

From Liturgical Publications, Inc.

Baptism of the Lord

"After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened." What a treat to be in that crowd! Just imagine the experience of witnessing this manifestation of divinity! To SEE the Holy Spirit "in bodily form like a dove" and to hear the voice that "came from heaven" announcing Jesus' true identity. Don't we all long for this kind of miraculous clarity? Wouldn't it do wonders for our faith if we had such unmistakable certainty about who Jesus really is?

It's easy to imagine that the first Christians had it easier than we do. They got to be with Jesus in person, and to witness the miracles that went along with his years on earth. Because of this, we can quickly forget the benefits we enjoy that they did not. We live on the other side of the Resurrection, for example. The first followers of Christ believed in him BEFORE he rose from the dead. We, on the other hand, have the confidence of knowing that this man literally conquered death. We also have two millennia of Christian witness through the saints to pull upon. The first Christians had no idea what this new religion would produce, how many people would embrace it, or how it would change the world for the better. We know that Christianity has been fruitful beyond measure.

Today's Gospel informs us that it was only after they were baptized that the people witnessed the opening of heaven. Even Jesus himself was baptized before he heard this earthly confirmation of his heavenly origin. We who have been baptized, following the example of Christ, also have "access" to the voice of God. In the silence of our hearts, and through God's word in the Bible (another advantage we enjoy), heaven is "opened" for us as well.

*Stewardship...
A Way of Life!*

Each one of us is important to continue the life and ministry that thrives in our parish. If you have not yet turned in your Stewardship Commitment Form, please prayerfully consider your role in supporting the vital work of our parish and its ministries. Please return your commitment card by putting it in the offertory basket, or sending it to the parish office.

The Stewardship Committee is encouraging all families to participate and will be following up with those who don't respond. Thank you for your continued support.

This week at St. Nicholas

| | | |
|-----|--------|--|
| Mon | Jan 11 | 1 Sm 1:1-8/Ps 116:12-19/Mk 1:14-20 |
| Tue | Jan 12 | 1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1, 4-8/Mk 1:21-28 7:20am Liturgy of the Hours (Morning Prayer) 7:35am Rosary 7:35am Confessions 8:00am Mass: Jack Dalton+ 8:35am Fatima Rosary Group 7:15pm Book Club |
| Wed | Jan 13 | 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2, 5, 7-10/Mk 1:29-39 7:20am Liturgy of the Hours (Morning Prayer) 7:35am Rosary 7:35am Confessions 8:15am Mass: at Holy Cross (our Parish school) Merrill Hennen+ 4:45-5:30pm Confessions 6:30pm Religious Education Classes 7:00pm Choir Practice—Adult |
| Thu | Jan 14 | 1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/Mk 1:40-45 7:20am Liturgy of the Hours (Morning Prayer) 7:35am Rosary 7:35am Confessions 8:00am Mass: Matt & Lisa Damiani 3:30pm Choir Practice—Children's 7:00pm RCIA Class |
| Fri | Jan 15 | 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-19/Mk 2:1-12 7:20am Liturgy of the Hours (Morning Prayer) 7:35am Rosary 7:35am Confessions 8:00am Mass: John & Maureen Nesheim |
| Sat | Jan 16 | 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-7/Mk 2:13-17 7:35am Liturgy of the Hours (Morning Prayer) 8:00am Mass: Tim & Peggy Boyle 8:35am Rosary 8:35am Confessions 9:00am Pro-Life Rosary in Chapel 3:30pm Confessions 4:30pm Youth Group Service Project 5:00pm Mass: Kevin Carpentier+ |
| Sun | Jan 17 | Is 62:1-5/Ps 96:1-3, 7-10/1 Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-11 7:20am Liturgy of the Hours (Morning Prayer) 7:35am Rosary 8:00am Mass: For the Parish 9:35am Rosary 10:00am Mass: End to Abortion |



The Archdiocese of St. Paul & Minneapolis has created a special web landing page that is designed to identify ways to Pray, Learn and Act in response to our Holy Father's call to this Jubilee Year of Mercy (www.archspm.org/Mercy). The hope is that many might also be inspired to enter more deeply into the Year of Mercy and to see it as a possible instrument for the healing that so many in our Archdiocese seem to be seeking.

