

# WEEK OF JANUARY 13, 2019

## MONDAY

Heb 1:1-6 \* Ps 97:1-2,6-7,9 \* Mk 1:14-20

## TUESDAY 8:00am Word & Communion

Heb 2:5-12 \* Ps 8:2,5-9 \* Mk 1:21-18

## WEDNESDAY 8:00am Mass

Heb 2:14-18 \* Ps 105:1-4,6-9 \* Mk 1:29-39

## THURSDAY 8:00am Mass

Heb 3:7-14 \* Ps 95:6-11 \* Mk 1:40-45

## FRIDAY 9:00am School Mass

Heb 4:1-5,11 \* Ps 78:3-4,6-8 \* Mk 2:1-12

## SATURDAY 4:30pm Mass

Heb 4:12-16 \* Ps 19:8-10,15 \* Mk 2:13-17

## SUNDAY 9:30am Mass

Children's Liturgy of the Word & Nursery

Is 62:1-5 \* Ps 96:1-3,7-10 \* 1 Cor 12:4-11 \* Jn 2:1-11



## PARISH ACTIVITIES

Mon., Jan. 14 6:30pm Bible Timeline

Tues., Jan 15 10:00am Scripture Study

6:30pm RCIA

6:30pm Christian Quilters-WC

7:00pm Bible Study-WC

Thurs., Jan. 17 6:00pm PTO Meeting

7:00pm School Committee

Sun., Jan. 27 10:45am Religious Education

## NEXT WEEK - JANUARY 20

### RITE of CHRISTIAN INITIATION of ADULTS

We will be celebrating the RITE of ACCEPTANCE & WELCOME with Alyssa Gulvas, Brookelynn Neal, Maggee Giles and Isabella (Bella) Breece. Since October they have been attending inquiry sessions. This period of preparation has given them time to respond to the stirrings within to seek out life with Christ in this community of Catholic Christians. They are now ready to publicly declare their intention to continue their journey of faith toward full membership in the Catholic Church. This rite marks the beginning of their next stage of initiation: Alyssa as a catechumen preparing for baptism, confirmation and Eucharist; Brookelynn, Maggee and Bella as candidates preparing for reception of the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist. From this time on we embrace them as our own.

COFFEE & DONUTS will be served after Mass to offer you the opportunity to welcome them.

SCRIP CARDS, EAGLE PALOOZA dinner tickets & raffle tickets will be available.



**Wondering...Hoping...Praying:** Is God calling you to get involved in your parish? We are looking for a reliable person to fill our staff position of Office Administrator!! You will need the heart of a servant, the love for your parish family as well as the ability to undertake administrative tasks. It's Monday through Friday 8:30am-4:30pm. If interested in becoming part of our Parish Staff, apply at the parish office. A job description is available. Resume is necessary, along with three letters of recommendation. Don't delay!! We would love to hear from you!

**Check Out the Café Kiosk** for these new Catholic Updates: *Finding the Heart of Jesus' Life in the Gospels; Seven Disciplines of Successful Catholics; An Invitation to Prayer; and Ten Excuses for Not Praying.* As well as information about two February events for women at the Diocesan Center for Ministry: *Women's Silent Retreat – Go Deeper with God* (Feb. 1-3) and a *Women's Day of Recollection – The Martha-Mary Balance of Daily Life* (Feb. 23).

**New Scripture Study:** Tues., Jan. 22 at 10am begins a new 8-week study: *Walking Toward Eternity Making Choices for Today*, by Jeff & Emily Cavins. This study focuses on 8 topics essential for living out the Christian life, using a combination of meditation on Scripture, small group discussion and an inspiring DVD presentation. Last fall a new person began attending this group. Here is what she said:

*"Fearing my faith or knowledge of my faith may not be strong enough to participate, I hesitantly decided to give it a try. What a blessing it has been! I have gotten much more out of it than I ever expected. My fears were put to rest shortly after attending, learning it is a very lightly structured, faith-based discussion on how scripture applies to our everyday life. The sessions have no weekly commitment and is very flexible; you can quietly sit and listen or join into the discussion if you wish. If you are looking for fellowship along with many lighthearted conversations, this is for you. I invite anyone interested to attend this open table discussion. Please come and join us."* Kathy

## Baptism

*"Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you;  
Before you were born, I dedicated you."* Jeremiah 1-5

**Keyton Irish Pope**

son of Jake & Sarah Pope

## EDUCATION/FORMATION

**Family Talk Time** *Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families*, Sara McGinnis Lee Tell your children something about the day of their Baptism.

