

SUNDAY - JANUARY 4, 2015

Mass Intentions:

Sunday, January 11, The Baptism of the Lord-

9:15 a.m.- Frances Meneley

Sunday, January 18-

9:15 a.m.- Edwin & Selma Shimek

Sunday, January 25-

9:15 a.m.- Frankie Klekar

Sunday, February 1-

9:15 a.m.- Frank & Mary Matula, Henry Matula

First Friday, February 6-

6:00 p.m.- Susan Janak & Jerome Bujnoch

Rosary Leaders:

Jan. 11-Joyce Janak

Jan. 18-Dorothy Schneider

Jan. 25-Sandy Konvicka

Feb. 1-Ruth Rouse

Lectors:

Jan. 11-Pat Mladenka

Jan. 18-Dedie Dobbs

Jan. 25-Dorothy Schneider

Feb. 1-Daniel Matula

Cantors:

Jan. 11-Choir-Lucille Klekar

Jan. 18-Pat Mladenka

Jan. 25-Richard Rouse

Feb. 1-Laurence Bludau

Offertory Gift Bearers:

Jan. 11-Norbert Janak & Maggie Boehm

Jan. 18-Raymond & Helen Janak

Jan. 25-Sidney & Barbara Jasek

Feb. 1-Vic & Katherine Kahanek

Altar Servers:

Jan. 11-Adam & Ryan Hermes, Samuel & Simon Machicek

Jan. 18-Jacob Janak, Clay Rother, Emilie & Ryan Mudd

Jan. 25-Derek & Kevin Konvicka, Allexus Mizera & Kaitlyn Rother

Feb. 1-Josh Bludau, Michael & Robbie Perdziak & Luke Scherer

Extraordinary Ministers:

Jan. 11-Carol Rother, Trina Bludau, Janice Rother & Evelyn Konvicka

Jan. 18-Dedie Dobbs, Vivian Mozisek, Richard Sommerlatte & Pat Pesek

Jan. 25-Billy & Bev Hrcir, Tony & Joyce Bludau

Feb. 1-Edward & Sandra Pustka, Leon & Nancy Etzler

Ushers:

Jan. 11-Stanley Orsak, Scott Blaschke, Gilbert Mozisek & Marvin Bujnoch

Jan. 18-Roman Henke, Robert Pustka, Gilbert Urbish & Charles Grafe

Jan. 25-Leon Matula, Al Svetlik, Francis Klekar & Sidney Jasek

Feb. 1-Eugene Gillar, Robert Sciba, Bernard Patek & Richard Sommerlatte

Church Cleaners:

Jan. 11-Doris Mixon & Barbara Jasek

Jan. 18-Rosalie Tobola, Glenda Tobola & Mary Jo Bludau

Jan. 25-Helen Janak, Gussie Kelnar & Helen (Dornak) Janak

Feb. 1-Charlene Klekar, Janice Rother & Sue Cinadr

Memorials to St. Mary's Cemetery

In Memory of Descendants of Vaclav Kouba, Johanna Kouba & Aneska Kouba by

Joseph H. Kouba.....\$100.00

In Memory of Mary B. Prasek

Rita & Laddie Kurtz.....\$10.00

In Memory of Franklin Castecka

Bob & Carol Franks.....\$10.00

In Memory of Mary Prasek

Clay & Mary Gray.....\$50.00

Memorials to St. Mary's Altar Society

In Memory of Mary Prasek

Doris Opela.....\$20.00

Margaret Smolik.....\$20.00

Frank & Charlene Fishar.....\$20.00

Memorials to St. Mary's Church

In memory of Mary B. Prasek

Alfred & Marilyn Chovanetz.....\$40.00

Kubena Funeral Home.....\$20.00

From the Desk of Msgr. John

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany, the coming of the Three Kings. An old Catholic custom is the blessing of the home at Epiphany, especially the doorways. We can bless ourselves and the rooms of the home with holy water. We use chalk to mark the numerals and letters over doorways. The chalk reminds us of the dust of the earth from which we were made. The numerals consecrate the new year. The initials remind us of the legendary names of the Magi – Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar – and also stand for the Latin motto: *Christus mansionem benedicat* (May God bless this house):

20 + C + M + B + 15

There is a very good Catholic television station called EWTN. It is on our local cable on Channel 15. EWTN has very good Catholic religious programming. It has a variety of instructional programs, daily Masses, praying of the Rosary, and many inspirational programs. If you haven't watched it before, I would suggest you give it a try.

