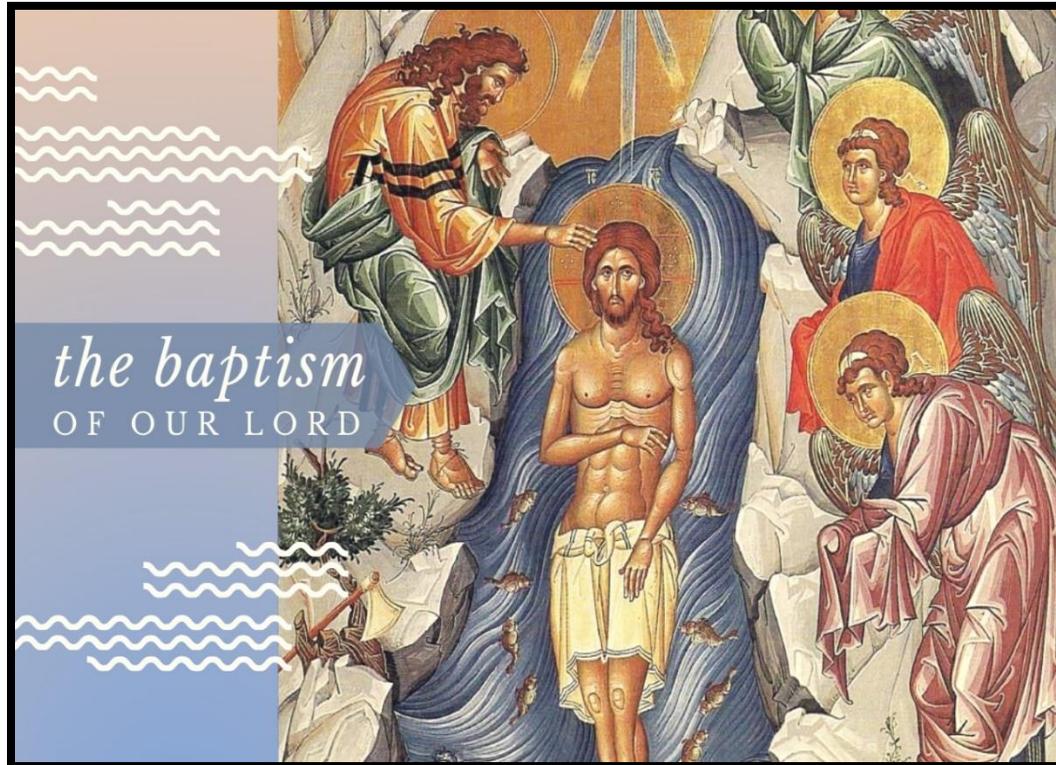


WELCOME TO
St. Cecilia Church
January 10, 2021

The Baptism of Our Lord



About Our Church

St. Cecilia Roman Catholic Church is located in St. Mary's City, MD.

Our Pastor is Father Scott Woods

The Assistants are Deacon Tony Sweeney & Deacon Mark Kijesky

CONTACT INFORMATION

Address: 47950 Mattapany Road, P.O. Box 429, St. Mary's City, MD 20686

Phone: (301) 862-4600

E-mail: stcecilia@md.metrocast.net

Social Media: [St. Cecilia Website](#) & [St. Cecilia Facebook Page](#)

