

**JANUARY 10 - SATURDAY****1 Jn 5:14-21; Jn 3:22-30*****Vigil Reading: See Sunday*****4:00 PM – English – Fr. Jim – Fr. Joe Robinson****5:00 – 5:45 PM: Confessions****6:00 PM – Spanish – Fr. Rudy****JANUARY 11 – BAPTISM OF OUR LORD****Is 42:1-4, 6-7; Acts 10:34-38; Mt 3:13-17*****Sunday Readings:*****9:00 AM – Spanish – Fr. Rudy****11:00 AM – English – Fr. Louis – Bob Wuerth****12:30 PM – Spanish – Fr. Louis****JANUARY 12 – MONDAY****1 Sm 1:1-8; Mk 1:14-20****JANUARY 13 – TUESDAY****1 Sm 1:9-20; Mk 1:21-28****JANUARY 14 – WEDNESDAY****1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Mk 1:29-39****JANUARY 15 – THURSDAY****1 Sm 4:1-11; Mk 1:40-45****7:00 PM – Spanish – Fr. Rudy****JANUARY 16 - FRIDAY****1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Mk 2:1-12****9:30 AM – English – Fr. Rudy****JANUARY 17 - SATURDAY****1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19, 10:1; Mk 2:13-17*****Vigil Reading: See Sunday*****4:00 PM – English – Fr. Jim – Fr. Joe Robinson****5:00 – 5:45 PM: Confessions****6:00 PM – Spanish – Fr. Rudy****JANUARY 18 – SUNDAY****Is 49:3, 5-6; 1 Cor 1:1-3; Jn 1:29-34*****Sunday Readings:*****9:00 AM – Spanish – Fr. Rudy****11:00 AM – English – Fr. Louis – Frank Schnetzer****12:30 PM – Spanish – Fr. Louis****English Mass Ministry Schedule: January 17-18****Lectors: 4:00 PM – P. Wessler****11:00 AM – L. Biedenbach****Eucharistic Ministers:****4:00 PM – M. Sonenschein/H. Wessler****11:00 AM – K. Gillespie/L. Washam****Servers: 4:00 PM – Z. & M. Nintrup****11:00 AM – M. Crosby****Offertory Family: 4:00 PM: Volunteer****11:00 AM: N/A****FROM THE FINANCE COMMISSION**

Last Week's Collection: \$13,491

Offerings received to-date: \$ 222,664

Amount needed to catch up: \$1,336.00

Our Weekly Goal is \$8,000

Thank you for your generosity.

***Use our direct debit system for your Sunday Stewardship offering.*** To take advantage of this convenience, please call 513-541-1563.

**FOUR GRAND CLUB:** Congratulations to David Brinker, Ken Lane and Linda Lane, our week 20 winners: Each won \$25.

***Happy Birthday!*****CELEBRATING THEIR BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK:**

John Schwierling (10), Mary Jo Daninger (10), Helen Dunbar (10), Jerry Finke (10), Anthony Sifuentes (10), Carlos Zapata (11), Mary Kramer (12), Remmy Dsouza (12), Joyce Appel (13), Anne Weinkam (13), Gloria Sanchez (13), LuAnn Biederbeck (14), Christopher Mulvaney (14), Connie Smith (15), John O'Bryan (15), Alan Stigler (16), Mary Wehby (16), Ashley Erwin (16).

**FR. RUDY'S REFLECTION:** Today we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, and Matthew's Gospel brings us to the banks of the Jordan River. Before Jesus ever steps into that water, Matthew invites us to consider the world's varied responses to the newborn Messiah. Earlier in his Gospel he described the visit of the Magi, the rejection of Herod, and the indifference of the religious leaders in Jerusalem. These reactions help us understand who Jesus is and why his baptism is so significant.

The Magi respond with faith. Guided by a star, they undertook a long and difficult journey because they believed the child they sought was worthy of worship. Their gifts reveal the truth of who Jesus is. Gold proclaims his kingship, frankincense reveals his divinity, and myrrh foreshadows his saving death. They returned home by a different route, changed by their encounter with Christ. Herod responds with hostility. He fears the rise of a rival king and seeks to destroy the child. Despite his knowledge of the prophecy and his consultation with the chief priests and scribes, his heart remains closed. The leaders in Jerusalem respond with indifference. They know the Scriptures. They know the Messiah is to be born in Bethlehem. Yet they do not go. Their knowledge does not lead to worship or to a searching heart.

These three responses are placed before us intentionally. They prompt us to ask: How do I respond to Christ who enters my life today? With this contrast in mind, we come to the Jordan River. Jesus approaches John the Baptist and asks to be baptized. John hesitates. How could the sinless Son of God submit to a baptism of repentance? Jesus answers with humility, allowing himself to enter those waters so that he might fill them with divine power. His baptism marks the beginning of his public

ministry and reveals the mystery of the Trinity. As he emerges from the water, the heavens open, the Spirit descends like a dove, and the Father proclaims, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

The Greek word for baptism means to immerse. In baptism we are immersed into the life of Christ. We die to sin and rise to new life, receiving not only earthly existence but the gift of zoe, the very life of God. Jesus transformed baptism from a symbolic act into a sacrament that truly changes us. The Spirit who descended upon him now descends upon each of us, igniting a fire of love and setting us on a path of discipleship.

As we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, may we renew our gratitude for our own baptism and respond to Christ with the faith of the Magi, the courage to follow him, and the joy of knowing we are God's beloved children.

**BIBLE STUDY:** A parish Bible study will continue on January 20th<sup>t</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the parish center library. The study focuses on the significance and meaning of the Jubilee year in sacred scripture and church teaching. Sessions will be held biweekly. We invite everyone to attend!

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD PANTRY:** Just a reminder, our request for the month of January is for cereal. You can place your gifts in the baskets in church or drop them off at the parish office. Thank you!

**Make a long-lasting difference! Leave a Legacy by remembering St. Boniface Church in your Will. For more information contact Jenni Lindgren at 513-541-1563, ext. 151.**