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way to decorate the church – inside and out – for Christmas and to set up the outdoor Nativity Scene. Thank you also to the organists and the choir for a job well done.

Father Barnabas and I thank all of you for your kindness and generosity at Christmas. Thank you for the prayers, cards, gifts, food and the extra good deeds you have done for us. May God bless all of you with a very blessed Christmas season and a blessed and happy New Year.

Mr. David Smolik, our principal for Sacred Heart Catholic School for the past 30 years, will be retiring at the end of this school year. We thank him for the love, support and the great work he has done for Sacred Heart Catholic School. He will still be principal through May.

I will be taking applications for the position of Principal. There is a process we follow through the Catholic Schools' Office. There will be a committee working with me on the selection process. Pray for this selection process.

(Continued next column.....)

If you are interested in this position or know of someone who is, please submit your application to me at the Rectory.

Financial Report for December 2014

Income

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Sunday Collections..... | \$6,658.00 |
| Children's Collections..... | 155.75 |
| Retirement for Religious..... | 71.00 |
| Campaign-Human Development.. | 20.00 |
| History Book..... | 20.00 |
| Memorials..... | 60.00 |
| Hall Rentals..... | 300.00 |
| Church Rentals..... | 50.00 |
| Rebate, Capital Campaign..... | 53.52 |
| Flowers..... | <u>312.00</u> |
| Total Income | \$7,700.27 |

Expenses

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Hall..... | \$ 610.31 |
| Utilities..... | 1,025.53 |
| Maintenance..... | 1,884.00 |
| Office..... | 385.63 |
| Administration..... | 714.00 |
| Health Insurance..... | 812.00 |
| Priest's Pension..... | 94.00 |
| Church | 582.25 |
| Diocese of Victoria..... | 113.00 |
| Flowers..... | 891.00 |
| Lifetouch Directory..... | <u>50.00</u> |
| Total Expenses | \$7,161.72 |

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Beginning Balance..... | \$63,576.77 |
| Income..... | 7,700.27 |
| Expenses..... | <u>7,161.72</u> |
| Balance..... | \$64,115.32 |

Building Fund: \$935.00





Thank you to these families and individuals who donated towards the Christmas Flowers that beautified our church during this Christmas Season: Vic & Katherine Kahanek In memory of the deceased members of

Guntram & Annie Janak Family & Agnes Pesek - \$25.00; **Glenn & Dedie Dobbs** In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Alex Janak & Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Dobbs -\$20.00; **Ludwig & Diane Janak** In memory of Mike & Lily Janak -\$30.00; **Evelyn & Phillip Bujnoch** In memory of Rudolph, Rosa & Jamie Bujnoch & Anton & Matilda Tupa -\$25.00; **Dolores Bujnoch Family** In memory of Alois Bujnoch -\$10.00; **Melvin & Joyce Janak** In memory of Alfred, Mary & Debbie Technik & Melvin & Sybil Janak -\$20.00; **Lucille Bujnoch & Family** In memory of Susan Janak & Jerome Bujnoch -\$7.00; **Evelyn Konvicka** In memory of Laddie Konvicka -\$10.00; **Evelyn Kresta** In memory of Victor E. Kresta -\$10.00; **Mike & Helen Technik** In memory of Alfred, Mary & Debbie Technik -\$20.00; **Robert & Marie Tobola**-\$25.00; **Anonymous**-\$10.00; **Allen & Anita Steffek** In memory of Rudy & Bernadette Konarik -\$20.00; **Doris Opela** In memory of Daniel Opela -\$10.00; **Gussie Kelnar** In memory of Ray Kelnar -\$30.00; **James & Barbara Matula** In memory of Joe & Lydia Kostelnik, Patricia Steffek, Karen Steffek, John L. & Mathilda Matula -\$40.00; **Laurence & Carol Bludau** in memory of parents & grandparents -\$25.00.

In memory of the deceased members of the Matt & Amelia Pustka Family-6 poinsettias by the **Pustka Family**.

January 11 - The Baptism of the Lord

"I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of His sandals." That was a lowly job. Removing someone's sandals back in the days when everyone walked everywhere on dusty, sandy desert ground was a dirty task. So when John the Baptist said he wasn't even worthy for

that humble duty, he was emphasizing an important point.

John understood Jesus' real identity. He knew that this was not just another good man, not just a wise teacher or a gifted leader. John realized that Jesus was truly God-made-man. And because of this, the prophet also comprehended how perfect Jesus was. In relation to this perfection, John honestly acknowledged his own sinfulness with this analogy about the sandals. But look what happened: even though John proclaimed that "One mightier than I is coming after me," Jesus showed up at the Jordan River and asked John to baptize Him! Jesus humbled Himself by going through this ritual of cleansing and purification, even though He didn't need to. John may have thought himself unworthy, but that didn't stop Jesus from coming to him.