St. Nicholas News & Events



LNMV Religious Education:

Classes held at the Catholic Education Center (CEC) home of Holy Cross Catholic School

Regular Classes Wednesday, Jan. 13th, 2016 from 6:30-7:45pm
 Regular Classes Wednesday, Jan. 20th, 2016 from 6:30-7:45pm

FIRST COMMUNION STUDENTS:

First Reconciliation will be held in our church on Saturday, January 30th, 2016 at 12:00 noon.



Youth Group: Please mark your calendars for Saturday, January 16th. We will be doing our service project by going to Feed My Starving Children in Eagan and packing meals for the hungry. Our shift runs from 4:30-6:30pm. We have 15 spots available for teens for this event, so RSVP to Megan Anderson to make sure you get in!


Steubenville Summer Retreat!

High schoolers are invited to attend the Steubenville retreat this coming July 29-31 at the University of St Thomas. Info is on the parish website, <http://www.stncc.net/youth-group>. Turn in your deposits soon to reserve a spot. First come, first served! Contact stnccyouthgroup@yahoo.com for more info.



Dead Theologians Society: Grades 9-12 are invited to attend the meeting of the *Dead Theologians Society*. The next meeting is Sunday, Jan. 10th from 6:00-9:00 p.m. at the St. Nicholas Campus. (Confirmation students, this will count for one Faith Enrichment event.)


Volunteers NEEDED: Help out the youth by putting together a meal for the youth! Support the Youth of your parish! You can go to the "Sign Up Genius" link below to select helping with part or all of a meal served at approximately 6:45pm. Please contact Kathy Chlan at kathyc@holycrossschool.net or 952-652-6100 if you have questions. The link is: www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0F45AAAF2FA5F58-dead



Here are some more ways for you to stay plugged in to the happenings of the parish!

[Twitter.com/Stnccnet](https://twitter.com/Stnccnet)

[Instagram.com/stnccnet](https://www.instagram.com/stnccnet)





The Knights of Columbus *will not have a January 2016 business meeting*. Please plan to attend our Christmas party dinner on Sunday January 10, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at Firehouse Grille in Elko New Market. Please RSVP to Leon Meger at 952-652-2826. Thank you!



Book Club: A welcome to any and all women who enjoy reading!

Book Club

We meet one Tuesday a month @ 7:15pm at Deb Streefland's home.


Our meetings will be held on the following Tuesdays: Jan. 12, Feb. 16, Mar. 15, Apr. 12 & May 10.

Anyone interested in joining us, please contact Deb at 952-652-2349.



Cana Dinner - Saturday, February 20th

A wonderful evening to honor the Sacrament of Marriage and enjoy the fellowship of other married couples.



The banns of marriage are published between Jennifer Ann Janak and William Coyne.

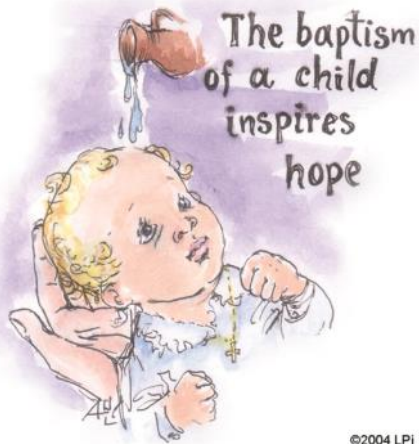


Snow removal volunteers needed.

If you are up and about and notice it has snowed, please consider stopping by St. Nicholas and helping to clear the walk ways before morning Mass.



