

Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. - Luke 2:10



IMMACULATE  
CONCEPTION

CATHOLIC CHURCH

414 E. NORTH BROADWAY COLUMBUS, OHIO 43214

PARISH OFFICE  
(614) 267-9241  
SCHOOL OFFICE  
(614) 267-6579  
[www.iccols.org](http://www.iccols.org)

*We are a welcoming Catholic parish of faithful disciples of Jesus Christ that fosters love, deepens faith and encourages respect and caring for fellow parishioners and neighbors through community conversations and action.*

Celebration of

## *Holy Mass*

### SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday Vigil: 4 p.m.  
Sunday: 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.

### DAILY MASSES

Monday-Friday: 8:30 a.m.

### HOLY DAY MASSES

8:30 a.m., 7:00 p.m. or as announced

## *Sacraments*

### RECONCILIATION

Fridays: Following the 8:30 a.m. Mass  
Saturdays: 3:00 to 3:30 p.m. or by appointment.

### BAPTISM

Baptisms are held on the first and third Sundays, following the 11:30 a.m. Mass and the second Saturday, following the 4:00 p.m. Mass. All first-time parents are asked to attend a Baptism Preparation Class before scheduling their child's Baptism. For class times, contact Sr. Ruth Hamel in the Parish Office.

### MARRIAGE

Based on Diocesan guidelines, couples should contact the Parish Office at least twelve months in advance of the intended date. A marriage preparation program is required.

### ANOINTING OF THE SICK & PASTORAL MINISTRY TO THE HOMEBOUND



Call the Parish Office at (614) 267-9241. Available at any time.

### FUNERAL MINISTRY



Family of deceased should contact the Parish Office as soon as possible.

### *Find us on* SOCIAL MEDIA

Immaculate Conception Parish

 @ICColumbus  immaculateconceptioncolumbus

Immaculate Conception School

 @ICRamsColumbus  @ic\_school

## MASS INTENTIONS

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 11

4:00 p.m. Catherine (Dolly) Doyle †

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 12

8:00 a.m. For the People of the Parish

9:30 a.m. John Michael Griga †

11:30 a.m. Brian Adkins †

### MONDAY, JANUARY 13

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

8:30 a.m. Adrienne McCann †

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 14

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

8:30 a.m. Mary & Steve DeVol †

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

8:30 a.m. Joan Spohn †

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 16

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

8:30 a.m. Fr. Ronald Boccali †

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 17

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

8:30 a.m. For the Living & Deceased  
Members of the IC Knights  
of Columbus

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 18

4:00 p.m. Bob Sicuro †

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 19

8:00 a.m. The Breneman Family †

9:30 a.m. For the People of the Parish

11:30 a.m. Carl Lippert †

† Deceased

## HOSPITALITY SUNDAY

All are invited for fellowship and refreshments following all Sunday Masses on the first weekend of each month.

## PASTORAL STAFF

*Pastor* Fr. Matthew Hoover ..... icoffice@iccols.org  
*Permanent Deacon* Rev. Mr. Christopher Campbell ccampbel@cducation.org  
*Weekend Assistants* Msgr. Anthony Frecker  
*Pastoral Minister* Sr. Ruth Hamel, O.P. .... srhamel@iccols.org

## FAITH FORMATION

*Adult Faith Formation* Sr. Ruth Hamel, O.P. .... srhamel@iccols.org  
*Music Ministry* Deanna Oppenheimer ..... doppenheimer@iccols.org  
*P.S.R. Coordinator* Paulette Mudrey ..... icpsr@iccols.org

## PARISH OFFICE STAFF Phone: (614) 267-9241 Fax: (614) 267-7720

*Parish Business Administrator* John Bernard ..... jbernard@iccols.org  
*Marketing & Mission Administrative Assistant* Karen Cannell ..... icoffice@iccols.org  
*Facilities Manager* Keith Altier

## SCHOOL STAFF Phone: (614) 267-6579 Fax: (614) 267-2549

*Principal* Colleen Kent ..... cokent@cducation.org  
*Assistant Principal* Rick Logue ..... rlogue@cducation.org  
*Office Manager* Marina Hachwa ..... mhachwa@cducation.org  
*Preschool Secretary* Erika Bardnell ..... ebardnell@cducation.org  
*School Age Child Care* Peggy Heffernan ..... pheffern@cducation.org  
Mary Louise West ..... mlwest@iccols.org, (614) 267-0239

