

From the Pastor's Desk:

Today's Feast marks the conclusion of the Christmas Season and the beginning of Ordinary Time. It's a feast of transition from Jesus' hidden life to that of His public ministry. It also echoes the theme of the Epiphany in that the Baptism of the Lord is another manifestation announcing Jesus' divinity to all of His first followers and to the disciples of John the Baptist. It needs to be pointed out that Jesus did not need the baptism of John. John was baptizing as a call to and sign of interior repentance. Jesus had no need to repent. But, nonetheless, He comes to John. John resists at first but Jesus insists. Why did He receive baptism? By accepting the baptism of John, Jesus affirms all that John has said and done and affirms his sacred role of preparing the way for Jesus and for a new era of grace. Therefore, the Baptism of Jesus acts as a bridge between the Old Testament prophets (of which John was the last) and the New Testament era of grace and truth. Second, it has been said that when Jesus entered the waters of baptism, He was not baptized by the waters, rather, His Baptism was one in which all the created waters of this world were, in a sense, "baptized" by Him. By entering into the waters, Jesus sanctified water and poured forth His grace making all water the future source of salvation. Third, the Baptism of Jesus was a moment of manifestation. As He emerged from the waters, "Heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from Heaven, 'You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.'" This manifestation of the son-ship and divinity of Jesus took place in a physical, audible and visible form so that all present would know, without question, that Jesus was the Son of the Father. His baptism is a way in which the Father introduced His Son and His Son's mission to the world.

As we prepare to begin Ordinary Time, reflect, today, upon the words of the Father at the Baptism of Jesus. Hear the Father speaking to You about the divinity of His Son. Turn your eyes to Jesus and prepare yourself to follow Him and to heed every word He speaks. He was sent into this world to draw us to the Father, allow Him to fulfill that mission in your own life.

~ Catholic Daily Reflections

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FORMATION ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Catholic Christian Discipleship

Class Times: Wednesday - January 15th, 2020

St. Stanislaus/Ss. Peter & Paul

in Gilman: **Grades K - 5: 3:40 - 5:00 p.m.**

Grades 6 - 11: 6:15 - 7:30 p.m.

St. Michael/St. John

in Sheldon: **Grades K - 11: 6:15 - 7:30 p.m.**

Please note the following upcoming dates/events this year:

Saturday, January 11 - Grade 11 Confirmation Retreat in Ladysmith at Our Lady of Sorrows.

Wednesday, February 19 - 1st Reconciliation Grade 2 : Gilman at 4:00 p.m. and Sheldon at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, February 23 - Mardi Gras Pancake Breakfast

Wednesday, February 26 - Ash Wednesday

Sunday, April 12 - Easter

Sunday, April 19 - First Communion

Sunday, April 26 - Confirmation at 2:00 p.m. in Ladysmith

Wednesday, April 29 - Last Class

Sunday, May 3 - May Crowning & Living Rosary

OUR WEEKLY GIVING

Ss. Peter & Paul	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 897.00
Loose	117.00
Total	1,014.00
Total from January 6, 2019	1,152.00
Building Fund	443.00
Solemnity of Mary	165.00
St. Stanislaus	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 205.00
Loose	177.00
Total	382.00
Total from January 6, 2019	537.00
Building Fund	384.00
Solemnity of Mary	359.00
St. John	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 637.00
Loose	77.00
Total	714.00
Total from January 6, 2019	664.25
Building Fund	532.00
Solemnity of Mary	744.00
St. Michael	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 215.00
Loose	74.00
Total	289.00
Total from January 6, 2019	258.00
Building Fund	93.00
Solemnity of Mary	514.00
<i>(Totals include only the basic collection)</i>	

Called to Become Saints

Catholic Services Appeal 2019-2020

Our annual Catholic Services Appeal has begun throughout the Diocese. The "fair share" responsibility for the coming year is listed below. As of January 1st, we have collected:

2019/2020 Catholic Services Appeal

	Assessment	Received	Amount Due
Ss. Peter & Paul	\$ 11,354.00	\$3,780.00	\$7,574.00
St. John	\$ 8,870.00	\$2,250.00	\$6,620.00
St. Stanislaus	\$ 5,421.00	\$4,225.00	\$1,196.00
St. Michael	\$ 2,860.00	\$ 732.00	\$2,128.00

OUR SPONSOR THIS WEEK

CORNER STORE
GROCERIES-LIQUOR-BEER-MOVIES
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
6:00 A.M. - 10:00 P.M.
SHELDON, WI (715) 452-5745