St. Nicholas News & Events Continued



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Everyday Stewardship

Baptism of the Lord

The old African-American spiritual "Michael Row the Boat Ashore" has one verse that goes, "Jordan's river is chilly and cold / hallelujah / chills the body but not the soul / hallelujah." We don't know what the temperature of the Jordan River was when Jesus stepped into it in front of John the Baptist. But Luke's Gospel relates that after he had been baptized and while he was praying the heavens opened up and the Holy Spirit descended upon him. A voice from heaven was heard, saying, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

It is unlikely that any such explicitly miraculous events occurred at our own baptism, or any that we may have attended. But something just as momentous did take place when we were baptized. In our baptism we became intimately connected to God; we became God's own children, just as Jesus is the Father's beloved Son. And when we were baptized the Holy Spirit descended upon us-not as a dove, but as the Spirit of God that always dwells in our hearts. That connectedness to God never disappears. Even when we are guilty of the worst sins, God is with us. We believe that the Holy Spirit dwells in us, helping us to act more and more like Christ as we reaffirm our baptismal commitment.

While we celebrate the signs and wonders at the Jordan that herald Jesus' baptism and the beginning of his public ministry, we also recall that our own baptism begins the call to minister in this world. Our baptismal call is to act like Christ, to be his hands, and voice, and heart in this world. When we act like him, we can be assured we too will hear the Father's voice, "with you I am well pleased."

Liturgical Publications, Inc.



St. Nicholas Apparel

Show your spirit and support for St. Nicholas with personalized t-shirts, jackets and more for men, women and children. You may customize merchandise online choosing colors and designs to reflect your own style.

No minimums, high product quality, and fast delivery. And the best part... St. Nicholas will receive a percentage from every purchase you make from our online apparel store.

For more information and to order please follow this link: <https://ssastores.com/store/st-nicholas-catholic-church-elko-new-market-mn/>

Please note all ordering, payment, shipping and returns are handled through SSA Stores and not the parish office.

Q & A Why do we baptize infants when the Bible says "repent and be baptized"? How can an infant repent?

When you take a trip, you do not wait until you run out of gas before you fill the tank-at least not on purpose! You fill your tank and pack your bags as you anticipate a trouble-free journey. We can make a similar case for the baptism of children as they begin their spiritual journey. In the early church, only adults were baptized when they professed faith in Jesus as the Messiah. As the church grew, children were baptized and raised in faith. Baptism was the first sacrament of initiation, followed by confirmation and holy Communion.

The Bible does not limit baptism to adults. Several passages point to infant baptism. Jesus said "Let the children come to me and do not hinder them," while Paul would baptize people "and their household." He did not limit baptism to adults. None of the early Church Fathers wrote that the practice was wrong or that a formal act of repentance was a necessary step. If anything, our whole life is an act of repentance, a continual struggle to turn from sin and be faithful to the Gospel. We believe that baptism is more than a symbolic act of faith. It forgives original sin as well as personal sin, and brings us into the church, where we begin our journey of faith.

Liturgical Publications, Inc.

Bulletin deadline:
Please submit bulletin announcements
by 4 p.m. on Wednesdays to
kjohnson@stncc.net
Thank you!

DEADLINE

Eucharistic Adoration



We are looking for a new head coordinator(s) for our Eucharistic Adoration Chapel. Please prayerfully consider lending your talents to this beautiful ministry. If you are interested in this volunteer position, please contact Father Barnes for more information.

Is An Attendance Record Kept?

A registry book is kept in the sacristy. When the adorer arrives, they sign in at that time for the hour they are spending with the Lord.

Is there a Break in scheduled Eucharistic Adoration for Holidays?

The dates and times of the breaks are publicized in the parish bulletin, on the Parish website, and in the entrance to the Chapel.

What if I Get Sick, or There is a Blizzard?

Every new adorer receives training and materials so they know the procedures and who to contact for assistance.

