



St. John the Baptist

Roman Catholic Church

1488 North Country Road, Wading River, NY



January 10, 2021
The Baptism of the Lord



WHO IS ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST?



REFLECTIONS ON OUR PARISH PATRON SAINT
by Father Frank Schneider

7. "And he was baptized in the Jordan by John" (1/10/21)

Today we complete the Christmas Season with the celebration of the Baptism of Jesus. Most of us understand the Baptism as the highpoint of John's ministry, and the launching of Jesus into his ministry of about three years. While it is certain that John baptized Jesus in the Jordan River, only the gospels of Mark and Matthew actually tell us that John baptized Jesus. Why is this the case?

The gospels each make it clear that Jesus far surpasses John the Baptist. The baptism in no way give John any superiority or precedence. Remember that there were Baptist Disciples during the ministry of Jesus (Andrew and Peter left the Baptist and followed Jesus) and also after the Resurrection (the Acts of the Apostles tell us of various conversions). John and his disciples baptized and also Jesus and his disciples baptized (we will talk about John 3 later in this series). Mark stresses John's insistence of his unworthiness. Matthew adds to this John's exclamation as he falls to his knees, "You should be the one baptizing *me!*" Luke goes further and tells us John is imprisoned and only *later* "Jesus is baptized." Finally, the gospel of John leaves out the baptism altogether, just an illusion at best, and adds John the Baptist's wonderful words "He must increase and I must decrease!"

What does the baptism of John mean? First, John's ministry of baptizing is unique at the time. While other Jewish sects (the Essenes at Qumran) would have ritual washing throughout the day, John's baptism is a once-for-all ritual, indicating that the person repented of their sins and was ready to welcome God's kingdom. Remember that John gave no specific indication of a coming Messiah; his preaching is about the judgement of God as foretold by the prophets. John only talks about "one stronger than I is coming" and his own "unworthiness to unfasten his sandal strap."

Second, after the baptism ritual, the baptized person returned from the Jordan River and re-entered his regular life – back to nearby Jerusalem or to their hometowns. The gospels are silent whether Jesus stayed with John a little while longer as a temporary disciple. The four gospels all indicate that Jesus spent preparation time in the desert before beginning his itinerant years of ministry.

Reflection Question for the week: *Do I remember the date when I was baptized?*

As this series continues this year, all segments are on the parish website.

WORSHIP & MEDITATION



FIRST READING

Seek the LORD while he may be found,
call him while he is near.
Let the scoundrel forsake his way,
and the wicked man his thoughts;
Let him turn to the LORD for mercy;
to our God, who is generous in forgiving
(Is 55:6-7)



PSALM

You will draw water joyfully from the springs
of salvation. (Is 12:3)



SECOND READING

This is the one who came through
water and blood,
Jesus Christ,
not by water alone, but by water and blood.
(1 Jn 5:6)



GOSPEL

And a voice came from the heavens,
"You are my beloved Son; with you I am
well pleased." (Mk 1:11)

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GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

We need history. We need it in order to understand ourselves, personally and collectively. The pieces of our histories may not have always been the most positive, honest, exemplary, dignified, proud and best moments of our lives, but they are ours. We have to acknowledge, remember, accept, and often heal them. We cannot forget them or pretend that they never existed. As horrible as the atrocities of events like Auschwitz, brutal injustices committed throughout the human journey, or personal painful experiences in our own stories, we need to remember. These times when humanity in general or people in particular have lost their way are times that need to be reconciled and redeemed.

If we lose the memories, we will make the same mistakes again. The human soul needs a strong sense of affirmation, direction, and clear purpose. Without these essentials, we will easily run amuck and repeat the sins of our past. God's voice throughout history has spoken precisely about this! We are reminded through the voices and example of many prophets and witnesses not to make the same mistakes again, come back to center, discover the purpose given to us by God, maintain a sense of proper direction, seek healing for wounds and be reconciled to our Creator.

