



*Our Lady of Sorrows Church*

January 10, 2021

*From the Pastor's Desk*

My Dear People:

Today is the Feast of the Baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist, and, at first, it puzzles us that this baptism, for the forgiveness of sins, is something Jesus sought and requested of St. John.

In St. Matthew's Gospel, we read that John the Baptist did not want to do this. He, John the Baptist, said that it was Jesus who should be baptizing John, but Jesus insisted that He (Jesus) be baptized.

When we look at the life of Jesus, we see that the purpose of His life is to save us from our sins, since we humans are infinitely below the Almighty and could not help ourselves as sinful people. The purpose of Jesus being baptized is that **THIS WAS HIS FIRST PUBLIC ACT OF PENANCE FOR THE SINS OF THE HUMAN RACE.**

This baptism of Jesus is in fact the Lord saying to His Father:

"Give them another chance."

Jesus, representing the human race, is saying:

"Father, on their behalf I am sorry for their sins. Forgive them, please."

The most unfortunate thing about our human race is that we do not appreciate enough that Jesus' life, death, and resurrection was all on behalf of "forgiveness of the sins of the human race." It is like enjoying good health. WE just take it for granted and don't appreciate health until we are sick, and writhing in discomfort, and longing for the return of our health. When health returns, we take this gift from God with little appreciation, and so it is with the salvific life of Jesus of

Nazareth. We take the indescribable gift of salvation "for granted". That entitlement attitude is like the teenager with the family car!

So, this Feast of the Baptism of Jesus, the first public act of repentance for our sins, is a reminder of what we tend to forget.

Jesus told His apostles to go out and preach and baptize those who accept Jesus with a baptism of water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. By this baptism, Jesus incorporates one into His family. By this baptism, we are promised heaven. By this baptism, Jesus commits to living within us. This never ceases to amaze me...that we are temples of God. It is so biblical; we must believe it! When we say our prayers, talking to God, the line is never "busy", nor is there the statement: "Leave a message."

Also, by our baptism, we are members of the lay priesthood. Yes, we participate in the priesthood of Jesus. St. Peter clearly writes to all baptized:

"You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, etc."

So, after the consecration at Mass, the priest does not say "I" but "we" offer you, Father, this life-giving Bread, WE offer you this saving cup.

It all seems to say that the day of our baptism is more important than the day of our physical birth.

So, this feast of the first public act of repentance Jesus did for our sins – His submission to baptism – is such an important feast. It is another feast celebrating Jesus for being our SAVIOR.

**So many thanks** to you for the cards and gifts sent to us priests and the office. You are such thoughtful and generous people.

Thanks, also, to the 375 people who turned in pledge cards. At this time last year, we had 500 cards. It is the virus that has created the shortfall. We know the social distances keep the full congregation from coming. Yet, at Christmas, it was great to see, with nine Masses, how many came. We are \$250,000.00 from our goal, but happily the pledge cards are still dripping in. Even small amounts pledged show we are still here and trying our best. Again, an abundant thanks!

With prayers and blessings,  
Father Muller

**Bishop Raica has extended the dispensation** from the obligation to attend Holy Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation through Sunday, March 14, the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent. We will continue to livestream Masses. The moral obligation of keeping the Lord's Day holy remains, even for those who use the dispensation and do not attend Mass.



*Mass Intentions*

Monday, Jan. 11	Special Intention Lena Carruba Michael Renda
Tuesday, Jan. 12	Frank Beuerlein Sp. Int. Dominic Rumore Peter Gingras
Wednesday, Jan. 13	Special Intention Josephine Sicola Michael Renda
Thursday, Jan. 14	Donald David Sp. Int. Dominic Rumore Bill Pickard
Friday, Jan. 15	Rex Ruthman Paul Rumore Michael Renda
Saturday, Jan. 16	Donors to OLS School Foundation Lee Maniscalco World Peace
Sunday, Jan. 17	People of Parish Sp. Int. John & Mary Catherine Tombrello Jackie Pickard