## PARISH SUPPORT SERVICES

*Faith-Based Counselor* Mary Ann Jepsen ..... jepsen.ma@gmail.com, (614) 309-2270  
*Planned Giving Liaison* Kelly Noll ..... knoll@gbq.com, (614) 352-1655

## ADVISORY COUNCILS

*Finance Council Chairman* Brian Byrne ..... bbyrne@horizonio.com  
*Parish Council President* Heather MacKinnon ..... iccolsparishcouncil@gmail.com  
*School Board President* Brian Conway ..... brianconway1@hotmail.com

## LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE – JANUARY 18 & 19, 2020

MASS TIMES	4:00 p.m.	8:00 a.m.	9:30 a.m.	11:30 a.m.
<b>EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS</b>	Bob Mitch Mark Kelsey Betty Kelsey Dom Do Christine Sapp Vacancy	Marilynne Poirer Kathy Copeland Suzanne Smith Jerry Bennett Paul Duffy Chris Mahler	Cecilia Bruzzese Diane Schlegel Wendi Jenkins Karen Cannell Kim Cannell Bob Welsh Dee Dee Dodane Anna Beharry	Sharon Tantes Susan Gillespie Ron Bitler Patty Bitler Bob Poirer Janet Wilks
<b>LECTOR</b>	Nathan Dedino	Mary Ann Grossman	Daric Galden	Gail Hogan
<b>ALTAR SERVERS</b>	Nicholas Rivera Elliot Schmidt Devon Schneider Sophia Shultheis	Alex Smith Luke Wenning Atticus Colucy	Jude Hummer Zoe Hummer Maren Jenkins Maggie Johnson	Kara Urquhart Natalie Wallace Matthias Wenning Kiera Yeck
<b>USHERS</b>	E.J. Davis Mike Hatzzo John Groeber	Chris Mahler Ralph Mathews Michael Girard	John Ryle John Longbrake Sean O'Neil Jeff Ortega	Bob Poirier Jeff Doon Brian Byrne
<b>WELCOME DESK</b>	Pat Conway	Diana Marie Winkler Suzanne Smith Ronnie Hiss	Lynn Boardwine Jen Bennett Michelle Sap	Janine Oman Anne Campbell Carolyn Smith

**PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS AT MASS - JANUARY**

Please check the schedule to see if there is a weekend **Mass in January** at which you/your family would like to carry up the offertory gifts. In the offertory procession, the bread and wine are presented (offered) by the faithful to God before they are consecrated. Members of the parish are invited to bring up the gifts at the Mass(es) of their choosing, throughout the year. **To participate in this ministry, email the parish office at [icoffice@iccols.org](mailto:icoffice@iccols.org) or go to [www.bit.ly/ICPresentationofGifts](http://www.bit.ly/ICPresentationofGifts)** and sign up for the Mass or Masses at which you and your family wish to carry up the gifts.

**JANUARY CONTRIBUTORS TO THE SANCTUARY LAMPS**

The Sanctuary lamp burns constantly to proclaim the real presence of Jesus in the Tabernacle. For the month of January, the Sanctuary candle in the Adoration Chapel was donated by the **Cannell Family**. The three Sanctuary candles in the church were donated by **an anonymous donor**. Our thanks go to these families for their generosity.

**IN OUR PARISH****MAY SHE REST IN PEACE**

Please remember in your prayers **Sr. Marie Shields**, a Sister of Notre Dame de Namur, who died on December 31, 2019 in the 65th year of her religious life. Sr. Marie served with Fr. James Smith at Immaculate Conception Parish from 1983 until 1991 when they were assigned to St. Mathias Church. Sr. Marie was a kind, dedicated woman of God who spent much of her life devoted to education and pastoral Ministry. St. Mathias will have a memorial Mass for her at a future date. *Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and may Your consoling love be with her family and friends.*

**NEW PARISHIONERS:** We welcome these new parishioners to the parish: **Todd, Ree, Adeline** and **Abigail Wickerham; Dan Fuchs**. We invite and encourage you to join us as we pray, work and play together and hope that you find a welcoming and spiritual home here at Immaculate Conception.

