



“Baptism of the Lord”

by Fr. Kevin Kenney

We conclude our Christmas season today as we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. We hear of Jesus going to John for baptism and John saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?” Jesus says, “Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” What is “righteousness”? Jesus respects John’s authority and allows John to baptize him like those responding with faith. Matthew tells us, “After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened for him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, saying, ‘This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.’” Was this a surprise for Jesus or an awakening of the Spirit within him as he came into the full knowledge of who he was? We do not know much about what led up to that day but what we do know is that awakening moved Jesus forward in his mission. Today is a day where we too awaken within our hearts our baptismal calls to be “priests, prophets and kings.”

From the prophet Isaiah this weekend we hear, “I, the LORD, have called you for the victory of justice, I have grasped you by the hand; I formed you, and set you as a covenant of the people, a light for the

nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness.” (Isaiah 42:6-7) Isaiah is calling the people of Israel to follow the covenant of God by bringing a light to nations challenged by darkness. We experience darkness today in many ways and this call to fulfill God’s covenant exists in today’s world. Our baptismal anointing as “priests, prophets and kings,” challenges us to ask, “How are we living out or being called to help fulfill the covenant God made with the people centuries ago?” Do you carry a light of hope in your life? Are you able to see and help others see the reality of what is happening in society? What are the confinements prisoners need freedom from? Do dungeons of darkness still exist? I think we can all answer these questions. This passage from Isaiah is very powerful and moving! We have responsibilities. Jesus’ mission was not an easy one but he fulfilled it with the strength of the Holy Spirit. You and I can seek the Holy Spirit to help us as we move into Ordinary Time to live out our call and fulfill what the Prophet Isaiah speaks about in our first reading.

The *47th Annual March for Life* will take place on Wednesday, January 22 at noon in front of the Capital in Saint Paul. A program

will begin at 12:30 PM on the Capital front steps. The March and Program is sponsored by Minnesota Citizens Concern for Life (MCCL.org). A Prayer Service for Life will be held at the Cathedral of Saint Paul at 10:30 am on Wednesday, January 22.

As we conclude our Christmas season, I would like to thank all who helped in big and small ways to make the Advent/Christmas season beautiful and reverent. The environment, the music, the welcoming hospitality, the prayerfulness, the attentive ministers, joyful staff and many others allowed our parishioners and visitors to experience the mystery of the Incarnation in a touching way. Being in the heart of the City, we attract many who come because Jesus has called them. The gift of Jesus’ incarnation allows all of us to participate in this mission as children of God. We are invited to take ownership of God’s love for us and to be righteous through our baptism to love others as God loves all. Thank you to everyone who played a role in making Advent/Christmas a time of giving, receiving and sharing.

I will be gone next weekend attending a celebration of a friend in Sahuayo, Mexico who is celebrating his 10th anniversary of priesthood. Pray for me, as I will for you!



EVENTS AND OTHER INFORMATION

Additional Information at www.saintolaf.org/events

READINGS FOR SUNDAY MASS

Jan. 12: Is 42:1-4, 6-7; Ps 29; Acts 10:34-38; Mt 3:13-17

Jan 19: Is 49:3, 5-6; Ps 40; 1 Cor 1:1-3; Jn 1:29-34

POPOP CONCERT

On **Saturday, January 11th at 7:30pm**. Tickets available at the door. \$20 for Adults; \$5 for Students (with valid ID)

ARCHDIOCESAN SYNOD – UPCOMING PRAYER AND LISTENING SESSIONS

January 25, 9am – noon, St. Peter Claver, St. Paul

January 28th, 6pm-9pm, Pax Christi, Eden Prairie

February 1st, 9am – noon, St. Stephen, will be in English and Spanish

What's working and what's not in the Archdiocese? Archbishop Bernard Hebda wants to hear from you! Please prayerfully consider attending a Prayer and Listening Event, as part of the Pre-Synod Process and make your voice heard. Your input will help guide the Archdiocese over the next 5-10 years.

WELCOMING HOSPITALITY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

In an effort to expand our welcome, Saint Olaf is looking to add a few more hospitality-minded volunteers to greet members, guests, and visitors from around the world. Shifts are available throughout the week and on weekends.

Responsibilities include: Enjoy meeting and greeting people, love to smile, being open to greeting all who come through the doors. Training and support will be provided.

If you have always thought about being one of those Greeters at the Big Package Store, this might be your opportunity to shine on behalf of your faith community. If interested, please contact Mary Kennedy, Parish Administrator, at 612-767-6204 or mkennedy@saintolaf.org.

FREE PARKING AT SAINT OLAF

Saint Olaf surface parking lot on 8th St and 3rd Ave.

Minneapolis Club Ramp – across us on 8th Street. Saint Olaf has entered into an agreement with the Minneapolis Club for parking on Saturdays, Sundays, and Holy Days during Mass times.

10th Street surface lots and 2nd Ave. Saint Olaf has been extended a gift of free parking, but it is ONLY for the 10th St. and 2nd Ave. section of this lot and ONLY for weekend Mass. You must display a "St. Olaf" card on your dashboard. Cards are available at the Forliti Foyer Reception desk or from the ushers.

121 Tower Ramp – (was known as the TCF) across 2nd Ave. from church. To exit the ramp without paying, you must have a voucher. Vouchers are available at the Forliti Foyer Reception desk or from the ushers.



THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Additional Information at www.saintolaf.org

Saturday, January 11

- 9:00 AM CENTERING PRAYER
- 12:00 PM MASS/CONFESSIONS**
- 12:30 PM ROSARY
- 2:00 PM AFRICAN CHOIR REHEARSAL
- 4:00 PM MASS**
- 7:00 PM POPUP CHOIR CONCERT

Sunday, January 12

- 6:00 AM MASS**
- 8:00 AM MASS**
- 10:00 AM MASS**
- 12:00 PM MASS**
- 4:00 PM MASS**

Monday, January 13

- 7:00 AM MASS/CONFESSIONS**
- 7:30 AM SAMARITAN MINISTRY HOSPITALITY
- 12:00 PM MASS**
- 12:00 PM AA

Tuesday, January 14

- 7:00 AM MASS/CONFESSIONS**
- 12:00 PM MASS/CONFESSIONS**

Wednesday, January 15

- 7:00 AM MASS/CONFESSIONS**
- 7:00 AM AA
- 12:00 PM MASS**
- 12:00 PM AA
- 6:00 PM ALANON
- 6:30 PM PARISH CHOIR REHEARSAL

Thursday, January 16

- 7:00 AM MASS/CONFESSIONS**
- 7:30 AM SAMARITAN MINISTRY HOSPITALITY
- 12:00 PM MASS/CONFESSIONS**

Friday, January 17

OFFICE CLOSED ON FRIDAYS

- 7:00 AM MASS/CONFESSIONS**
- 10:00 AM KNITTING CLUB
- 12:00 PM MASS**
- 12:30 PM ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Saturday, January 18

- 9:00 AM CENTERING PRAYER
- 10:00 AM RCIA
- 12:00 PM MASS/CONFESSIONS**
- 12:30 PM ROSARY
- 4:00 PM MASS**

ANNUAL BUDGET AS OF WEEK #26

CONTRIBUTIONS	ACTUAL	BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
Dec 23 - 29	\$100,926	\$80,514	\$20,412
YTD through Week #26	\$740,865	\$751,312	-\$10,447
Annual Stewardship Renewal Week 8	\$524,572 pledged	276 respondents	25.46% of parish