

The Baptism of the Lord



This Week in Our Parish January 10, 2010

Sunday: Baptism of the Lord
 8:30 am: Mass 9:30 am: RCIA 10:00 am: Spanish Mass/
 PSR 2nd-8th 11:30 am: Life Teen Mass / Pre-K-1st/
 ESOL & citizenship class 12:30 pm: Youth Group
 1:00 pm: Spanish Mass 3:00 pm: Baptism class in Spanish
 7:00 pm: Spanish Mass

Monday: 12:15 pm: Communion Service TBD 7:00 pm: Hispanic Leaders Mtg.

Tuesday: 12:15 pm: Communion Service TBD

Wednesday: 12:15 pm: Communion Service TBD 1:00 pm Clementines
 6:30 pm: Rosary

Thursday: 12:15 pm: Communion Service (TBD) 7:00 pm: SVdP Mtg.

Friday:  Cleaning Team One

7:30 pm: Prayer Group/Adoration

Saturday: No PSR

5:30 pm: Vigil Mass

Sunday: Second Sunday in Ordinary time

8:30 am: Mass 9:30 am: RCIA 10:00 am: Spanish Mass/
 PSR 2nd-8th 11:30 am: Life Teen Mass / Pre-K-1st/
 ESOL & citizenship class 12:30 pm: Youth Group
 1:00 pm: Spanish Mass 3:00 pm: Baptism class in Spanish
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Why We Do What We Do

A number of Catholic traditions were borrowed and "baptized" from existing societal customs or celebrations, from the Roman courts, and from other sources. As mentioned in a previous article, the date of Christmas was more than likely taken from a Roman festival that occurred around the northern hemisphere's winter solstice (Dec. 21 today but at one time thought to occur on Dec. 25).

The celebration of Christmas is not mentioned in the lists of feasts of St. Irenaeus (Early 1st century-c. 202) nor Tertullian (ca. 160- ca. 220) There are references in the 300s and 400s. Many early Christian documents suggest the conception and death of Christ occurred on or around March 25 and that the Creation of the World occurred in the spring around the spring solstice as well. The establishing of the Annunciation (conception of Christ) as March 25 may have influenced the fixing of the Birth of Christ as nine months later on Dec. 25.

The stoles priests and deacons wear are something borrowed from the Roman courts. The judges and other court officials wore "stoles" (ceremonial scarfs) and other distinctive ceremonial clothing to distinguish themselves and in keeping with their responsibilities. Jewish priests also had worn ceremonial vestments going back to the time of Moses (Num 15:38-39).

"The original intent, then was to designate a person as belonging to a particular organization and to denote their rank within their group, a function which the stole continues to perform today. Thus, unlike other liturgical garments which were originally worn by every cleric or layman, the stole was a garment which was specifically restricted to particular classes of people based on occupation." (Wikipedia)

"A [bishop](#) or other [priest](#) wears the stole around his neck with the ends hanging down in front, while the [deacon](#) places it over his left shoulder and ties it cross-wise at his right side, similar to a sash." (Wikipedia)

Christmas Message of Pope Benedict XVI

"In his Christmas Eve homily, the pope said conflict in the world stems from the fact that 'we are locked into our own interests and our desires.' He said many people have become 'religiously tone-deaf' and unable to perceive God, absorbed by worldly affairs and professional occupations.

"For most people, the things of God are not given priority... And so the great majority of us tend to postpone them. First we do what seems urgent here and now. In the list of priorities God is often more or less at the end. We can always deal with that later, we tend to think," he said. Despite this mentality, he said, a path for discovering and appreciating God exists for everyone. It is a path marked with signs, he said, and at Christmas God's sign is that 'he makes himself small; he becomes a child; he lets us touch him and he asks for our love.'" (John Thavis, Catholic News Service)

"Do not love the world or the things of the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, sensual lust, enticement for the eyes, and a pretentious life, is not from the Father but is from the world. Yet the world and its enticement are passing away. But whoever does the will of God remains forever." (I Jn 2:15-17)

Prayer

Recently I was asked about the "Guardian Angel" Prayer. There are different ones, but the most frequently remembered is the following:

"Angel of God, my guardian dear, To whom God's love/commits me here, Ever this day (or night), be at my side, To light and guard, Rule and guide. Amen.