**96th BIRTHDAY:** Our best wishes go to **Bridie Lyons**, who is celebrating her 96th birthday on January 11, 2020. We wish you a happy birthday and a year that is filled with God's blessings.

**WISHING YOU A BLESSED AND HAPPY NEW YEAR**

We wish to thank all who helped prepare for our Christmas season and the beautiful liturgies here at Immaculate Conception Parish. May every member of our parish family know the gift of Emmanuel, God with us, in the New Year. Also on a personal note, I wish to thank each of you for the many kindnesses and cards you sent. May each of you have a Very Blessed New Year!

– Fr. Matt

**THE MILLENNIAL CHURCH CONFERENCE**

Are you interested in helping IC parish reach out to young adults to engage them in their faith? Help us engage the millennial generation by attending a one-day event that will help you understand, empower and connect. The Millennial Church Conference will take place January 17, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at St. Matthew the Apostle Church in Gahanna. For more information or to register go to [www.millennialchurchconference.com](http://www.millennialchurchconference.com).



*“The Lord will bless his people with peace.”*

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH MARKETING, COMMUNICATION AND SPECIAL EVENTS POSITION OPEN**

Seeking an individual with comprehensive communication skills. This individual will manage the design and execution of all printed and web-based communications and marketing for Immaculate Conception Parish and School. Monitoring and updating parish website and electronic signage, creating and writing parish and school grant proposals and bulletin announcements are among the key tasks. Interested candidates, please mail or email a resume, with references and contact information to: John Bernard, Immaculate Conception Parish, 414 E. North Broadway Street, Columbus, OH 43214 or [jbernard@iccols.org](mailto:jbernard@iccols.org).

**CATHOLIC YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY NEWSLETTER**

Learn more about the Catholic Young Adult ministry by checking out their newsletter at <https://sway.office.com/U7DczaCqX6tjW6p?ref=email>. Information about attending the Blue Jackets game on February 8, Theology on Tap, and the Young Adult Lenten Retreat are just some items included in the newsletter.

**IC WOMEN'S BLOOD DRIVE**

The IC Women's Club Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Blood Drive is on Monday, January 20, 2020, from 12-6 p.m. If you last donated on or before Monday, November 25, 2019, you may be eligible to donate. You can now schedule an appointment by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org), sponsor code: IC or call 1-800-RED CROSS.

**GIVE YOURSELF THE GIFT OF TIME****WITH JESUS AND YOUR SISTERS IN CHRIST!**

Give yourself the gift of the Columbus Catholic Women's Conference on Saturday, February 15, 2020, from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at the Ohio Expo Center. Come to pray, learn and rest with your sisters in Christ from around the diocese. Register now for early bird pricing at [www.columbuscatholicwomen.com](http://www.columbuscatholicwomen.com). Don't miss this day of amazing grace!

**CATHOLIC MEN OF GOD, 2020 CONFERENCE**  
**“BUILDING VIRTUE”**

The Catholic Men's Conference is Saturday, February 22, 2020 from 8 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Ohio Expo Center. Columbus will host 3,500 men to hear from some of the most dynamic speakers around the country and immerse themselves in a life-changing day of fellowship and faith. Find out more and register online at [www.CatholicMensMinistry.com](http://www.CatholicMensMinistry.com). Speakers include Bishop Robert Brennan, Jason Evert and Luke Fickell.

**#TRY ALPHA – IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO REGISTER!**

Join us for real conversations exploring life and faith. Enjoy dinner, a short video and small group discussion. Alpha begins January 14 at 6:30 p.m. in Marian Hall. To see an Alpha trailer with additional insight, go to <https://vimeo.com/204052948>. Register online at <https://bit.ly/RegisterforICAlpha>.

**IC HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION**  
**PANCAKE BREAKFAST AND 50/50 RAFFLE**

The IC Home and School Association will host the annual Pancake Breakfast and 50/50 Raffle on Sunday, February 2, from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. We hope you will join us for this fun community event. For adult and student volunteer opportunities, please sign up via SignUpGenius at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60bod4cafae22aaf49-ichasa> or contact Lori Frost ([Lorifrost13@live.com](mailto:Lorifrost13@live.com)) or Jessica Gmerick ([jessicagarlock@yahoo.com](mailto:jessicagarlock@yahoo.com)).