► **Reflecting on the Word:** Parents, grandparents and other family members anticipate the Baptism of a child with joy. Through the sacraments, the baby becomes an adopted child of God. This is a special time when the true holiness of an individual is illuminated in the light of the Holy Spirit. Bathed in the baptismal waters, we enter the Church. With the support of the faith community, the relationship of the Christian is nurtured and the individual brings the light of Christ to the world.

► **Living the Word:** The Holy Spirit is among us, adding richness to our lives. With your family, walk around your neighborhood and see what blessings and marvels you witness. Record what you notice. Where do you see the Holy Spirit active and engaged today? What kinds of things do you notice that inspire or challenge you? What can each family member learn from the perspective of the others?

## AUBURN AREA CATHOLIC

► **AACS** is excited to announce that they will be hosting a community event called **Eagle Palooza!** featuring a chicken dinner, cash bar, raffle, silent auction, and entertainment featuring a DJ and polka band, at the **William's Township Hall, Sat., Feb. 16, 5-11pm**. Admission is free. Tickets for dinner \$10, raffle tickets \$5, both available during coffee & donuts next weekend. There are a limited number of dinners being made, so you are encouraged to purchase ahead of time. Chicken dinners can be dine-in or take-out, and you do not have to be present to win the raffle items. For more info, you can talk to a school family or call the school office. Flyers are in the school entrance.

► **Mark Your Calendar:** AACS will have their **Open House** on Tuesday, February 12. This is an opportunity for potential preschool-5<sup>th</sup> grade parents to find out about the great things happening at AACS.

► **School and School Office** will close at 11:30am on January 18.

## THE PARISH IN THE COMMUNITY

► KC Breakfast Fundraiser for Right to Life has been canceled due to the facility being double booked.

## STEWARDSHIP

Weekly Target: \$10,961.54 \* Offering: \$11,763.30  
In Memory of Mary Ann Periard: \$245.00  
From Auburn Food Pride to the Food Pantry: \$1,500.00

**Statements:** With the end-of-the-year bank reconciliation made, Janet, the bookeeper will be working on preparing statements of church contributions to be sent out. That will most likely happen the latter part of this week. If you are in a hurry, and if the IRS is still open and running, you can call for special consideration.

**To the Parishioners of St. Gabriel,** we would like to thank you for all your gifts from the giving tree. It made our Christmas morning very exciting! God's Blessings to all of you! *Plainview Assisted Living*

**Children's G@D Deeds: My Good Deed was...**  
...Giving Church money. ...I helped decorate John's bike.

## FROM FR. TOM'S DESK

### Baptism of the Lord

Sr. Mary McGlone, *Celebration*

When John the Baptist came on the scene, he appeared like a combination of the Beatles and Bernie Sanders with a dash of Joan of Arc in the mix. Like the Beatles, John attracted crowds who loved to hear him, enjoyed his unconventional appearance, and relished riding the wave of enthusiasm created by the masses who flocked to his performances. Like Bernie, a former U.S. Presidential candidate, John generated hope, new visions and passionate loyalty from both the in-crowd and people on the sidelines. Like Joan, he denounced wrong-doing and exposed the cowardice of the authorities of his day – and they both lost their lives for it. But with all of that, John claimed to be nothing more than the warm-up act to the mysterious One who was to come.

With John as the first act, people must have been expecting a spectacular follow-up. But our readings present Jesus in a very humble light. Luke can hardly bear to admit that Jesus joined the crowds who immersed themselves in John's message and were baptized by him.

