

ST. ELIZABETH CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass intentions for Jan. 9, 2022 *Baptism of the Lord*

Saturday, 5 p.m. —

† Brenda Van Cleef Egan
By: Gwen Egan

Sunday, 9 a.m. —

† Mary Louise Kenny Locy
By: Joanne Jones Hogan

Wednesday, noon —

Saturday, 5 p.m. —

† Norman & Curt Dean
By: Kent & Coleen Schneider

Sunday, 9 a.m. —

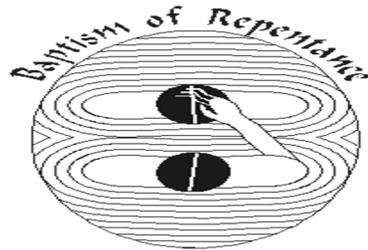
† Richard Saporito
By: Fran & Rodney Robey

Synod Survey

Pope Francis wants your input on the topic of "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission." Please complete the Diocese of Knoxville synod survey found at:

<https://synodsurvey.org>

All, including non-Catholics, are encouraged to complete the anonymous survey. (Be sure to hit the "submit" button when finished.)



WHY DID JESUS ASK TO BE BAPTIZED?

Baptism had been practiced for centuries among the Jews as a ritual equivalent of Confession. It was common for Jewish people to make a spiritual cleansing in a special pool called a MIKVEH (literally a "collection of water") to remove spiritual impurity and sin. Men did this weekly and women, monthly. Converts were also expected to do it. John preached that such a bath was a necessary preparation for the cataclysm that would be wrought by the coming Messiah. Jesus transformed this continual ritual into the single, definitive act by which we begin our faith. In effect he fused his divine essence with the water and the ceremony.

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Weekly readings

Jan. 9, 2022
Baptism of the Lord
Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7
Psalm 29:1-4, 9-10
Acts 10:34-38
Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

Monday

1 Samuel 1:1-8
Mark 1:14-20

Tuesday

1 Samuel 1:9-20
Mark 1:21-28

Wednesday

1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20
Mark 1:29-39

Thursday

1 Samuel 4:1-11
Mark 1:40-45

Friday

1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22a
Mark 2:1-12

Saturday

1 Samuel 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a
Mark 2:13-17

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 96:1-3, 7-10
1 Corinthians 12:4-11
John 2:1-11

Lay ministers for Jan. 16/17

Altar servers

Sat. —
Sun. — Issac Bienaime, Carl Johnson

Commentators/Readers

Sat. — B. Gamache
Sun. — R. Barker, J. Potter, I. Whitehead

Ushers

Sat. — M. Hupko, J. Regan
Sun. — R. Barker, J. Townsend

Baptism of the Lord

Jesus is sinless, so why was he baptized? It is because Jesus identifies with sinners and follows God's plan to save them. Jesus follows Old Testament regulations in order to perfect them.



St. Thomas Aquinas states that the baptism of Jesus prefigures the Sacrament of Baptism and our need for cleansing and renewal.

Water

John baptized with water as a sign of purification. But it was just a sign. Like the water of the flood in the time of Noah, John's baptism alone could not cleanse the sinfulness of mankind.



Holy Spirit

But the Baptism of Jesus does mark a new beginning through the Holy Spirit who came down upon Jesus to strengthen him for the "baptism" of suffering he would undergo later.



Divine Voice

When Jesus is baptized, God the Father says, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." This is a precursor to our adoption as children of God in the sacrament of Baptism.

In the sacrament, water cleanses the soul. The sacrament of Baptism confers forgiveness and renews the grace of justifying faith.

—From *The Ignatius Study Bible, New Testament*

Saintly Wisdom

"The Lord was baptized, not to be cleansed Himself, but to cleanse the waters, so that those waters, cleansed by the flesh of Christ which knew no sin, might have the power of Baptism."
— St. Ambrose —

Parish Life

Happy Birthday, Fr. Dennis! —

Fr. Dennis is celebrating his birthday on Thursday (Jan. 13). Wish him well and, as always, keep him in your prayers.



Bereavement — Parishioner Pat Constantine died recently. Please keep her family in your prayers.

Lectors — Anyone who would like to read at one of the weekend Masses may contact Coleen Schneider at coleenschneider@gmail.com or 423-202-6387.

Inclement Weather — If the Elizabethton school system cancels classes, then daily Mass will not be celebrated that day. Parishioners are encouraged to stay home when road conditions or temperatures make traveling dangerous.



Charity Donation Letter — If you would like a letter for your tax return summarizing your 2021 donations to St. Elizabeth, please drop a note in the weekend collection with your name and the words "tax letter" on it.

Right-to-Life Rosary —

The St. Elizabeth youth group is sponsoring a Right-to-Life Rosary at 5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 23. All are invited to participate.



New Parishioners — If you are a new parishioner, please fill out a registration form from the vestibule and return it in the collection basket. Thank you!

Thanks for your support and generosity

In-person Offertory

Dec. 26-31, 2021

Regular, \$3,087.17
Catholic Relief Services, \$5,310
Development, \$25
Retired Religious, \$50
Disaster relief, \$100
Christmas flowers, \$40

Dec. 25, 2021

Total, \$2,346.25

Jan. 2, 2022

Regular, \$4,052.25
Backpack Buddies, \$93
Frankie Carr Scholarship, \$77