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday from 8:30am – 12:00pm

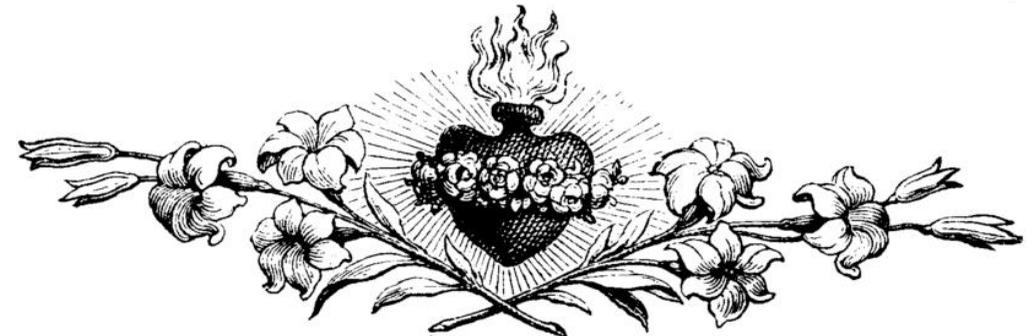
The office will be closed on Thursdays, Holy Days and Federal Holidays.

Other Contact information

St. Peter Claver: 301-872-5460

St. Michael Church: 301-872-4321

Catholic Cemeteries: 301-475-5005 or 301-932-1766



Prayer Intentions

Please remember all who have asked for our prayers: Gerald Adkinson, Virginia Alice, Bradley Anderson and Ernie, Kristin Austin, Judy and Jim Ballantine, Ivan Barnes, Joyce Bean, Dorothy Berry, Cathy Bush, Carla and Adam, Annie Carroll, Ted Carroll, Francis Carroll, Robert Carter, Steven Carter, Sr. Colleen Clair, Nancy Cotter, Debi Clark, Joey Cosgrove, Jack Cullison, Celia DeVoe, Erica Dingle, Ed Dishman, Norman Fenwick, Eileen Garvey, Mary Glynn, Mary Jean Goldsborough, Mary Gorman, Hannah Gravelle, Mary Jane Hall, Jeff Harris Family, Baby Hancock, James Hensley, Larry Hobbs, Sonny Hunt, John Jovan, Bambi Kwiatkoski, Lynn, John Lolli, Adam Lumpkins, Helen Lococo, Shirley D. Major, George Matthew, Dennis MacQuilliam, Bill Morris, James Morris, Michelle Nelson, Cecilia Plymale, Eileen Peterson, Angie Prucha, Bill Rayle, Don Robinson, Frances Reddix, Clarence Rose, Ellen Rose, Jacob Remis, ZaNiya G. Rice, Joel Rivera, Kimberly Sariego, Tiny Taylor, John F. Thompson, Susan Windburn, William Woodland, Lisa, Donna Burriss, Elaine McNeil, Tara Sewell, Doris Rose Yates, James Young, Eva Butler, Francis Birch, Evan Beck, Michael Hammett Jr., Andrew Farrand, Joe Dziewit. We thank God for the many people He has healed, bodies, minds, *and* souls.

Mass Intentions for January 9-15

Saturday 4:30 PM For the peaceful repose of the soul of Francis Taylor
Sunday 8:00 AM For the intentions of our parishioners
Monday 7:30 AM For the intentions of Andrew Pasqualle
Tuesday 7:30 AM For the peaceful repose of the soul of Debby Joy
Wednesday 7:30 AM For the peaceful repose of the soul of Susanne Goedtel
Thursday 7:30 AM For the peaceful repose of the soul of Jack Bahanan
Friday 7:30 AM For the intentions of our parishioners
Saturday 8:00 AM Mass at St. Peter Claver

Announcements & Events

- We want to thank all of you for your generous contributions! There will be a second collection for the Church Missions within the United States on the weekend of January 16 & 17.
- **The Knights of Columbus Carry-Out Chicken Dinner** has been canceled for January.
- **Over the last six months**, we have noticed that most parishioners have switched to online eGiving to make weekly contributions. If you no longer wish to receive offertory envelopes in the mail, please contact Liz at the parish office by email at stcecilia@md.metrocast.net.
- **St. Cecilia's staff will be working diligently** over the next couple of weeks to prepare 2020 tax contribution letters for parishioners. If you would like to receive a copy of your letter, contact Liz at the parish office by email at stcecilia@md.metrocast.net or by phone at 301-862-4600. Thank you!
- **All young adults in their 20s and 30s** are invited to take part in the local Catholic young adult group "PAX Catholic." Although the pandemic has slowed events down, we are now revamping our ministry once again! As it is safe to do so, we will host bonfires, socials, evenings of recollection, and "Theology on Tap." For more information, please visit our website at www.paxcatholicmd.org, or send us an email at paxcatholicstmarys@gmail.com.