**TIME, TALENT & TREASURE***Fostering Stewardship as a Way of Life***Fiscal Year 7/1/2019-6/30/2020 • Offertory Report 1/5/2020**

	1/5/2020	YTD 2019/2020
Recorded Envelopes/Checks	\$ 33,575.50	\$653,309.57
Loose Cash & Checks	\$ 567.18	\$ 17,931.93
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED</b>	<b>\$ 34,142.68</b>	<b>\$ 671,241.50</b>
Weekly Operating Expenses	\$ 25,000.00	\$675,000.00
Weekly Overage (Shortage)	\$ 9,142.68	(\$ 3,758.50)

Families Receiving Envelopes	1,059
Envelopes Received	286
Families on EFT	331

Manage your electronic contributions online! Visit [www.iccols.org](http://www.iccols.org) and click "Offertory & Stewardship" under the Giving menu. Thank you for your financial support of our Catholic faith here in our parish.

*"My God will fully supply whatever you need, in accord with His glorious riches in Christ Jesus."*  
- Philippians 4:19

**ARE YOU SUFFERING THE LOSS OF A LOVED ONE?****BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY BEGINS JANUARY 19**

Are you looking for friends to share in your grief and healing? Please join us at our Seasons of Hope Bereavement Ministry meetings. This is a Christ-centered peer support group that meets for six weeks, four times per year. Each session includes Scripture, prayer, reflection, and sharing.

During the winter season we will meet on January 19, February 2, 9, 16, 23, and March 1 at Our Lady of Peace Church, located at 20 E. Dominion Boulevard in Columbus 43214. Registration is from 1:30-1:55 p.m. each Sunday, with group sharing following from 2-4 p.m. You may join us for any or all of our sessions. Please feel free to bring a friend! If you have any questions, you may contact Rose Daiga, a parishioner at Our Lady of Peace, at [rose.daiga@gmail.com](mailto:rose.daiga@gmail.com) or at (614) 565-0795.

**"SCREENAGERS: GROWING UP IN THE DIGITAL AGE"**

Thursday, January 23 at 7 p.m. in Marian Hall, the Home and School Association (HASA) will present a FREE viewing of: SCREENAGERS: GROWING UP IN THE DIGITAL AGE.

Every IC parent and caregiver, regardless of your child's age, is encouraged to attend. The content is informative and enlightening for every adult with screens in their home.

Two years ago, Jesse Weinberger, internet safety expert, presented to the IC community and revealed startling statistics. Data collected nationwide reveals that across the country (regardless of socioeconomics, geography, or school type) cell phone ownership begins as young as 2nd grade. Our community is no exception. Even our youngest students are struggling with the impact screen time is having on their lives.

SCREENAGERS reveals how tech time impacts kids' development and offers solutions on how adults can empower kids to best navigate the digital world and find balance. This event is free and open to the entire community. Feel free to share this link with neighbors or friends who may be interested.

Please RSVP to this link: <https://screenagersIC.eventcombo.com>

Please direct any questions regarding this event to [carrieracz@gmail.com](mailto:carrieracz@gmail.com).

**SOCIAL CONCERNS****YWCA FAMILY CENTER DINNER**

Immaculate Conception Church will be preparing and serving dinner at the YWCA Family Center, this Friday, January 17. The food sign-up board is located in the Gathering Space of the church. Thank you for any help.

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE**

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul holds its annual Winter Clothing Drive beginning the weekend of January 12 and continuing through January 26. Please place new or gently used winter coats, hats, gloves, scarves, etc., in the barrels in the Gathering Space.

**DIAPER DRIVE!**

The Knights of Columbus are collecting diapers on the weekend of January 18-19 to benefit families who have chosen life over abortion. January is the March for Life month and all donations will serve the Pregnancy Decision Health Center in Columbus, Ohio. Diaper sizes 3 and 4 have been identified as the greatest need. Cash donations will be accepted online at <https://kofc98.wixsite.com/kofc14962/diaper-drive>. Many families face challenges and hardships with a pregnancy and having a child. By providing this service, we not only lighten their burden, but also show our support for life. Please drop off donations in the gathering space before and after all Masses. The Knights will be available to take donations and answer any questions you may have.

