

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
 200 Front Street, Pierce City, MO 65723
 January 9, 2022 - Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

St. Mary's Catholic Church

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St. Mary's Catholic School

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SCHEDULE OF MASSES FOR JANUARY 8- JANUARY 16

ST. MARY'S

Saturday	4:00 p.m.	St. Mary's Parish Family
Sunday	8:30 a.m.	+Francis & Mildred Witt
Monday	8:15 a.m.	Rosary & Communion Service
Wednesday	8:15a.m.	+Robert Jr. & Ronnie Knott
	6:30 p.m.	Justice and Peace
Friday	8:15 a.m.	+Harold Mettlach
Saturday	4:00p.m.	+Annie Burnett
Sunday	8:30 a.m.	+Jim & Jo Ann Conley

ST. AGNES

Tues. 8:30a.m.
 Thurs. 8:30a.m.
 Sun. 10:30 a.m.

EVENTS OF THE WEEK:

Sunday, January 9	Feast of the Baptism of the Lord
Monday, January 10	8:15 a.m. Rosary and Communion Service
Wednesday, January 12	8:15 a.m. Mass
	6:30 p.m.
	St. Mary's Parish Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the C.R.
Friday, January 14	8:15 a.m. Mass
Sunday, January 16	Special Collection for the recent storm victims

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Monday, January 17	Memorial of Saint Anthony, Abbot
	8:15 a.m. Rosary and Communion Service
	8:15 a.m. Mass
Wednesday, January 19	Memorial of Saint Agnes, Virgin
Friday, January 21	8:15 a.m. Mass

OUR GIFT TO GOD LAST WEEK: Collection Counters in January:

Our weekly budget is \$7,800.00 Last Week's Collection: \$ Will be in next week's bulletin

TUCKPOINTING PROJECT: To date our parish has \$44,588.00 toward our \$65,000.00 goal. Thank you! If you have not yet made your pledge, please add your gift, whatever the amount, in unity with those who have already given by mailing or putting your pledge in the collection marked tuckpointing. We are still short \$ 20,412.00 of meeting our goal.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS Dawnata Hopkins, Louise Bellm, Ester Miller, Charlotte Sloan, Andrea Kristek, and all the sick and shut-ins of our parish.

THANK YOU for all of the wonderful Christmas cards that everyone sent me. This was a wonderful surprise, and I enjoyed reading every single one. Once again thank you so much! Wilbert Fenske

ROSARY: The Rosary is said Tuesday-Friday every day at **11:00 a.m.** Everyone is welcome to come. Also if you are within 1 mile of the church you can listen to it on the radio station 88.1FM. Please call the parish office and let us know if there is a better time of day for you to join us in praying the Rosary.

END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTION TAX LETTER: If you would like a copy of your contributions for the 2021 year, please print your name on the sign-up sheet in the back of church. (If you have already signed-up to get your tax letter in the back of church your name will have a check mark by it, and your letter will be in the back of church.)

CHURCH OFFICE: The church secretary will be out of the office January 3 through January 17 due to having a knee replacement. Then after the 17 she will be at the office for short periods of time and working from home the rest of the time. She can be reached at anytime by calling the church phone number.

APPOINTMENTS

If you are unable to make your appointment, please find a replacement

Saturday, January 15 4:00 p.m. Mass

Readers: Beverly Miller, Madeline Ceselski

Ushers: Larry Gasser, Doug Witt

Sunday, January 16 8:30 a.m. Mass

Readers: Rachelle Brown, Jennifer Eaton

Ushers: Darren Brown, Dustin Avondet

Good News

INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

The Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7
(or Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11)
Ps 29:1-4, 9-11
(Ps 104:1-4, 24-25, 27-30)
Acts 10:34-38
(or Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7)
Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

Monday January 10

1 Samuel 1:1-8
Ps 116:12-19
Mark 1:14-20

Tuesday January 11

1 Samuel 1:9-20
1 Sm 2:1, 4-8
Mark 1:21-28

Wednesday January 12

1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20
Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-10
Mark 1:29-39

Thursday January 13

1 Samuel 4:1-11
Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25
Mark 1:40-45

Friday January 14

1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22a
Ps 89:16-19
Mark 2:1-12

Saturday January 15

1 Samuel 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1
Ps 21:2-7
Mark 2:13-17

Today's readings are full of expectation. What are *you* waiting for? How do you need God to come and rescue you from injustices, or deliver you from evil, or comfort you as you wait for loved ones to turn their hearts back to God? What guidance have you been seeking while feeling confused and uncertain?

Do you feel Christ's gift of peace within you as you wait expectantly? Or do you feel impatient?

In the Gospel, we see John the Baptizer's congregation filled with expectancy because they hoped that he was their finally-arrived Messiah. Yearning for God to intervene against injustices, foreign oppression, and sin, they latched onto the fiery enthusiasm of John and his baptism of repentance.

God, however, had something much better in mind, more complete. The real

Messiah would baptize with the purifying fire of the Holy Spirit. Whereas John could only call people to repentance, the real Messiah would empower them to grow in holiness by giving them his own Spirit of holiness.

When Jesus submitted himself to John's baptism, it was not because he needed to repent; he was sinless. He was uniting himself to *our* need for repentance, thus starting his ministry of delivering us from evil and eventually take our sins to the cross.



In baptism, we are immersed into the holiness of Jesus as well as his ministry, his priesthood, his prophetic sharing of the Good News, his servant leadership, and yes, his sufferings for the benefit of others. The Holy Spirit empowers us to do as Jesus did, and the Father says, "You are my beloved child; with you I am well pleased!"

What do you expect? What do you think should happen in your daily life because of your baptism? Expectation is a good attitude -- unless it's based on impatience, which usually leads to disappointment. Expectation that's based on the goodness of God and what *he* wants for us is the attitude that brings us joy, greater faith, and even miracles.

Reflect & Discuss:

1. What would you like to expect from God this year?
2. Is this something that he wants for you?
3. How might things turn out differently -- but better -- than what you imagine should happen?
4. Name some of the baptismal promises that God makes in his covenant with us. How do you know he keeps his promises?
5. Share the story of a time when an answer to prayer turned out better than you expected.