Jesus wants to come to us too. Not because we have "earned" His love or because we are "worthy" of some great honor, but simply because He loves us. God sent His Son to us to be one of us, to walk among us, to care for us and guide us. When we were baptized, He counted us among His beloved children in a special way, but that joyful bond is not a thing of the past. By our baptism we are always His children, even when we may be disobedient or belligerent ones. His love is not calculated or quantified; it is a free gift. May we appreciate this gift enough to show our gratitude by a life well lived.



It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. On coming up out of the water He saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon Him. And a voice came from the heavens, "You are My beloved Son; with You I am well pleased." (Mark 1:9-11)

Lead Me into the Deep, Lord



Location: Sacred Heart Family Center, Hallettsville, TX

Dates: January 29, February 12 & 26, March 12 & 26, April 9 & 23

Time: 6:30pm-9pm Thursday Evenings

God's Embrace Renewal Centers will begin and has opened registration for an amazing journey with the Holy Trinity ***“Lead Me into the Deep, Lord”***; a twelve week spiritual formation program. The program for Sacred Heart Catholic Church and surrounding parishes will be held at Sacred Heart Family Center-Hallettsville, TX on Thursday evenings beginning January 29, 2015. The Program will meet twice a month from 6:30pm-9pm for a presentation of the session, brief discussion on what God is telling you through the presentation, sharing from your journal notes from your daily prayer with scripture and spiritual reading at home, and group discussion over any topics mentioned in the session; **A wonderful journey to embark on to renew your Catholic Faith and deepen your relationship with God!** Manuals will be available at your first program session. To register for the program or more information please contact Sandy Reese at 979-541-6881 or sandy.reese@godsembrace.org .

www.godsembrace.org

Registration for Seadrift-“Lead Me into the Deep, Lord”

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Parish: _____

Growing in FAITH™

Discovering **hope and joy** in the Catholic faith.

January 2015

Sacred Heart, St. Mary, St. John and Ascension Churches

Fr. John C. Peters, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

St. John Neumann

The first American bishop to be canonized was

born in what is now the Czech Republic in 1811. St. John did missionary work in New York, was ordained at 25, and joined the Redemptorists at 29. At the age of 41, he became bishop of Philadelphia. He attracted teaching orders to the city and turned the parochial schools into diocesan schools, greatly increasing the number of students. St. John also built more than 89 churches, several hospitals and orphanages.



Thanksgiving

What better way to start the New Year than in the spirit of thanksgiving? Thanksgiving is what the word "Eucharist" means. There's no better way to show thanks to God than by living our lives in a new way beginning with Mass each week.

Transformation = Joy

"You will show me the path to life, abounding joy in your presence, the delights at your right hand forever"

Psalm 16:11.



Becoming who we were meant to be

Happy New Year! These words represent an opportunity for us to transform ourselves into the people that we hope to be. The people God knows we can be. This year, we can bring true joy to our lives by transforming ourselves for God.

Start by seeking God everywhere. Whether it is by acknowledging the constant generosity he shows toward his children or by accepting opportunities to receive him in the Sacraments, God is waiting for us to seek his presence in our lives. All we have to do is look and listen.

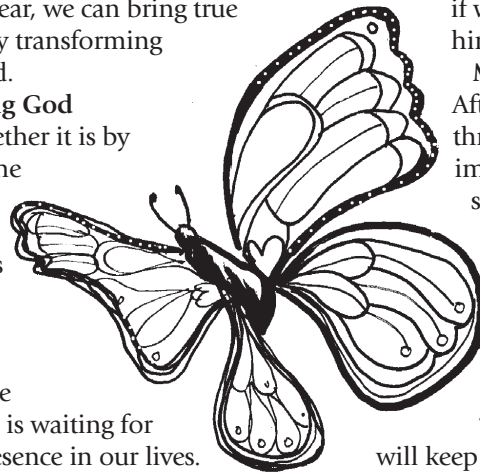
Nurture a healthy faith. To strengthen our faith we must separate ourselves from the habits that distract us from our spiritual needs. That can mean turning off the TV or computer,

reevaluating friendships or just accepting our struggles as opportunities for grace.

Transformation by God can only come if we give ourselves to him completely.