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY**

Tutors are needed for adults seeking Basic Education, GED Preparation, or English as a Second Language. The Dominican Learning Center will hold its next Tutor Training Workshop on Saturday, January 18, from 9 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. at 1111 E. Stewart Avenue, Columbus, OH 43206. Volunteers must be at least 18 years of age and a high school graduate. Materials are free to tutors. To register, please call (614) 444-7330, ext. 1 or email [dlcolumbus@oppeace.org](mailto:dlcolumbus@oppeace.org). To find out more, visit [www.domlearningcenter.org](http://www.domlearningcenter.org).

**RESPECT LIFE MASS**

The Respect Life Mass is Wednesday, January 22, 2020, 10:30 a.m. at St. Joseph Cathedral. Bishop Brennan will be the celebrant. On this day of the anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court *Roe v. Wade* decision, our diocese will join all dioceses of the United States in observing a Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. All are invited. For more information, contact Social Concerns at [socmailbox@columbuscatholic.org](mailto:socmailbox@columbuscatholic.org) or (614) 241-2540.

**ROE REMEMBRANCE AT THE OHIO STATEHOUSE**

Greater Columbus Right to Life will sponsor this event on Wednesday, January 22, 2020, 12-1 p.m., at the Ohio Statehouse. The program will be held in the Statehouse Atrium. Please allow extra time for Statehouse security measures. Stickers, signs, and weapons are not permitted inside. For additional information, visit [www.gctrl.org/roe.html](http://www.gctrl.org/roe.html).

## SCHOOL NEWS & ACTIVITIES

### IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL NEWS

**Preschool and K-8 Registration for the 2020-2021 School Year** is now open for all families. Registration will remain open until the classes are full. Please check the school website ([www.ic-school.org](http://www.ic-school.org)) for registration details. Those currently enrolled in our K-8 school do not need to re-enroll. Those new to our main school and all those enrolling in our preschool must enroll. Please call the school office (614) 267-6579 if you have any questions.

**Ed Choice Scholarship Informational Meeting** will be held Wednesday, January 22 at 7 p.m. in Room A. Administrators from IC and OLP are inviting our families to come together so questions can be addressed regarding this important scholarship opportunity. Please invite your friends that are currently not enrolled in our schools so they, too, can learn about these scholarships.

**Second Quarter Ends on Friday, January 17.** We will have a 1:30 p.m. dismissal that day and No School on Monday, January 20 for Martin Luther King Day.

**Catholic Schools Week is Sunday, January 26-Friday, January 31.** Please watch for details regarding this celebratory week! Bishop Brennan will celebrate Mass with the schoolchildren on Wednesday, January 29 at 8:30 a.m. Please plan to join us.

**IC School Open House is Sunday, February 2 (9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.).** Plan to attend and bring a guest family or friends to walk through the school, meet the staff and learn all that our school has to offer.

### ST. CHARLES

**St. Charles Offering Academic Scholarship Test January 25 for All 8th Grade Boys** - St. Charles Preparatory School will offer its annual Academic Scholarship Test to prospective students at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Saturday, January 25, in the Robert C. Walter Student Commons on the school's campus (2010 East Broad Street). The exam is open to any 8th grade boy regardless of his current high school enrollment status. Test results determine which students will receive merit-based academic awards from the school for the 2020-2021 school year. For this 2019-2020 school year alone, St. Charles has offered more than \$400,000.00 in academic scholarships and grants to its students. St. Charles is an Ed Choice participating school and is committed to providing financial aid to qualified families. Anyone interested in sitting for the St. Charles scholarship test may register by calling the school office at (614) 252-6714, between 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday or online at <https://www.stcharlesprep.org/8th-grade-scholarship-test>.

**5th-8th Grade Boys Invited to Experience "Cardinal Madness" on January 20** - St. Charles Preparatory School invites all young men in the 5th-8th grades to join us for a Night of Cardinal Madness on Monday, January 20. Meet new friends and future classmates as the evening begins at 6 p.m. in our Campus Theater's Cavello Center. Enjoy wings, sliders and refreshments before attending the St. Charles varsity basketball team's home game at 7:00 p.m. Parents, who are also welcome to join us, may wish to tour the school, meet other families and learn more about the St. Charles experience. There is no cost for the young men or their parents, but we ask that those all those attending register their attendance by e-mail at [nkeys@scprep.org](mailto:nkeys@scprep.org).