In case of inclement weather, an attempt will be made to contact all affected adorers. Additionally, if adorers have concerns about the weather and they have not been contacted, they may contact their Divisional Leader or the head coordinator.

Does the Priest Supervise the Assignment of Hours?

No. This is the responsibility of the Divisional Leaders and the Head Coordinator. They also publicize and promote Eucharistic Adoration and assist new adorers in getting started.

If you would like to become an adorer or for more information, please contact our temporary lead coordinator, Jean Moeller at 952-461-4552 or at mau-lor@msn.com. You may also sign up online at <http://www.stncc.net/available-adoration-hours>.

| Time | Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 12am - 1am | | | | | | | |
| 1am - 2am | | | | | | | |
| 2am - 3am | | | | | | | |
| 3am - 4am | | | | | | | |
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| 9pm - 10pm | | | | | | | |
| 10pm - 11pm | | | | | | | |
| 11pm - 12am | | | | | | | |

No adoration at this time
 One adorer scheduled, additional adorers welcome
 Adorer needed
 a* Two Fridays a month

Liturgical Stewardship

| | | |
|---------------|------------|-------------------------------|
| Jan 16 @ 5pm | Lector: | Chuck Mathews |
| | Ministers: | Mary Kay Forland, Jan Freeman |
| | Ushers: | Dan Heselton, Ron Chlan |
| Jan 17 @ 8am | Lector: | Kendra Caduff |
| | Ministers: | Joyce Anderson, Mike Moeller |
| | Ushers: | Scott Steele, Paul Thoresen |
| Jan 17 @ 10am | Lector: | Mike Cole |
| | Ministers: | Amy McDonald, Tom Streefland |
| | Ushers: | Steve Addabbo, Pat McDonald |

Measure of Our Treasure to the Lord December 27th, Week 26 in Fiscal Year

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Budget Weekly Sunday Giving | \$6,522 |
| Budget Year-to-Date Sunday Giving | \$169,572 |
| Sunday Plate & Envelope | \$18,514 |
| Bread and Wine | \$0 |
| Children's Collection | \$6 |
| Fuel | \$45 |
| ACH (Received monthly) | \$0 |
| Grounds | \$0 |
| Flowers | \$0 |
| Collection Received Year-to-Date | \$158,770 |
| | -\$10,802 |
| Endowment: \$20 | |
| Capital Improvements: \$33 YTD \$2,802 | |
| Please note last week's collection numbers were not available at the time of the printing of this bulletin. | |

**"A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE WILLING TO GIVE GOD CREDIT, BUT SO FEW EVER GIVE HIM CASH."
~ ROBERT E. HARRIS**



A-1 Landscapes
952-461-4727
952-240-0895

Area News & Events

Be among the first we tell!

We don't know who. We don't know when. But we do know who we'll tell first... You! Follow The Catholic Spirit for the best coverage when our new archbishop is named. Go to www.TheCatholicSpirit.com/NewAbp and sign up to choose how you want to hear the news.

Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy (Dec. 8, 2015 – Nov. 20, 2016)

Pope Francis asks us to "live this Year in the light of the Lord's words: 'Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. (cf. Lk 6:36)'" Participate throughout the year by making a pilgrimage to a Holy Door at the Cathedral of Saint Paul or Basilica of Saint Mary, regularly receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation, performing corporal and spiritual works of mercy, and participating in the #MercyWorks video challenge. Find additional ways to **pray, learn and act** at www.archspm.org/Mercy.

9 Days for Life - US Bishops Annual Novena

The U.S. bishops annual novena **9 Days for Life** takes place Saturday, January 16 – Sunday, January 24. Pray for the respect and protection of all human life with new intentions, brief reflections, and more each day. Download the novena online, or participate through Facebook, email, text message or an app. Join at www.9daysforlife.com!