Mass & Confession Time

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 PM

Sunday Morning: 8:00am

Weekday Mass: Monday – Friday 7:30am

Daily Adoration: Monday - Friday 6:00am – 7:15am

Weekly Confession: Saturdays 3:00pm – 4:00pm in Baby Haven Room

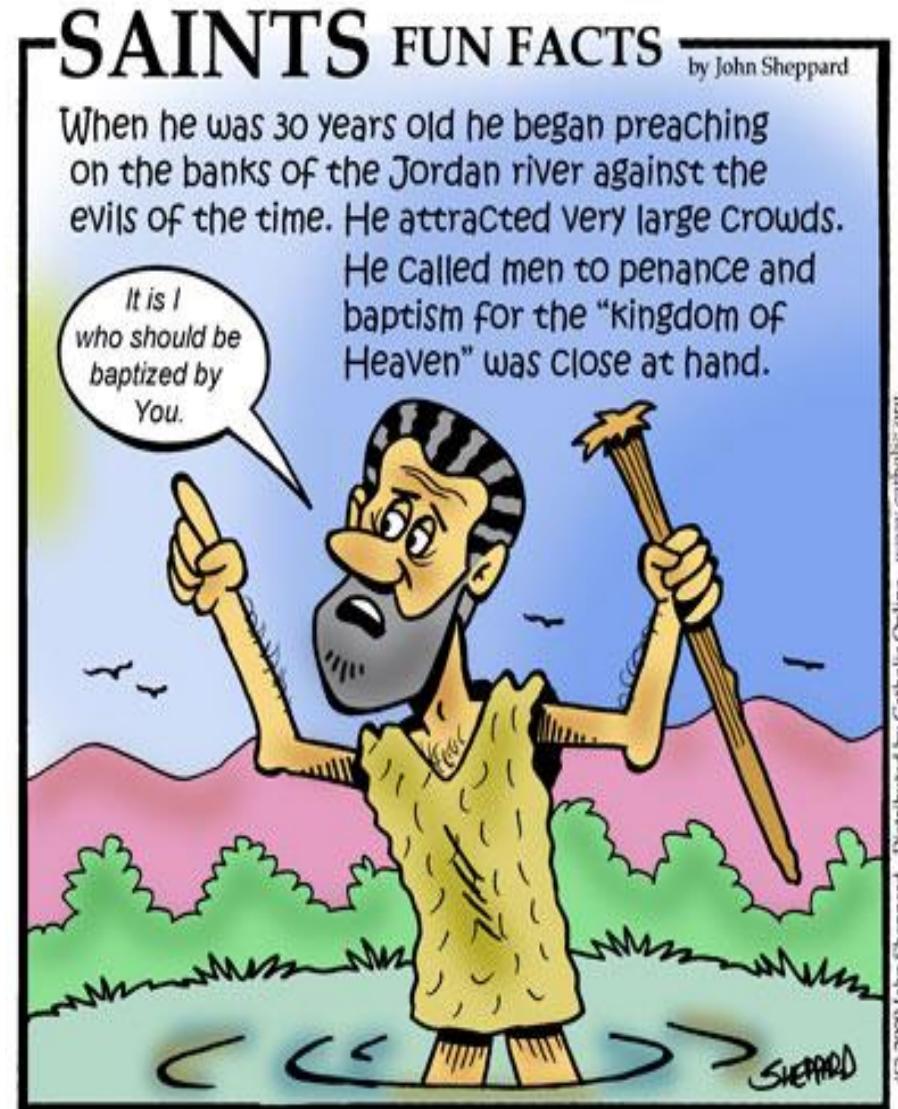
Latin Mass Schedule at St. Peter Claver

Monday & Wednesday – 6:00 PM

Sunday Afternoon – 12:00 PM

Morning Offering: O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer you my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day. For all the intentions of Thy Sacred Heart, in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world, in reparation for my sins, for the reunion of Christendom and for the Holy Father's intentions of the month.