Early Christians found an image of Jesus in Isaiah's description of God's servant who "had no majestic bearing to catch our eye, no beauty to draw us to him." As *Gaudium et Spes* puts it, "He worked with human hands, he thought with a human mind. He acted with a human will, and with a human heart he loved" (#22). Like us, he had to seek the will of God in his life and decide how to live out his vocation. He had no script but the Scriptures, no guide but God's love.

### Our Takeaway

McGlone, *Celebration*

What can we take away from today's celebration of the Baptism of the Lord? First, we can celebrate the reality that our baptism links us to Christ and to all who have gone before us in faith. At a time when legal papers have become so important for determining status, we can claim our baptismal certificate as our principal identity card. It tells us to whom we belong and to what we are called.

Jesus' response to his baptism reminds us that the ceremony is but one tiny moment, the meaning of which is determined by how we live it out. Observing him, we realize that baptism does not give us a status but a mission. To discern that mission, we too must pray and listen to the Scriptures.

God will continue to send vibrant characters like John to remind us of the Spirit's fire. After those prophets wake us up, we will be called to prayer as was Jesus. Then, like Jesus, the first message we will hear is that we too are God's beloved. That love will then send us into the mission that only we can accomplish in our own day.

### Isaiah's Servant (Is 42)

*Celebration*

Today's selection from Isaiah explains that the essence of the servant's vocation is to establish justice among the nations. That justice was not a judicial sentence of reward and punishment, but something more like an atmosphere of peace among peoples. In his text on Isaiah (NIV Application Commentary Series), Scripture scholar John Oswalt explains that justice in this sense is the opposite of chaos. Justice creates an atmosphere of mutual understanding and safety. It becomes a way of life that promotes union among people, between people and God, and with all of creation. The vocation to bring about the victory of justice can be accomplished because the servant has received God's own spirit.

When we contemplate Jesus meditating on this passage, we can find in it the roots of his mysticism, his sense of union with God. That should remind us that he also prayed for us: "May they all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us" (Jn 17:21).

This selection from Isaiah offers us both the opportunity to understand Jesus and to understand our own vocation as his beloved disciples, servants upon whom God is pleased to send the Spirit.

### Unusual Mission (Acts 10)

*Celebration*

Theologically, this selection underlines two interrelated points: God's impartiality and the relation between the Holy Spirit and baptism. The first, the fact that God does not favor people of any race, gender or creed, is the main point of the passage. Peter's homily is like a personal theological reflection through which he is coming to grips with the universality of the message of Jesus.

The struggle to accept Gentiles equally with Jews in the Christian movement was one of the greatest theological and sociological challenges faced by the early church. It was surpassed only by the struggle to understand a suffering, crucified and risen Messiah. The church still struggles with those two pillars of faith as we are tempted repeatedly by the desire for power and our proclivity to discriminate on the basis of gender, race or status.

### Time of Discovery (Lk 3)

*Celebration*

All the Gospels are careful to portray John as the precursor rather than as Jesus' teacher or rival. Mark, the first evangelist, sets the pattern by saying that as soon as John had baptized Jesus, God put the seal of approval on Jesus by sending the Spirit to him and calling him the beloved Son. Matthew emphasizes the inequality between John and Jesus by having John protest that he should not presume to baptize Jesus, but vice versa. Luke avoids even depicting Jesus' baptism, but simply refers to it as something that happened in the past.

Although Luke doesn't mention John's martyrdom, his storyline suggests that John's arrest changed the scene for Jesus. After the baptism and John's arrest, Luke says that Jesus was praying when the heavens opened, the Spirit descended upon him and he heard the voice of God call him his beloved Son. The quote, mentioned in all three synoptic Gospels, is a clear reference to Isaiah 42.

When we look at today's readings together, we get a picture of Jesus discovering his vocation as Son and servant of God. The descent of the Spirit and God's message combined to tell Jesus that he was called to something different from John's mission. The fact that the Gospels record this revelation gives us the sense that Jesus, like every other human being, had to seek God's will in his life.

"Lord, help me be true to  
my baptismal promises."

