

**Saturday, January 3**

5:00 p.m. Mass

**Sunday, January 4:**

9:00 a.m. Mass

11:00 a.m. Mass

**Monday, January 5: John Neumann, bishop**

1 Jn 3: 22-4: 6, Mt 4: 12-17, 23-25

No Mass today

**Tuesday, January 6: Christmas Weekday, Bl Andrew****Bessette, religious**

1 Jn 4: 7-10, Mk 6: 34-44

No Mass today

**Wednesday, January 7: Christmas Weekday, Raymond of Penafort, priest**

1 Jn 4: 11-18, Mk 6: 45-52

8:30 a.m. Mass

**Thursday, January 8: Christmas Weekday**

1 Jn 4: 19-5: 4, Lk 4: 14-22a

8:30 a.m. Mass

**Friday, January 9: Christmas Weekday**

1 Jn 5: 5-13, Lk 5: 12-16

8:30 a.m. Mass

**BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

Is 55: 1-11, 1 Jn 5: 1-9, Mk 1: 7-11

**Saturday, January 10:**

5:00 p.m. Absence of Priest

**Sunday, January 11:**

9:00 a.m. Mass

11:00 a.m. Mass

**BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS**

Christmas is the season we especially remember loved ones and all those we hold dear to our hearts, who are no longer with us. A big thank you to Joni and Kathy Hall and family who put together and donated the beautiful arrangement in front of the Ambo in memory of husband, father, grandfather, father-in-law, Jack. God bless all of you for sharing this special memory with your church family.

**DECORATING THE CHURCH**

I wish to thank all the people who helped decorate the Church for the Christmas Season! What a fantastic job you all did! Special thanks to Jack Generous, Michelle and Nicole Quick, Joanne and Kyle Nordstrom, and Sandy Budreau. May God continue to bless all of you! All of your talents are shown in the beautiful way our Church looks! May the peace of Christ be with all of you.

Alma Moreno-Babcock, Church Liturgist

**TAX CONTRIBUTIONS**

Your Church contributions may be tax deductible. If you wish to have a copy of your contributions mailed to you, to be used in preparing your income tax returns for 2008, please call the office @ 673-2346. Please make your request known by January 28 so we can have your tax info by the end of January.

**REMINDER**

Parish Council will meet Thurs. January 8 @ 7:00 pm.

**SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, JANUARY 10 & 11****LECTORS:**

5:00 p.m. Ginny DeRoche

9:00 a.m. Norm Daniels

11:00 a.m. Renee Wood

**MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST:**5:00 p.m. Paul Langlois\*  
(Absence of Priest)

9:00 a.m. \*Knights of Columbus Members

11:00 a.m. Jerry Lasceski\*,  
Sue Lasceski, Jenny Sabo  
Sharon Vandenbossche, Vic Guzman**ALTAR SERVERS:**

5:00 p.m. Absence of Priest

9:00 a.m. Volunteers,

11:00 a.m. Crystal Messing, Kim Oakie

**GREETERS:**5:00 p.m. Jill, Stephanie Brink, Cheree Szidik, Art  
Rollend Family, Pat Strozeski9:00 a.m. Joan Smith, Daniella Babcock, Norma, Bob  
Berry, Mario D'Addezio11:00 a.m. Danielle Gucwa, Pat Gettel, Christine  
Harbec, Jerry, Sandy Noeker**USHERS FOR JANUARY:**5:00 p.m. Doug Lagos\*, Dave Lagos  
Adam Rodriguez, Dave Kolacz9:00 a.m. John Papp Sr\*, Jason Kappen  
Floyd Echols, Robert Kamrad11:00 a.m. Jack Generous\*, Pete O'Brien  
Joe Fessler, Mark Ransford**OUR APPRECIATION**

Christian Services sincerely thank all who gave their time for the funeral of Jack Cole: Michelle Quick, Shirley & Ben Sizemore, Maureen Fealko, Sharon Vandenbossche, Norbert Jankowski. Also our thanks to the Knights of Columbus who provided & cooked the ham and chicken.

**. ANOTHER YEAR IS HISTORY**

Another year is history. Whether we are richer or poorer may vary from person to person, but one thing is for sure: Our lives are one year shorter. There is nothing we can do about that. It is past. Like the type on our previous bulletin, that paper has been used. The words there are a matter of record. But the year ahead is clean, open, and ready for you to leave your mark upon. Pause for a moment and think about what single thing you would like to accomplish this year, with God's help.

**CATHOLIC WEEKLY**

Please note the pink envelopes which are enclosed in your Church envelope packets, for a subscription to the Catholic Weekly. Cost for the subscription is \$7.00 for six months. (Your parish pays the remaining amount of the subscription.)

**IN GOD'S HANDS**

A hockey stick in the average person's hands is worth about 33 dollars.

A hockey stick in Brendan Shanahan's hands is worth about 3 million dollars.

A lot depends on whose hands it's in.

Five loaves and two fish in the disciples' hands could feed about 15 people.