Baptism is so incredibly important for the salvation of humankind, not only eternally but here and now. Our existence depends upon it. It gives us the affirmation we need from God by gifting us with the same intimate relationship Jesus had with the Father. We are blessed with the direction and clear purpose we need in order to be productive stewards and faithful Christians. Baptism calls us to remember, accept, and deal with the sins and inequities of our past regardless of how hurtful and serious. We consciously choose to turn away from them and put on the new life of Christ. To do this well, we must look hard and long at our sins and failings, listen to what they are saying and learn from them. If we ignore the past, collectively or personally, or pretend that it never happened, we will never grow. We will surely die.

People need to hear the message, lived and spoken, delivered by the baptized members of the Body of Christ. It is an essential message of hope that is layered with visions of justice, peace, reconciliation, redemption, blessing, and healing. It is a message that helps us remember what has gone before, the graces and the sins, and bring ourselves by God's help where we need to be. We are called to do much more than sit home behind our closed doors. We have a message to deliver. Are we ready to do so?

The Diocesan Office for the Protection of Children and Young People: Background Screening Update

The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People (The Charter) promulgated by the Bishops of the United States in 2002 outlines specific practices and guidelines providing standards of safety in parishes and dioceses throughout the United States. As directed in The Charter, the Diocese of Rockville Centre requires all employees, clergy, and volunteers to complete three requirements within thirty days of employment or volunteering:

- Attend **Protecting God's Children Program (Virtus)**
- Sign the Codes of Conduct;
- Complete a background screen application. The Diocese requires all those who remain in active ministry be rescreened at 5 yr. intervals. volunteers/employees.

A Word on Background Screening of Volunteers:

The Office for the Protection of Children and Young People (OFPCYP) has streamlined the volunteer application process enabling volunteers to complete the three safe environment requirements in one step. Individuals wishing to volunteer in a parish or school:

1. Register to attend a Protecting God's Children class and create a Virtus account on the Virtus website: www.Virtus.org
2. Electronically acknowledge the Diocesan Code of Conduct- provided during the Virtus registration process.
3. Follow the instructions to complete the Sterling Volunteers background screening application background offered during the Virtus registration process.

Active Volunteers:

If you are active in a parish ministry, have already attended Virtus and have been background screened you may be at – or beyond- the **5yr. rescreening requirement**. If this is the case, you will receive an email from **Sterling Volunteers** asking you to complete the background screening application on-line. You may access the background screening application by following the prompt in the email or logging into your Virtus account. **Please be aware-this is not a scam nor has your e-mail been hacked.** The OFPCYP has been working with your parish to update the Safe Environment records and noted it is time for you to be rescreened. You may also be prompted to electronically resign the Code of Conduct when you log into your Virtus account.

Edit Your Virtus Account:

To access your Virtus account: www.Virtus.org You will need your Username and Password. If you need assistance, please contact Virtus: 1-888-847-8870 or helpdesk@virtus.org. Once in your account, review your account information-particularly your e-mail address. If your account requires updating, please hit the TOOLBOX tab at the top of the screen. On the left side of your screen in the green column click "Update My Account" You will be able to make the necessary changes-please remember to hit the SAVE button at the bottom of the screen.

Questions or concerns: mmcmahon@drvc.org; amendoza-cantos@drvc.org; jwinter@drvc.org; pditomasso@drvc.org.

Thank you to all who continue to serve in a ministry during these extremely challenging days.



Thank you, Wading River Fire Department and all those who contributed to this drive!

Outreach received *hundreds* of bags of much-needed food for the families in our local communities!



