM SEMINAR

SATURDAY, January 31, 2026

Immediately following the 6:00pm Mass at St. Thomas Church there will be a meeting for expectant parents and parents of newborn babies. Parents are expected to be at Mass as well as the meeting. We urge parents to attend before the baby is born. We also urge Godparents to participate by attending this meeting. This is a requirement for all parents prior to the Baptism of their child.



**OUR REMEMBRANCE VIGIL
 CANDLES**

**will burn for 1 year in St. Thomas
 Church for:**

**IN LOVING MEMORY
 OF**

JOHN A. RIGGIO, JR.

"FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS"

WE LOVE AND MISS YOU, ALWAYS

MICHELE, JOHN, DANIELLE & FAMILY

requested by Michele Riggio

SICK & HOMEBOUND

If someone is homebound or in the hospital, please notify us.

Arrangements can be easily made for the Sacrament of Anointing. Holy Communion is brought to the sick by the Priests weekly or monthly as requested. Please let us know your needs by calling the parish office.

Ethel Ducey, Joseph A. Pulizotto, Ellen Merli, Louis Amatrudo, Stacey Benvenuto, Gertrude Sokolowsky, John Michael Pasquale,

Hope Vosilla, Helen Cole, Kristen Kress, Bobby Salvador, Amanda Marchese, Thomas Marchese, Angelo Cordella,

Dominick Aiello, Juliann Bonavita, Isla Albashara, Anthony Pelle, Christina Natale, Andrea Sinisi, Neil DeGennaro, Wesley

Devita, Tina Bini, Patricia Conway, Michael Archer.,

Tom Quercia, Linda DiSilvio, Maria Buono, George Marino,

Michael Archer, Michael Rokicki, Renee Bavero.

In your sympathy, please pray for: Maria Ballaera, Denise

Marshall, Maria Guadagno, Florence Vassallo,

Patricia A. Julian

"300 CLUB"

300 CLUB WINNERS - WEEK # 13

Congratulations!

\$100.00	Kathleen Postler	# 142
\$ 25.00	William Quirk	# 105
\$ 25.00	Frank Donohue	# 096

300 CLUB WINNERS - WEEK # 14

\$100.00	Mary Rokicki	# 128
\$ 25.00	Frank Jerrahian	# 120
\$ 25.00	Willie Grey	# 179

300 CLUB WINNERS - WEEK # 15

\$100.00	Patricia & Joseph Conway	# 270
\$ 25.00	Mark Cannizzaro	# 026
\$ 25.00	Alice Donohue	# 058

300 CLUB WINNERS - WEEK # 16

\$100.00	Mary Mills & Pat Montefusco	# 193
\$ 25.00	MaryLou Gallagher	# 098
\$ 25.00	Christopher Biel	# 279

300 CLUB WINNERS - WEEK # 17

\$100.00	Marie Thompson	# 268
\$ 25.00	Kathleen Postler	# 142
\$ 25.00	John Cody	# 199

300 CLUB WINNERS - WEEK # 18

\$100.00	Michael & Maria Ugenti	# 207
\$ 25.00	Alice Donahue	# 058
\$ 25.00	Margaret Ann Schillaci-Colacino	# 277

300 CLUB WINNERS - WEEK # 19

\$100.00	Matthew Kress	# 223
\$ 25.00	John & Emuily Grandinetti	# 234
\$ 25.00	Wayne Malone	# 248

Readings for the week of January 11, 2026

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



This year our Memorial Christmas

Flowers were donated by:

Mrs. Josephine Vascellaro	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Pisano
Patty & Frank Mormando	Ms. Elena Dedis
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Pedzich	Ms. Lourdes Valeros
Ms. Catherine Tedesco	Mr. & Mrs. R. Castania
Mrs. Josephine Galofaro	Mr. Salvatore Mule
Mr. & Mrs. George Brim	Mr. Biagio Randazzo
Mr. & Mrs. Athanasios Lourentzatos	Mrs. Elvira Mule
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony D'Alessandro	Mr. & Mrs. Emilio Paoli
Mr. & Mrs. Batista Bonello	Mr. & Mrs. Antonino Sero
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Millus	Mr. & Mrs. Donato Appice
Mr. & Mrs. Steven D'Aquieno	Mr. & Mrs. Philip Culotta
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kowalczuk	Mr. Joseph Monchik
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Eugenio	Ms. Marie Ardolino
Mr. & Mrs. Giovanni LaBarbera	Ms. Josephine Navarro
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Oneto	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Coyne
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Mugavero	Karfa Tallsayan
Mr. & Mrs. Zachary Lonecke	Mr. Andrew Mugavero
Mr. & Mrs. Danny Espinosa	Mr. & Mrs. James Henry
Mr. & Mrs. Vincent Sainato	Diane A. Lucas
Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Theuret	Mrs. Edna Norris
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Lomangino	Mr. & Mrs. Fred Hickman
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Gudrupis	Mr. & Mrs. John Campbell
Mr. & Mrs. David Ingrassia	Ms. Regina Borovick
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Fortunato	Mr. & Mrs. James Munson
Mr. & Mrs. Andres Tirado	Ms. Mary Secchini
Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Trapp	Mrs. Maureen Conny
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Orzillo	Ms. Maria Vega
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Wagner	Ms. Hazel DiMartino
Mr. & Mrs. John DiMicelli	Mr. Joseph Buser
Ms. Joanne Musso	

*A Special Thank You
for your generous
Flower Donations that helped
beautify our churches during this
Christmas Season!*

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Retreat

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