U.S. Catholic History

Cpl. Matthew Munoz, 23, is a Marine assistant patrol leader serving in Afghanistan who "also serves as the company's Catholic lay leader, combining his Catholic faith and special training provided by a military chaplain to serve as a faith presence for Catholics and non-Catholics at the camp. . . His gunnery sergeant asked if he would volunteer to become a lay leader to help fill the need. . . A battalion chaplain then trained him, providing tips on how to spot Marines needing special support and how to help and encourage them." (Steven Sims, Catholic News Service)



"2010" Weekly Budget.....	\$5,350.00
Offertory collected January 3 rd	\$ 5,865.90
Difference	+\$ 515.90
Offertory collected January 1 st	\$ 714.30
Offertory collected December 27 th	\$ 4,106.38
Offertory collected December 24 th	\$ 5,624.53

Second Collections 12/24/09 "Catholic Charities".....\$ 1,297.18
 12/27/09 "Building Fund".....\$10,500.00
 01/03/10 "Building Fund".....\$ 1,524.38

Campaign '09 Pledges:

Total donations made (from pledges) as of 12/20/09.....\$ 87,959.33
 December 27th Collections.....\$ 283.00
 New Campaign total donations from pledges.....\$ 88,242.33

Second Collection: Next week's second collection will be for the Georgia Bulletin.

Upcoming Changes in the Mass

Sometime between Advent 2010 (Nov. 28) and Easter 2011 (April 24), many of the prayers, responses, the Gloria, a few words in the Nicene Creed, and the words of some hymns and songs will change. The cause is the third edition (2002) of the Roman Missal and the desire to have an English translation of the Mass that is more word-for-word from the original Latin edition. Many Sundays I offer ("say") two Masses in English and two in Spanish. I can tell the major differences between the two translations. Some of the prayers are almost completely different in terms of meaning, texture, depth, etc. Usually the Spanish is the richer, better translation of the Latin and the intended original meaning behind the prayers. One example is the prayer of preparation before Communion. In English the people say: "Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed." In Spanish, the response is: "Señor, no soy digno de que entres en mi casa, pero una palabra tuya bastará para sanarme." The Spanish version is saying: "Lord, I am not worthy (deserving) that you enter my house (the house or temple of my body), but a (the) word from You will be sufficient to heal me." This comes from the words of the Roman centurion: "Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof. Therefore, I did not consider myself worthy to come to you; but say the word and let my servant be healed." (Lk 7:6-7)

These changes will not affect the structure or the order of Mass. This will not be as significant as the post-Vatican II reforms that brought about the changes from Latin to English and the priest turning and facing the people. These are more changes of style and the wording of what we say. Still, our Mass language is changing and this column hopefully will prepare us.

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January 10, 2010

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all people shall see it.

Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7

Jesus Christ saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.

Gospel: Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

When Jesus had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened.

Living the Paschal Mystery

Being baptized by "the Holy Spirit and fire" means that we share in Jesus' mission, including the total gift of ourselves. Who we are manifests God's presence in the very dying to self we do each day as we conform ourselves to God's will. Like the simple show and tell time in the classroom mentioned above, we learn from experiencing and encountering the Divine through others. In this our own self-esteem is boosted when we realize that we ourselves are God's presence for another.

The gift of divine life and its attendant call to self-giving discipleship does make demands on us. Taking our baptism seriously means that the ritual moment is just the beginning of a lifetime of openness to God's continuing grace "training" us to be faithful to

who God has made us to be. God's giving us a share in divinity is so gracious that the only response is dying to self in fidelity to our baptismal call. Further, living our baptism and the paschal mystery means that while our life manifests dying for the sake of others, we also manifest the hope that is sure because God's ultimate gracious act toward us is the offer of everlasting life, a promise already being fulfilled. ~**Living Liturgy**

Stewardship Thought

Jesus, whom God called " my beloved Son," is also the "servant" of whom Isaiah speaks in the first reading. We who are baptized in Christ must follow His example and use our time and resources in the service of God and neighbor.

Saturday January 9, 5:30pm.....Dorothy Evans (RIP)
 Sunday, January 10, 8:30am.....Jack Fox (RIP)
 Sunday, January 10, 10:00am.....(Spanish Mass) Our Parish Family
 Sunday, January 10, 11:30 am.....Our Parish Family
 Sunday, January 10, 1:00pm.....Isidro Chavez (RIP)
 Sunday, January 10, 7:00pm.....(Spanish Mass) Our Parish Family
 Monday, January 11, 12:15pm.....Communion Service TBD
 Tuesday January 12, 12:15 pm.....Communion Service TBD
 Wednesday, January 13, 12:15pm.....Communion Service TBD
 Wednesday, January 13, 7:00pm.....Rosary
 Thursday, January 14, 7:00pm.....Communion Service TBD
 Friday, January 15, 12:15pm.....Prayer Group/Adoration
 Saturday January 16, 5:30pm.....Our Parish Family
 Sunday, January 17, 8:30am.....Our Parish Family
 Sunday, January 17, 10:00am.....(..Spanish Mass) Our Parish Family
 Sunday, January 17, 11:30 am.....Our Parish Family
 Sunday, January 17, 1:00pm.....(Spanish Mass) Our Parish Family
 Sunday, January 17, 7:00pm.....(Spanish Mass) Our Parish Family