### WHEN YOU CARE ENOUGH TO GIVE THE VERY BEST

Surprise your spouse with the gift of a **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend** this Valentine's Day! The next weekend is February 14-16, 2020 in Central Ohio. Marriage Encounter is where married couples can get away from jobs, kids, chores, and phones and focus on each other. For more information or to apply, contact Paul and Marilou Clouse at (614) 834-6880 or visit our website at [www.wmecolumbus.org](http://www.wmecolumbus.org).

### BETHESDA HEALING MINISTRY - POST ABORTION HEALING

Sometimes memories can keep us from experiencing the fullness of new life, even following the reception and graced forgiveness from the Sacrament of Penance. If you have experienced abortion in your life and the memory continues to haunt you, perhaps inviting Jesus often into that memory will open your spirit to the peace only He can give. Begin by praying "Jesus, I don't want to be chained any longer to the memories of my abortion. Please come and heal me." To share the graces of this journey with those who have been there, contact Bethesda Healing Ministry confidential phone line (614) 309-0157 or visit our website at [www.bethesdahealing.org](http://www.bethesdahealing.org).

### BULLETIN DEADLINE

*The deadline for all articles for the Sunday bulletin is Friday afternoon, (9) days before the article appears in the bulletin. Please include contact information with a phone number and email address. Your written submission may be sent to the parish office or emailed to [ic.bulletin@iccols.org](mailto:ic.bulletin@iccols.org). All bulletin items and flyers must be approved by the parish office. Notices for bulletin boards must also be approved by the parish office before posting.*

# ADULT FAITH FORMATION PAGE

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, January 12, 2020

## The Baptism of the Lord

## Catechism Corner

“The baptism of Jesus is on his part the acceptance and inauguration of his mission as God’s suffering Servant. He allows himself to be numbered among sinners; he is already ‘the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.’ <sup>[Jn. 1:29; cf. Isa. 53:12]</sup> Already he is anticipating the ‘baptism’ of his bloody death. <sup>[Cf. Mk. 10:38; Lk. 12:50]</sup> Already he is coming to ‘fulfill all righteousness,’ that is, he is submitting himself entirely to his Father’s will: out of love he consents to this baptism of death for the remission of our sins. <sup>[Mt. 3:15; cf. 26:39]</sup> The Father’s voice responds to the Son’s acceptance, proclaiming his entire delight in his Son. <sup>[Cf. Lk. 3:22; Isa. 42:1]</sup> The Spirit whom Jesus possessed in fullness from his conception comes to ‘rest on him.’ <sup>[Jn. 1:32-33; cf. Isa. 11:2]</sup> Jesus will be the source of the Spirit for all mankind. At his baptism ‘the heavens were opened’ <sup>[Mt. 3:16]</sup>—the heavens that Adam’s sin had closed—and the waters were sanctified by the descent of Jesus and the Spirit, a prelude to the new creation.” (CCC, 536)  
The Catechism of the Catholic Church



## **FORMED picks for this week:**

### **STUDY:**

“**Lectio Evangelization: Sacraments and the Spirit—Part 1**” Repent and Be Baptized (Session 6)

Augustine Institute—Mary Healy presenter -- 46 mins.

**YDisciple: “Baptism & Confirmation”** 24 mins.

“**The Wild Goose with Fr. Dave Pivonka The Spirit and the Sacraments**” Segment 8 25 mins.

### **WATCH:**

“**Is Baptism Necessary for Salvation?**” Ready Reasons; Catholic Answers – Augustine Institute Run Time: 2 mins., 10 secs.

“**Cat. Chat for Kids**” 2 Seasons; 8 Episodes Video Series

“**Opening the Word Baptism of the Lord—January 12, 2020**” Professor Mary Healy presents reflection. Run Time: 4 mins. 47 secs. Augustine Institute - Reflection – Printable Journal available.

### **LISTEN:**

“**Changed Forever: The Sacrament of Baptism**” by Fr. Mike Schmitz -- Run Time: 59 mins. 19 secs.

“**Pints with Aquinas Podcast**” ...Sit down with St. Thomas Aquinas. Every episode of Pints With Aquinas addresses a question Saint Thomas answers in the Summa Theologiae, as well as other works of his. 2 seasons

### **READ:**

“**Sacraments in Scripture: Salvation History Made Present**” by Dr. Tim Gray [Downloadable E-Book, or, Read online.]