- ◆ hot cereal
- ◆ juice
- ◆ deodorant
- ◆ laundry soap
- ◆ dish soap

WEEKLY PARISH CALENDAR January 10 - 16, 2021

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|-------------|--|--|--|--------|-----------------------------------|
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| Mass 8:00am Mass 10:30am Mass livestream 10:30am | Mass 8:30am | Mass 8:30am Outreach is open 10:00am - 2:00pm | Mass 8:30am Eucharistic Adoration 2:00pm - 4:00pm | Mass 8:30am Outreach is open 10:00am - 2:00pm | | Confessions 4:15pm Mass 5:15pm |

Mass Presiders Schedule

This Weekend: The Baptism of the Lord

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| Saturday, January 9, 5:15 p.m. | Father Frank |
| Sunday, January 10, 8:00 a.m. | Father James |
| Sunday, January 10, 10:30 a.m. | Msgr. Bennett |

Next Weekend

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Saturday, January 16, 5:15 p.m. | Father James |
| Sunday, January 17, 8:00 a.m. | Fr. Frank |
| Sunday, January 17, 10:30 a.m. | Msgr. Bennett |

As we prepare for our 100th anniversary, all are invited to the parish website for the on-going series about our patron saint, St. John the Baptist, and updates on the centennial events.

Sunday Mass
is live-streamed
10:30 a.m.

www.sjbwr.org

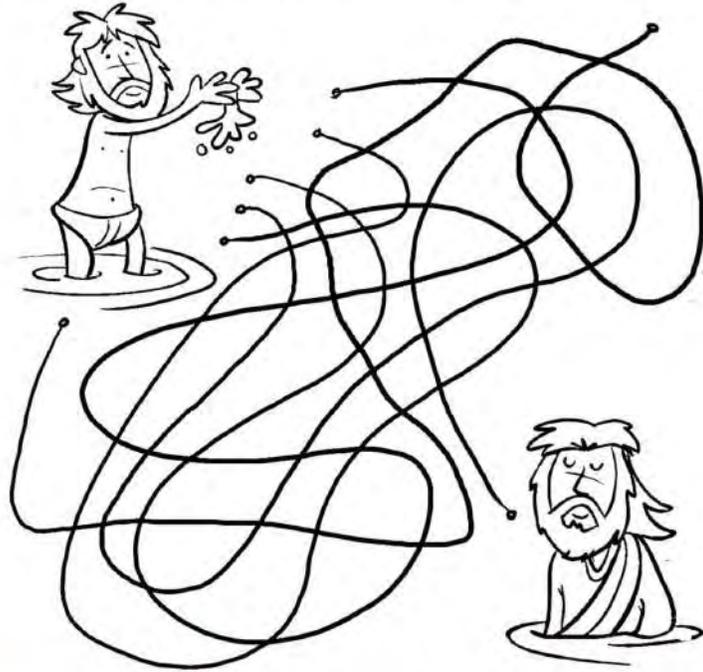
Follow the link to our YouTube channel!



KIDS CORNER

**READ THE
GOSPEL AND
COMPLETE A
PUZZLE!**

Show John the path to baptize Jesus.