Stewardship



A big thank you to Ruby Romero, one of our high school teens, who helped out in the main office a number of times in 2009. Ruby has helped with answering phones, visitors, computer work, organization, etc. She filled in the week after Christmas while Wendy Sosa and Teresa Enriquez took much needed vacations.

Also big thank yous to Bonnie Bolt and Paulette Green who have been helping keep the bathrooms and other rooms clean and in order during the week and sometimes on weekends. We also have a number of Hispanic families who take turns with clean up and vacuuming on Sunday nights. We are hoping to add to our weekday/weeknight cleanup.

Please pray for the following people who are suffering:

Donna Thibault - respiratory illness, Barbara Smith- cancer, Marty McKinnon- ovarian cancer, Cayla Johnson-hydrocephalus, Laura Petty- advanced colon cancer, Joe Campbell-follicular lymphoma, Tonya Isham-tumor, Curtis Lunt-ill health, Melissa Silva-health, Juanita Rochester-cancer, Chuck Terry- prostate cancer, June Macejkovic-heart condition, Fr. Denis Kolumber-health, Ernie -leukemia, Maria Farias- breast cancer, Jeanne Walraven-health, Jean Seitz-cancer, Angie Defalco-health, Erna Wyatt-health, Daven Smith & family-health, Jim Rorer-special intention, Michael Llop-brain tumor, Erik Bigelow-special intention, Janice Miller-health, Brian Pierce-health & safety, Bob Steele-cancer, Anthony Ortiz-health, Teresa Howard-health, Lou Brown-brain cancer, Jim Robertson-cancer, Jaden Bates-health, Roy Davies- safety, Members of the Armed forces-safety & well being.

St. Clement's Parish History



Since November 2007, the first thing we see in the Church entrance is a crèche/manger. Oscar "Sonny" Maddox made the simple crèche that has straw (strips of

paper) for Advent with different activity ideas and then the Baby Jesus for Christmas.

Father Joe Shaute had seen this done one Advent at the Catholic Church of St. Ann in Marietta, Ga., a parish still run by the La Salette Community. The idea was an Advent idea—when Advent 2007 started, nothing had been decided as far as Christmas. Right before Christmas, Javier and Maria Eugenia (Maru) Hernandez spoke to Sister Beatriz Taneco, MAG, about donating the Baby Jesus with the royal clothes. The baby arrived on Christmas Eve and has been a part of our Christmas ever since.

At a Hispanic Leaders meeting, Sister Beatriz was explaining the Mexican tradition of "rocking the baby." She explained about rocking "my baby Jesus." Father Joe said: "Oh, the baby's name is Jesus Taneco?" Thus the inside story is that the baby is affectionately known as "Jesus Taneco."

Parish Events

January 13th: 1:00pm Clementines

January 24th: 9:30 & 11:00am Parish Breakfast

January 27th: 7:00pm Parish potluck

Archdiocesan News

The economy may seem to be moving forward -- is your retirement income on the same track?: If you are 65 or older, have \$10,000 and need income and a tax deduction and also want to give to (Parish Name) then a **Charitable Gift Annuity** may be exactly what you need. The lifetime fixed rates are based on age so the older you are the higher your rate of return. For estate planning information go to: www.archatl.com/giving/gp

The Benedictine Sisters of Sacred Heart Monastery in Cullman, Ala., host a **VOCATION DISCERNMENT WEEKEND** Jan. 15-17 for single, Catholic women ages 18-45 interested in learning more about the Benedictine way of life. Entitled "SEEKING GOD: THE BENEDICTINE WAY OF LIVING," the retreat will be directed by Benedictine Sister Magdalena Craig, vocation director, and will include reflective presentations, Liturgy of the Hours, Eucharist and meals with the Sisters, and time for personal prayer. Come and see the monastic way of seeking God. Contact: Sister Magdalena at (256) 734-2199 or vocations@shmon.org. There is no charge; donations will be accepted.