Five loaves and two fish in the Lord's hands fed thousands.

A lot depends on whose hands it's in.

**PARISH SUPPORT**

Our Weekly Need.....\$5800.00  
 Last Weekend.....\$5972.25  
 476 Envelope Holders...175 Envelopes used last weekend

Christmas collection.....\$5908.00  
 218 Christmas Envelopes used



**BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

Today's Gospel reading begins with John baptizing in the Jordan River, a practice the Jewish people understood differently than Christians today. For many Jews, baptism was a symbolic gesture of repentance, demonstrating sorrow for offending God and intent on

changing for the better. This ceremonial washing was rich in symbolism. John was baptizing where the Jordan River flowed into the Dead Sea, an ideal spot because at certain times of the year this part of the Jordan was both narrow and shallow. The people who came to John entered the Jordan from one shore and after John totally immersed them in the water (he did not simply pour water over their heads) they exited onto the opposite shore where they put on a fresh set of clothes. These simple actions spoke louder than any words possibly could.

Since people in first-century Palestine did not have running water, they did not bathe as frequently as we do today. To make matters worse, Palestinian days were hot and the terrain was dry and sandy. Although sponge baths were common, they simply did not compare with immersing one's entire body in water. The only way a person could get really clean was by visiting one of the public bathhouses or by jumping into a nearby lake or river.

Those who came to John for baptism were giving up their sinful ways (symbolized by the dirt and the sweat on their bodies), which they washed away when John immersed them in the water. They further dramatized this clean start by entering the Jordan from one shore and exiting onto the other, indicating they were not going back to their old way of life but were leaving their sinful habits behind. Finally, they put on fresh clothing to show they were embarking on a fresh start.

This symbolism points to Jewish baptism marking a change in a person's life. Therefore, Jesus probably wanted John to baptize him even though he never sinned because the baptism marked the beginning of his new lifestyle. Jesus was about to leave behind the private life of a simple carpenter and begin his public ministry as a rabbi. From that point on, Jesus' life would never be the same again.

**For Reflection:**

The change in your life that began at baptism continues today. What in your life do you need to leave behind so you can be more pleasing to God?

**The Baptism of the Lord**

When the Lord had been baptized, the heavens opened, and the Spirit came down like a dove to rest on him. Then the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son; with him I am well pleased. (Mt 3: 16-17)

TOGETHER  LET US PRAY ...

**†FAITH FORMATION NEWS†**

- Jan. 5-Faith Formation classes resume
  - Jan. 7-Sacramental meeting 6:30
  - Jan. 11-Confirmation Inscription Service 9:00 Mass
  - Jan. 11-High School youth group meets 12:00 noon
  - Jan. 13-S.P.R.E.D. Friends & Leaders meet 7:00 pm
  - Jan. 14-After School social 3:30-5:00
  - Jan. 17-Jesus Experience Day 10:00 a.m.
  - Jan. 18-Confirmation @ 9:00 a.m. Mass
  - Jan. 18-High School youth group meets 12:00 noon
  - Jan. 21-24 March for Life Washington D.C.
  - Jan. 31-High School Mass in Freeland FEED THE FIRE
- HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP**-A new schedule for Winter '09 has been sent out. Please mark the dates on your calendar and note the time change for our sessions. If you did not receive a new schedule please call the parish center @ 673-2276 to request one.

**SWEATSHIRTS**-Sacred Heart sweatshirts are for sale in the Parish Center. We have a variety of sizes and colors to choose from. Cost is \$20.00 each.

**LITTLE CHILDREN**

*Unless you become like little children, you shall not enter the kingdom of God. (cf. Mt 18:3).*



*Only the childlike retain the child's gift of wonder. Wondering, we forget ourselves entirely, lost in what has provoked our awe. Wonder is the wellspring of praise. We have reason*

*for our praise: we are God's children, made in His image.*



**Sunday By Sunday** meets on Mondays @ 6:15. This is an informal gathering and a fun group to be part of. Join us as we read and discuss the upcoming Sunday readings. Info: Lynne Petiprin @ 673-3795.



**CHILDREN'S CHOIR**

Thank you to the parents who assisted with the Christmas Eve Children's Liturgy: Stacy Gough, and Chris Dunham. And thank you to David Dunham and John Gettel for guitar and piano accompaniment. Your help was greatly appreciated.

**The Children's Choir will resume practices on THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 3:30-4:30. The next Children's Liturgy is SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15 @ 11:00 MASS.**

**THE GAZE OF GOD**

God looks into our hearts and the divine gaze immediately uncovers everything that the heart contains. We can never pull the wool over the eyes of God. With love, God identifies whatever is within us, calling us to repentance when his gaze falls on our sins, and calling us to thanksgiving when his gaze falls on our love.

God communicates his findings to us through something called conscience. Our conscience tells us what we are before God. When it reproaches us, the reproach is for the sake of our return to harmony with what is good. The Spirit scrutinizes us with love and invites us to a harmony with himself. When we respond, we come to know the saving power of the love that God has for us.