SHARING THE GOSPEL

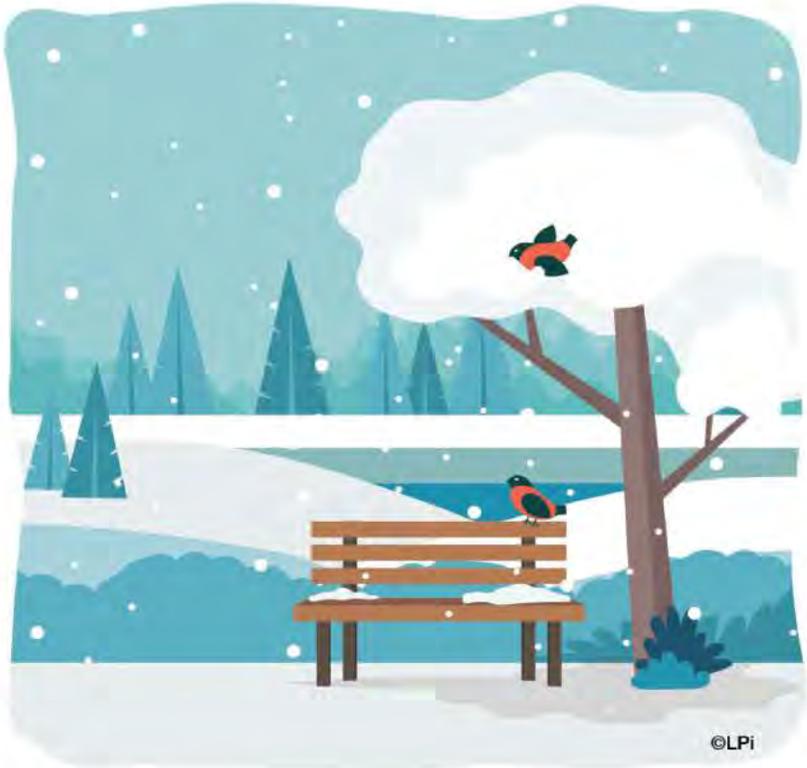
"Keep trying. You're doing great. I'm so proud of you." Every child should hear words like that. Every child wants to feel God's love. As Jesus grew from a boy to a man, he showed he was ready to live for God. At Jesus' baptism, God told Jesus, "You are my own dear Son, and I am pleased with you." God loves you as his child, too.

PRAYER

God, I am so glad you love me.

MISSION FOR THE WEEK

Be careful to use kind words with your family and friends.



©LPi



Monday, January 11, 8:30 a.m.,
For the Parishioners of St. John the Baptist

Tuesday, January 12, 8:30 a.m.,
Caige Meier

Wednesday, January 13, 8:30 a.m.,
Spencer Tweed

Thursday, January 14, 8:30 a.m.,
Mary Ryan

Saturday, January 16, 5:15 p.m.,
Michael DaSilva

Sunday, January 17,
8:00 a.m.
Kathleen Boyle

10:30 a.m.
Michael Murray



Please remember the faithful departed.

May they rest in peace.

During the pandemic, Funeral Masses can be scheduled. Approximately 100 are permitted to attend.



Upcoming Baptism Dates:

12:00 Noon

January 17

February 21

March 7

March 21

Baptism Class last Sunday of the month
right after the 10:30 a.m. Mass

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Sunday Collection: January 3, 2021 \$ 8,476.17 (down 8.57%)
 Sunday Collection: January 5, 2020 \$ 9,270.94

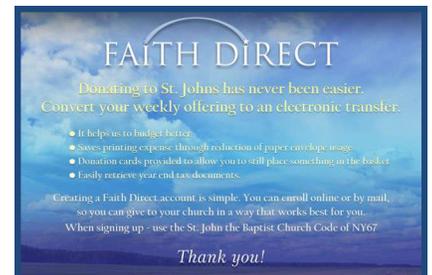
The Christmas collection is not ready to report as donations are still coming in! Thank you!

Many are facing financial hardship, and we are deeply grateful to those who have mailed in their envelope, dropped it in the mailbox in the upper parking lot, or used Faith Direct.

Thank you to those who “caught up” with a full month’s donations!

Please consider “automated giving” as you reflect on support of our parish family!

The fruitful ministries at our parish are examples of how many of you have answered, and continue to answer, that call. To ensure such work can continue requires not only gifts of time, but also of financial help. I ask you to prayerfully consider supporting our parish with electronic donations through Faith Direct. You can find paper enrollment forms in the parish office, or you can sign up online at www.faithdirect.net by using our church code, NY67.