January: Human Fraternity - May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.



John the Baptist

The Baptism of the Lord

Sunday January 10

After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." [Luke 3:21-22](#)

Today's Feast marks the conclusion of the Christmas Season and the beginning of Ordinary Time. It's a feast of transition from Jesus' hidden life to that of His public ministry. It also echoes the theme of the Epiphany in that the Baptism of the Lord is another manifestation announcing Jesus' divinity to all of His first followers and to the disciples of John the Baptist.

First of all, it needs to be pointed out that Jesus did not need the baptism of John. John was baptizing as a call to and sign of interior repentance. Jesus had no need to repent. But, nonetheless, He comes to John. John resists at first but Jesus insists. Why did He receive baptism?

First, by accepting the baptism of John, Jesus affirms all that John has said and done and affirms his sacred role of preparing the way for Jesus and for a new era of grace. Therefore, the Baptism of Jesus acts as a bridge between the Old Testament prophets (of which John was the last) and the New Testament era of grace and truth.

Second, it has been said that when Jesus entered the waters of baptism, He was not baptized by the waters, rather, His Baptism was one in which all the created waters of this world were, in a sense, "baptized" by Him. By entering into the waters, Jesus sanctifies water and pours forth His grace making all water the future source of salvation.

Third, the Baptism of Jesus was an epiphany. It was a moment of manifestation. As He emerged from the waters, "Heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from Heaven, 'You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.'" This manifestation of the sonship and divinity of Jesus took place in a physical, audible and visible form so that all present would know, without question, that Jesus was the Son of the Father. Thus, His baptism is a way in which the Father introduces His Son and His Son's mission to the world.

As we prepare to begin Ordinary Time, reflect, today, upon these words of the Father at the Baptism of Jesus. Hear the Father speaking to You about the divinity of His Son. Turn your eyes to Jesus and prepare yourself to follow Him and to heed every word He speaks. He was sent into this world to draw us to the Father, allow Him to fulfill that mission in your own life.

Lord, I believe that You are the Son of the Eternal Father and the Savior of the World. I believe that You have brought about a new era of grace and truth and that I am called to follow You wherever You lead. As we begin this liturgical season of Ordinary Time, may it be a time of extraordinary grace in which I daily heed Your voice. Jesus, I trust in You.

Pastor's Keyboard

Welcome to one of the best years of your life!!! This greeting might sound outrageous to some, but I genuinely believe it to be so! I believe that if we choose to center our lives and our attitudes in Jesus, this can be one if not the greatest year of our lives. This can be true even if COVID does not disappear like the Spanish Flu, even if the social upheaval does not just settle down, and even if we ourselves must deal with our own sickness or that of a loved one due to COVID or some other medical problem.

How can this be, you ask? If this life is truly about entering into a deeper encounter with the living God, and I am open to that encounter, regardless of the circumstances, God will see us through. He will help us grow in TRUST and FAITH that will help us to receive the joy and peace only He can give and sustain.

I have experienced this in my own life and witnessed it in many who struggle financially, with mental illness, with their own sickness or that of a loved one, and even from the dying. What lessons have I learned from them? Pray ceaselessly in all circumstances. Praise the Lord for all the goods of each day, make constant acts of trust (Jesus, I trust in you, help my lack of trust), read the scriptures every day, and receive Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament as often as you can.

The more we stay centered in Christ, the more prepared we will be to face all circumstances with peace and joy.

Your father and brother in Christ,
Fr. Scott