

Ste. Rose de Lima Church, 600 Grattan St., Chicopee, MA
Tel. 413-536-4558 ~~~~~ Pastor: Rev. William A. Tourigny

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The Baptism of the Lord + January 10, 2021

Readings: + Isaiah 55:1-11 +1 Jn 5:1-9 +Matthew 1:7-11

STE. ROSE de LIMA MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Jan 09 – Saturday	4:00 PM Alvine Maynard by Mary O’Hanlon
Jan 10 – Sunday	7:30 AM Marietta Chapdelaine by Joseph & Sarah Florek
Baptism of the Lord	9:00 AM Lynn Steele by Julie Dupuis
	11:00 AM Paul E. Samson by Annette Menard
	4:00 PM Nelson Labrie by his wife, Theresa & family
Jan 11 – Monday	7:00 AM Tadeusz Osetek by Louise & Edward Osetek
Jan 12 - Tuesday	7:00 AM Dorilla Theriault by Paul & Evelyn Coutu and Anita Nowak
Jan 13 – Wednesday	7:00 AM Stephen Justice (6 th Ann) by his mother, Lorraine
Jan 14 – Thursday	7:00 AM Umberto Manno by Angelina Manno & family
Jan 15 Friday	7:00 AM Norman Dupuis by Julie Dupuis
Jan 16 – Saturday	4:00 PM Janice Calabrese by the family
Jan 17 – Sunday	7:30 AM Ronald & Doris Berthiaume by their estate
Second Ordinary Sunday	9:00 AM Paul E. & Yvette Samson by Lucien Dupont
	11:00 AM Rolland & Clarinda Fleury by the family
	4:00 PM Jerry Perreault (9 th Ann) by his family

PARISH STEWARDSHIP: 1/1/21 Mary, Mother of God \$1,848.00

1/3/21 Offertory \$6,552.00 ~~~ Thank you!

SJA BOOSTER CLUB Winner for 1/3/2021 # 149 Deborah Burrill

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS the souls and families of Carmen Breton, Anne Robert, Louise Champagne, Irene Desrosiers, Carmen DeJesus, Richard LaValley, Norman Landry and Annette St. Martin. May they rest in God’s eternal peace!

THE STE. ROSE MEMORIAL FUND IS GRATEFUL for the following gifts in loving memory of: Angeline Lajeunesse \$25.00 and Jeanne Berneche \$325.00. Thank you very much!

THE CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS include the following remembrances:
In loving memory of Donald Kimel by Timothy & Lori Hedge
In loving memory of Tony, Carmela & Bruno Tassone by James and & Rita O’Dell

Dear Parishioners...Around & About Ste. Rose,
Sacrificial Offering

The sacrificial offering for Sunday, January 3, 2021 was \$6,552.00. Thank you! Several members of the parish have telephoned the Pastoral Center mentioning that they didn’t receive their monthly (January) church envelopes for parish financial support. “We” appreciate your calls! The COVID 19 pandemic is raising “havoc”

with the USPS and its ability to deliver the mail on time. So, in the meantime, you can either send in or use an envelope for your weekly/monthly contribution. If you know your envelope number, you may write it on the envelope. If you don't know your number, we have it here – not to worry! If your name is easily identified, your contribution will be properly recorded. Thank you for calling and sharing your concerns – it's edifying!

Christmas Decorations

The parish is most grateful to all who contributed to the Christmas flower fund. Your generous contributions enable the parish to be able to beautifully decorate the church season after season. Once again, the parish is grateful to David Rosinski and all who assisted with the decoration of the church. Whether you were “in-person” or watched Mass “on-line” you may agree that the church was beautifully decorated for the Christmas season. The parish is also grateful to Sue Lemieux who “religiously” watered the poinsettia plants. The plants still look as if they were delivered yesterday! Many thanks to one and all who continue give of their time and talent for the benefit of the parish. Without enthusiastic volunteers, parish life would be dull and boring – as it is now during this time of pandemic stay at home recommendation!

Internet Mass

Through many notes and emails, it's obvious that the pandemic recommendation of staying at home, especially during this post-holiday surge is being observed by many members of the parish. With that in mind, the recording of Sunday Mass will continue throughout this time of pandemic. The Mass is recorded on Wednesday afternoons. You may have noticed, there is no specific Mass Intention for this Mass. The Mass Intention is; however, for the prayerful intentions of the good people of Ste. Rose de Lima Parish. We pray for the health and well-being of all members of our parish; we pray for an end to the pandemic; we pray for those members of the parish who are ill, infirmed, or isolated; we pray for the members of the parish who have passed onto eternal life.