Maintain a clean slate. After we are cleansed through Confession, it is important to quickly surround ourselves with graces, such as receiving the sacraments more frequently, or studying religious materials. These "vitamins" for the soul will keep us spiritually sound.

Aspire to the greats. Throughout history, the saints have experienced every situation we can imagine. When we look for inspiration, we can look to them and let them guide us by their examples.

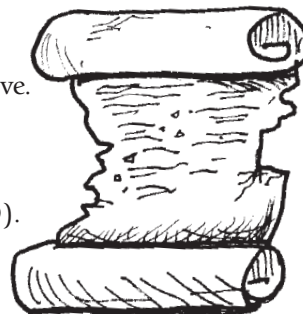


Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics say the Nicene Creed at Mass?

Reciting the Nicene Creed at Mass helps to remind us what we believe.

The Nicene Creed was finalized at the Councils of Nicaea (325 AD) and Constantinople (381 AD). The beliefs expressed in the Nicene Creed are the same as those in



the Apostles' Creed, but are more detailed because it was written to express what the Church taught regarding the heresies of the time. "Whoever says 'I believe' says 'I pledge myself to what we believe'" (CCC 185).

Aim for perfect faith

Imagine if you had perfect certainty that God was with you in all things. Think how differently you would respond to difficulties, temptations, or hardships if you were convinced that God was in all of it and would use it for good. Worry would be a thing of the past. That's perfect faith and it is possible. Here's how.

Believe in God's love. God is love, so to believe in God is to believe in his love. If God loves you, then he wills your good.

"There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out

fear because fear has to do with punishment, and so one who fears is not yet perfect in love" (1 John 4:16). Perfect faith comes from believing in God's love.

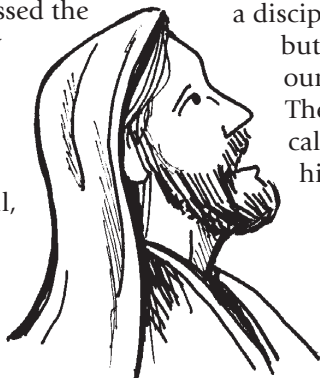


Practice makes perfect. Perfect faith results when we live God's word, not just hear it. Practicing the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes and the two Great Commandments (love God, love your neighbor), we notice God's hand in our lives and trust in him grows.

from Scripture

Mark 1:14-20, The common call.

When we read about the way Jesus gathered his followers, it seems almost casual. For example, he passed the Sea of Galilee, saw Andrew and Simon and called them. It's as if these men left their homes and livelihoods to follow Jesus with little thought. After all, he was a stranger to most. We must conclude that there was something very compelling about Jesus and his call to them.



With hindsight, we know that Jesus' message was worth leaving everything behind. In fact, we know that true discipleship means leaving

everything and surrendering to the will of God. He will provide whatever a disciple needs to follow him but nothing comes before our relationship with God. The compelling part of his call is the chance to serve him and be close to him.

Jesus chose twelve special people to be his closest followers and he became their leader. They went where he told them and did what he asked. Jesus is still calling people to follow him today. In fact, he has called each of us to follow him.

Q & A What is my responsibility to God?

Once you have come to know God, and what he has revealed about



himself, he must come first in your life. *"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind"* (Matthew

22:37). This is not oppressive. On the contrary, if we love someone, we make changes so they can have a meaningful part of our lives. Their joys and sorrows become our own, and vice versa. This is true of God, whose very nature it is to love.

Jesus said, *"If you love me, you will keep my commandments"* (John 14:15). If we truly love him, we would do what he tells us to do: *"Love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends"* (John 15:12-13). God loved us enough to create us, suffer and die for us, rise from the dead for us, redeem and forgive us. How can we ignore a love like that?

Feasts & Celebrations

In January we celebrate the Holy Name of Jesus. *"...at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth"* (Philippians 2:10). In fact, the English letters IHS – representing the first three Greek letters in Jesus' name – used to be written over the doors of Christian homes.

January 1 – Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God. When we celebrate this feast, we honor Mary, but also Jesus, as God.

January 4 – Epiphany of Our Lord. "Epiphany" is Greek for

manifestation. When they honored the infant Jesus, the three wise men bore witness to the fulfillment of God's promise of a savior.

January 28 – St. Thomas Aquinas (1274). Kept prisoner for a year by his mother to prevent his priestly ordination, St. Thomas Aquinas became one of the greatest theologians of the Church, honored with the titles, "Doctor of the Church" and "Angelic Doctor." His writings are still fundamental to Christian education today.



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