



Sacred Heart Parish Bulletin

Mass: 9:00 am – Sunday
Fr. John Yake, I. V. Dei
(902) 535-2053

January 11, 2026

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

The First Reading is from *the Book of the Prophet Isaiah 42:1-4; 6-7*. This prophecy of Isaiah was chosen today's feast which commemorates the baptism of Christ in the Jordan, because on that occasion the Father's voice from heaven proclaimed that Christ was "his beloved servant in whom he was well pleased." Following the interpretation of the inspired Evangelists and of the ancient and constant tradition of the Church, we can have no hesitation in seeing in these works of Isaiah, written five centuries or so before Christ, a description of the Savior who came on earth to teach Jew and Gentile the new law of God, the law of love and mercy.

The Second Reading is from *the Book of the Acts of the Apostles 10:34-38*. These verse of Acts are read for use today because they contain a reference to our Lord's baptism. That day, nearly two thousand years ago, when Christ by his baptism in the Jordan, began his public preaching of salvation for all men, is a day—a feastday—no true Christian can ever forget. The baptism of John was for sinners—a sign of change of heart and a turning to God. Christ had no sin, he had never turned away from God, he was God—but he was the representative of sinful humanity. He represented us sinners that day and opened the door of salvation for us. In that ceremony Christ was proclaimed by the heavenly Father to be his son and faithful servant, and the power of the Holy Spirit came upon him.

But this was all for us; as God he already had all things in common with the Father and the Holy Spirit. But in his human nature—our weak human nature—he was one that day proclaimed God's true and faithful servant. At the same moment we human beings were accepted *in him and through him* as God's adopted children. The mission of Christ was for us. There is no comparison between what God has prepared for us, and promises us, and the trifling conditions he asks us to fulfill in order to earn his promised reward.

The Gospel for the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord is from *the Gospel of Matthew 3:13-17*. John's mission was to prepare his fellow-Jews for the inauguration of the messianic kingdom, expected and eagerly awaited, for centuries. His baptism, a washing of the people in the Jordan waters, was an outward sign of their inner repentance, and a turning of their hearts to God. Jesus had no sins of which to repent, and his heart was always with God. He was God in human nature, but he wished to associate with all pious Jews, and so, like them, to be baptized by John. This was his way of inaugurating the messianic era. God's revelation to the Baptist and to the bystanders, which immediately followed the baptism, showed that it was the inaugural act of Christ's messianic mission.

—Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings* by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

Today the Church celebrates the **Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord**. This feast brings to an end the season of Christmas. Ordinary Time lasts from the day after this feast to the Tuesday before Lent.

The Church recalls Our Lord's second manifestation or epiphany which occurred on the occasion of His baptism in the Jordan. Jesus descended into the River to

sanctify its waters and to give them the power to beget sons of God. The event takes on the importance of a second creation in which the entire Trinity intervenes.

In the Eastern Church this feast is called *Theophany* because at the baptism of Christ in the River Jordan God appeared in three persons. The baptism of John was a sort of sacramental preparatory for the Baptism of Christ. It moved men to sentiments of repentance and induced them to confess their sins. Christ did not need the baptism of John. Although He appeared in the "substance of our flesh" and was recognized "outwardly like unto ourselves", He was absolutely sinless and impeccable. He conferred upon the water the power of the true Baptism which would remove all the sins of the world: "Behold the Lamb of God, behold Him Who takes away the sin of the world."

Many of the incidents which accompanied Christ's baptism are symbolical of what happened at our Baptism. At Christ's baptism the Holy Spirit descended upon Him; at our Baptism the Trinity took its abode in our soul. At His baptism Christ was proclaimed the "Beloved Son" of the Father; at our Baptism we become the adopted sons of God. At Christ's baptism the heavens were opened; at our Baptism heaven was opened to us. At His baptism Jesus prayed; after our Baptism we must pray to avoid actual sin.

—Excerpted from Msgr. Rudolph G. Bandas

Collection
December 28, 2025

Envelopes	\$575.00
Loose	\$5.00
Christmas	\$5.00
	\$585.00

New Years Day

January 01, 2026

Envelopes	\$135.00
Loose	\$20.00
Initial Offering	\$50.00
	\$205.00

Notices:

1: Church De-decorating: We will be removing the church decorations after mass today January 11th. If you can, please stay and help.

2: Move into the Guadalupe Chapel– This Sunday January 11th will be our last Sunday in the main church, following mass we will set up in the Vestry and move in there for the winter.

3: Calendars: There are a few Catholic Faith calendars, from T.W. Curry's, at the front of the church, free for the taking.

4: Johnstown Sewing/Handicraft Group This group will meet again starting on Thursday January 8th, at 1:00 pm. This is an informal group. Bring your own project and create with kindred spirits. A sewing machine is available, plus help, for anyone who wants to sew, quilt or knit. Everyone welcome. Location: District 10 Fire Hall, Red Islands.

5: Our weekly Wednesday Morning Coffee get togethers will resume on Wednesday January 7th, 9:00 – 11:30 am, at the District 10, Red Islands Fire Hall. Drop in and visit with your friends and neighbours. Cards, games and puzzles are available. Everyone is welcome.

6: Richmond Recreation has launched an **new** online registration and payment system for recreation programming (including drop-in classes). Recreation staff are available to assist all participants with the registration process if required. We encourage participants to reach out for support and assistance with this process.

7: Combined Chair / Yoga will be on Wednesday's, Starting January 14th Time 1.30pm - 3pm 8 weeks , fee \$30. There will **not** be a floor yoga during the winter.

8: Bye Bye January (Bonfire, Hot Chocolate and Rummoli Game)

Red Islands Fire Hall Friday, January 30, 6:30 pm - 10:00 pm

Sponsored by: District 10 Volunteer Fire Dept. Contact: Debbie Johnston, 902-304-0558

9: Cribbage Tournament L'Ardoise Community Centre

Sunday, January 18, 1:00 pm Sponsored by: L'Ardoise Recreation Club Contact: Andrée Sampson, 902-587-2201 andreesampson48@gmail.com

10: Session on MAiD: Knights of Columbus-St. Peter's Council Port Hood-is hosting a session on Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) on Sunday January 25, 2026, from 2.00pm to 4.00pm.

The session will be led by Professor William Sweet, Director, Centre for Philosophy, Theology, and Cultural Traditions, St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish.

There will be a presentation and time for questions & answers. Snacks and Tea will be served.

11: Medjugorje Pilgrimage, April 26 - May 6, 2026 with Fr. Andrew Gillies and Rhonda-Lynn Cormier (group leader).

\$2,899. (return flights from Halifax). Single supplement \$350 (if available).

Included in price: airfare, ground travel in Europe, two meals a day, professional Medjugorje guide, two days of excursions to the UNESCO city of Mostar and a local village Surmanchi — Divine Mercy Chapel.

Contact: rhonda_lynn_c@hotmail.com or (902)448-3660