Cathedral Young Adults Theology on Tap

All young adults ages 18-39 are invited to come to the next Theology on Tap series, presented by the Cathedral of Saint Paul Young Adults. Connect with others for an evening of food, fellowship, and faith. The series will be held on Wednesday evenings from January 6 – February 3 at O'Gara's, 164 Snelling Ave N, Saint Paul. Social hour is 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. and the speaker begins at 7:30 p.m. Topics focus on faith and contemporary issues that directly affect the lives of young adults. All evenings are free of charge.

Speaker schedule

January 13: New Feminism, Leah Jacobson; January 20: The Freedom of Surrender, Deacon Joseph Michalak; January 27: Living 100% of Your Life, Jeff Cavins; February 3: Called to Witness, Ken Fitzgerald.

For more information, visit www.cathedralsaintpaul.org/cya or our Facebook page www.facebook.com/groups/19770161424.

Operation Andrew Dinner

Tuesday, January 26, 6- 8 p.m., Archbishop's Residence, 230 Summit Ave, Saint Paul

The Operation Andrew Dinner is hosted by Bishop Andrew Cozzens for men, ages 16 – 50, who have a genuine interest in the priesthood or religious life. Plan to attend with your pastor, religious brother or youth director. Reserve your spot at the table before January 19.

Call 651.962.6890 or email stpaulvocations@10000vocations.org.

Miryam Dinner

Tuesday, February 16, 6 – 8 p.m., Archbishop's Residence, 230

Summit Ave., Saint Paul

The Vocation Office invites you to the Miryam Dinner hosted by Bishop Andrew Cozzens. The event is for women, ages 16 – 35, who are discerning consecrated life. It is typical for women discerners to be accompanied by their pastor, consecrated religious, or youth minister.

The evening begins with prayer, followed by dinner with consecrated women sharing their vocation testimonies. Reserve your spot at the table before February 9. Call 651.962.6890 or email stpaulvocations@10000vocations.org.

Prayer Vigil for Hope, Healing and Mercy

For over forty years, legalized abortion has left many men and women empty, confused and longing to be whole again. This vigil is open to all and is a special invitation to those who have been hurt by abortion. Please join us Thursday, January 21, 2016, 7– 11 p.m. in St. Mary's Chapel at the Saint Paul Seminary.

Annual Prayer Service for Life

Please join us at the Cathedral of Saint Paul at 10:30 AM on Friday, January 22, 2016 for the Annual Prayer Service for Life, followed by MCCL's March for Life at the State Capitol. This prayer service commemorates the millions of lives lost to abortion and the many women and men wounded by abortion's aftermath. All are invited and welcome. For more information, please contact the Office for Marriage, Family & Life at 651-291-4488 or visit www.archspm.org.

WINE: Catholic Women's Conference

WINE: Women in the New Evangelization, in partnership with the archdiocesan Office of Evangelization and Catechesis, invites women of all ages to the 2016 WINE: Catholic Women's Conference, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. **Saturday, Feb. 6** at Mary, Mother of the Church, Burnsville. Our theme, *Mercy: Encountering Boundless Love*, is inspired by Pope Francis' invitation to enter into an extraordinary jubilee, a holy Year of Mercy. The day includes inspirational talks, music, lunch, prayer, confessions, shopping, chocolate, and more. It is the perfect way to prepare for Lent. Registration: \$55 before Jan. 6, \$65 afterward. For more information and to register, visit www.archspm.org/WINE

2016 Archdiocesan Men's Conference

Saturday, February 27

8 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (Doors open at 7 a.m. for Adoration and Confession)

Anderson Fieldhouse, University of St. Thomas, Saint Paul
Men of all ages and walks of life are invited to a morning filled with faith and fellowship. Bishop Cozzens will lead men to a new mission: The Catholic Watchmen - Calling men to be protectors, providers and leaders of their families. The conference includes: Mass, breakfast, dynamic speakers, and more! \$20 per adult; \$10 per student (up to high school senior). Find more details, including ways to register, at www.archspm.org/Events. Questions? Contact Susanna Bolle at bolles@archspm.org or 651-291-4411.