Vincent Lucia, Joyce Cunningham, Carmela Yeakle, Ronnie Williams, Carolyn Jefferson, Bob Doyle, Donald Taccone, Ellen Scalise, Tim Carlisle, Tom James, Mike Skellie, Harriet Dupree, Alan Pizzitola, Kenny Skellie

**End-of-year statements will be mailed in the next few weeks. If you have changed addresses, please contact the Church Office with your new information.**



**PRAY FOR VOCATIONS**

At His baptism, Jesus is supported by the presence of the Spirit and of His Father. We, too, are affirmed in our baptism and called to holiness. Are you being called to live your baptismal commitment as a priest or religious? (Matthew 3:13-17)  
For all baptized Christians, that the grace of our baptism may guide us in our vocation.

**Annual Respect Life Mass  
and Witness for Life  
Saturday, January 16, 2021**

**Respect Life Mass  
9:00 AM · Our Lady of Fatima  
708 1<sup>st</sup> St S, Birmingham**

**Prayer Vigil and Witness for Life  
10:45 AM · Planned Parenthood  
1019 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. North, Birmingham**

**Pandemic Protocols Encouraged  
Contact: 205-447-8796**

## ***What's Going on in Youth Ministry?***

**Saturday, January 16:** Catholic Youth on Mission at the Birmingham March for Life! We will have a youth rally featuring Laura Barksdale! For more information check out [olsyouth.com](http://olsyouth.com).

### ***LifeTeen High School***

**Sunday, January 10:** High schoolers will be on ZOOM tonight at 7p.m. Join us virtually for games and prizes!

**Wednesday, January 13:** Co-ed "Unleashed" small group and dinner at 7 p.m. in the youth room. This 6-week study focuses on HOPE.

### ***EDGE Middle School***

**Sunday, January 10:** Join us for a celebration in honor of the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord! Dinner starts at 7 p.m. in the Assembly Hall! Masks are required.

Edge is in need of a **parishioner with some carpentry skills** who would be willing to donate their time to construct some special equipment for our youth this semester. Contact Carol Wiget at [msyouthminister@ourladyofsorrows.com](mailto:msyouthminister@ourladyofsorrows.com) if you can help.

For complete calendars, check out [www.olsyouth.com](http://www.olsyouth.com).

**The Padre Pio Prayer Group** will meet at 10 a.m. on Saturday, January 16. All are welcome to join us for an hour of prayer, Adoration and Holy Mass. Fr. Jerabek, from St. Paul's Cathedral, will lead us in the prayers this month! What a blessing to have him with us! ALL ARE WELCOME to become a Spiritual Child of Padre Pio! We meet the third Saturday of EVERY MONTH! Won't you join us? For more information, Call Angela Kolar @205-991-9554. Pray, Hope and Don't

Worry! (Social Distancing is set in place and masks are worn by all.)

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### **OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED!**

If you have struggled to read the Bible, this podcast is for you. Ascension's *Bible in a Year* Podcast, hosted by Fr. Mike Schmitz, guides Catholics through the Bible in 365 daily episodes starting January 1st, 2021. Each 20-25 minute episode includes:

- two to **three scripture readings**
- a **reflection** from Fr. Mike Schmitz
- **guided prayer** to help you **hear God's voice in his Word**.

Unlike any other Bible podcast, Ascension's *Bible in a Year* Podcast for Catholics follows a reading plan inspired by the Great Adventure *Bible Timeline*® learning system, a **groundbreaking approach to understanding Salvation History** developed by renowned Catholic Bible teacher Jeff Cavins. Tune in and live your daily life through the lens of God's word!

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### ***Food for Our Journey update:***

We are serving almost 700 meals a day, seven days a week. The OLS food drive every Wednesday is vital to our ability to serve the homeless and food insecure in our community. We are handing out close to 700 bottles of water a day, so **we really need water**. Also, we are getting constant requests for socks and masks. If you have clean, gently used, or new socks, we need them. If anyone has access to masks of any kind, we would love to have them. We thank all of you who have donated so far and look forward to seeing all of you who can donate every Wednesday (drop offs accepted from 9 -10:30 a.m.) in the parish parking lot.

Christine Golab, Assistant Executive Director