Catholic Schools Week 2021

Due to the pandemic, the celebration of Catholic Schools week will be different than any other in memory. Also, with the recent appointment of the new principal, Mr. William McDonald, scheduling events/activities would have proven challenging. However, it's hopeful that the new principal will be able to introduce himself at some of the Sunday Masses on January 30 & 31. As the date for CSW draws ever closer, more information will follow. CSW celebrations may be limited to “in-classroom” activities. CSW is also the time when we traditionally had an “open house” to

encourage student enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year. By the time September 2021 arrives, it's hopeful that the pandemic will be subsiding in a significant way and we will begin to return to a more familiar way of life.

The COVID 19 Vaccine

While it's true the COVID 19 vaccine was developed in record time and many have reservations about receiving the vaccine, first responders, health care workers, nursing home residents – including residents at the Holyoke Soldiers Home – have begun to get vaccinated. While some may have allergic reactions to this vaccine, the CDC has stated that 70-80% of the population will need to be vaccinated in order to make this global effort to be rid of the coronavirus successful. The Church recommends that as many people as possible ought to be vaccinated. The USCCB has stated that neither moral, nor ethical objections exist in the development of this vaccine. That is to say, with both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, fetal tissue was not used in the development of this vaccine. To be clear, aborted fetal tissue was never part of the development of these two vaccines. With such a global pandemic and the loss of so many lives due to the coronavirus, every person ought to do what he/she can to eliminate this deadly spread. Catholic moral theology has affirmed the moral responsibility to “love our neighbor as ourselves.” By receiving the vaccine, each of us can fulfill this basic commandment to love God and neighbor. As for myself, when the phase for 65 year old persons arrives, I will most definitely “roll up my sleeve” and get vaccinated. We all need to do our part to end this pandemic now entering its second year of infections. In the meantime, please follow the recommendations of the CDC by wearing masks, keeping social distance, and by washing hands frequently.

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THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Posted by [Christopher Vogt](#)

Why did Jesus ask to be baptized by John? The Baptism of the Lord didn't make a lot of sense to the early followers of Jesus who worried about the fact that it seemed to suggest that Jesus was somehow subordinate to John the Baptist. Two thousand years later, the Church has developed a very substantial theology of the sacrament of baptism, but that theology is not very helpful for the task of understanding the Baptism of the Lord either. Catholics believe that baptism imparts the grace of forgiveness of sins and marks our initiation into the Church. But Jesus didn't need to be forgiven nor can we really say that by his baptism Jesus became part of the church. The gospel itself doesn't give us

very much to go on. The only explanation offered by Jesus regarding why he should be baptized by John is: “Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” But that explanation doesn’t get us very far.

The final line of this Sunday’s reading from Matthew’s gospel offers perhaps a better clue about the meaning of Jesus’s baptism. That line reads: “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.” There we hear an unmistakable echo from the first reading: “Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased” (Isaiah 42:7). By making this connection, the author of Matthew is testifying to the fact that Christians had come to believe that the “Suffering Servant” in Isaiah ultimately refers to Jesus Christ. It is Jesus who will be the definitive “covenant of the people” and “light for all nations.” He will “open the eyes of the blind” and “bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon those who live in darkness.” I have always been moved by those images of the mercy of Christ. They can be taken quite literally of course – Jesus Christ as liberator, freeing those unjustly bound or confined in darkness. But they can also speak to Jesus rescuing those of us held in the bondage of sin or trapped in lives marked by an existential darkness. As another Christmas fades into the past and we prepare to move on next week to ordinary time, these readings help us to understand more fully the meaning of the incarnation – of why Christ has come. As Pope Francis noted in [a recent general audience](#), the good news of the incarnation is not merely that God has taken on human flesh, but that God has done so in a world “marked by so many things, good and bad, marked by divisions, wickedness, poverty, arrogance and wars.” Jesus has come to bring God’s mercy to the world.

What can these readings tell us about the meaning of our own baptism? The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us that “Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons [and daughters] of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission” (CCC #1213). Just as Matthew’s gospel makes a connection between the Baptism of

the Lord and the mission of the suffering servant, we too should make a connection between our own baptism and that same mission. Having been baptized into the Body of Christ, we too are called to his ministry of mercy. Finally, these readings also point to the importance of humility. Indeed it seems that humility plays a part in the “righteousness” that Jesus refers to when he asks John to baptize him. The reading from Acts also points to the importance of humility when Peter states that “In truth, I see that God shows no partiality.” The meaning of Peter’s discourse in the house of Cornelius can only be understood by reading what comes before the passage proclaimed for this Sunday. Peter had been an advocate of the view that Christianity was only for Jews (i.e., to become a Christian one must also become a Jew). He had come to change his mind and to recognize that Jesus Christ came for Gentiles too. We might conclude that we should not dwell on the fact that baptism makes us part of a holy people. Instead, our baptism might be understood primarily as a calling to embrace the mission of Christ and the suffering servant to go out into the world and “heal all those oppressed by the devil.”

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An Act of Spiritual Communion: My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.