Special Collections:

01/24 Outreach
02/07 Grammar Schools
02/17 Ash Wednesday for the Poor
02/21 Church in Need
02/28 Outreach

2020 Catholic Ministries Appeal

Goal \$52,300.00
 Pledges \$21,260.00
 Over (Under) (\$31,040.00)
 Donors 79
 Payments \$16,585.00
 Average Gift \$269.11
 Percentage of Goal 40.65%

Finance Committee, 2020-2021

Dr. Barbara Fontana, Trustee, *ex officio*
Steven Gallagher, Trustee, *ex officio*
Robert Lutz, *Chair*
Richard Amper
Thomas McEnany
Lisa Kelly

Worship Committee, 2020-2021

Cheryl MacDougall, *chair*
James MacDougall
William Hennessy
Barbara Johnston
Liz McNeill
John O'Hare
Elizabeth Waskowiak
Edward Waskowiak

**Pastoral Council Members,
2020-2021**

Vincent Manzello, *Chair*
Daniel Bealey
Linda Bealey
Rosemary Desimone
Dr. Barbara Fontana (trustee)
Michelle Gaffney
Michelle Gallucci
Kevin Heavey
Maria Maxwell
Richard Rossin

PASTORAL STAFF

Phone: 631-929-4339

Pastor: Father Frank Schneider, ext. 16

Associate Pastor: Father James Calledo

Deacon: Fred Finter, ext. 44

Deacon: Vincent Pozzolano, ext. 45

Faith Formation Coordinator: Mrs. Jane Oliva, ext. 12

Outreach Director: Deborah O'Hare, ext. 22

Music Coordinator: Liz McNeill (631) 495-8913

Pastoral Assistant: Barbara Johnston

Bookkeeper: Lindsay Finter, ext. 17

Receptionist: Sue Kozakiewicz, ext. 10

Preschool Director: Mrs. Gayle Mercurio, ext. 14

Secretary: Susan Plattner, ext. 19

Preschool Phone: 631-929-3220

Maintenance: Servio Ortiz

Weekend Priest Assistants: Msgr. John Bennett

Parish Outreach Hours: Tues & Thurs 10am-2pm

pastor@sjbwr.org
paxjim94@yahoo.com
deaconfred@sjbwr.org
v7vac@hotmail.com
reled@sjbwr.org
stjohnsparishoutreach@gmail.com
emcneill@sjbwr.org

lfinter@sjbwr.org
office@sjbwr.org
preschool@sjbwr.org
preschool@sjbwr.org

Parish Office Hours

Monday - Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Website: www.sjbwr.org

General Mailbox/Front Desk: ext. 10. Contact us by email: office@sjbwr.org



Bread, wine, altar candles

Should you like to donate the candles, bread, wine for the celebration of the weekend Eucharist, especially in memory of a loved one, please contact the Parish Office, 631-929-4339, ext. 10.

Tabernacle Lamp

The Tabernacle Lamp indicates that the Blessed Sacrament is present in church. The red candle can be memorialized for the week of your choice.



All memorials are published in the bulletin.

Eucharistic Adoration

The Blessed Sacrament is exposed for Adoration on the main altar in the church every Wednesday afternoon.

All novenas and devotions are suspended at this time.
Silent prayer during Adoration Hours.



For those serving in the Military

Michael Brennan, Patrick Hanley, Jeffrey L. Beilman Jr., Ryan Santiro, Thomas G. Verbeeck, Michelle Verbeeck, Joseph DeMonte IV, Nicholas Altman, Michael Anderson, Devin Henry, Marielle Verbeeck, Cassidy Vail, Evan Purdy, Sean Tully, Sean Brady

For the Homebound, the Sick and in Hospice Care

For all those who are suffering from the coronavirus and also John Ryan, Thomas Mongiello, Ann Bertolini, Edward Hegel, Jacqueline Sessa



St. John Paul II Regional School will be holding an Open House for the 2021-2022 School Year.

Saturday January 9th from 11 am- 1pm. Grades K-8
Appointment Only:

Please call 631-727-1650

or email admissions@sjp2regional.org; Visit us at www.sjp2regional.org

The Parish of St. Gerard Majella in Port Jefferson Station is seeking a **full time Business Manager** to oversee the physical and financial resources of the parish. This position requires flexibility in schedule to attend meetings, coordinate projects and attend to emergencies. This position reports directly to the Pastor. College degree required, preferably in Accounting or related fields. Send cover letter and resume to Fr. Gregory