## **7 Signs of a Functional Relationship**

from CatholicMatch Institute

Dr. John M. Gottman is one of the top researchers in marriage and relationship health. Below are Dr. John Gottman’s findings through his research on successful, happy couples, as written in his book, *The Science of Trust*.

1. Matches in Conflict Style
2. Dialogue With Perpetual Issues
3. Present Issues as Situational Joint Problems
4. Successful Repair Attempts
5. Remaining Physiologically Calm During Conflict
6. Accept Influence From Your Spouse
7. Building Friendship, Intimacy, and Positivity Affects Systems.

FOR YOUR MARRIAGE

...My husband, Alex and I can attribute much of our success in marriage to prayer, regularly receiving the sacraments, and following these points in our relationship. After reading these points, maybe you’ll find an area that needs improvement in your own relationship. If you recognize these habits in your own relationship, congrats! Keep up the good work; you’re on the road to happily ever after.

Article originally published by [CatholicMatch Institute](http://CatholicMatchInstitute.com), which provides resources to help single Catholics develop a strong foundation for marriage through advocacy, programs, and scholarships. Used with permission.

Visit [www.foryourmarriage.org](http://www.foryourmarriage.org) to read the entire article and reflections for all seven tips.

## **2020 JANUARY Pope Francis’ Prayer Intention**

### **Promotion of World Peace:**

*We pray that Christians, followers of other religions, and all people of goodwill may promote peace and justice in the world.*

Each year, the Holy Father asks for our prayers for a specific intention each month. You are invited to answer the Holy Father’s request and to join with many people worldwide in praying for this intention each month. From time to time, the Holy Father may add a second prayer intention related to current events or urgent needs, like disaster relief. The second prayer request will help mobilize prayer and action related to the urgent situation.

The Holy Father has entrusted these intentions in a particular way to the Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network (also known as the Apostleship of Prayer), an organization that works to encourage Christians to respond to the Pope’s appeal and to deepen their daily prayer. You can find more information about the Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network on their **website at**

<http://popesprayerusa.net/> (The Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network will also publish any urgent prayer intentions of the Holy Father as soon as they are received from the Holy See.)  
<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/the-popes-monthly-intention.cfm>



# exploring THE SUNDAY READINGS

THE HIDDEN DAYS ARE OVER : FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

## FIRST READING

ISAIAH 42:1-4, 6-7

I formed you, and set you as ... a light for the nations.

I don't know the statistics for how many of us love to be seen versus how many prefer to go unnoticed. I've spent my life in the latter category. If I could have a superpower, I'd choose invisibility. Just doing my job and earning my keep is enough. Yet at certain points in even the most hidden life, the time to stand up and be noticed arrives. Even the shrinking violets among us will be obliged to shout, march, and make our position known.

The servant of Isaiah's oracle – was it Isaiah himself, or his little nation of Judah? – is summoned from obscurity to be a light to the nations. Normally, servants are supposed to glide in and out of a room without disturbing their employers. They come, perform their duties, and vanish. But the servant of God disturbs plenty in the performance of his or her responsibilities. The servant comes to proclaim freedom for captives, healing for the sick, hope for the despairing, justice for the oppressed. You better believe this will be noticed and not always in a way that brings applause.

» *When have you felt obliged to buck protocol and make your presence felt?*

## SECOND READING

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 10:34-38

Peter proceeded to speak to those gathered in the house of Cornelius.

Let's talk about the total weirdness of Acts Chapter 10. Cornelius was a centurion. Like the title suggests, he's a soldier who commands one hundred men. So Cornelius is a leader in the Roman army and no one to mess with. Assigned to Caesarea in occupied Palestine, he keeps order among the Jews there. And he finds himself attracted to their religion. He becomes a "God-fearer," one who stands at the edge of Jewish services and, to the limited extent allowed, participates.

Peter's a Jew. He got some serious religion following Jesus and is now the virtual head of a new Church. Like most believers of the Way, Peter's a faithful Jew. Jews don't enter the homes of Romans at the risk of uncleanness. So what's Peter doing in Cornelius' house? Preaching the gospel, no less! And Cornelius is buying it. You have to read all of Chapter 10 to understand why this is happening. Peter had no idea when he woke up that morning that he'd be doing this outlandish thing today. The Holy Spirit always invites us to stretch our normal boundaries.

» *Most conversations between centurions and Jews took place during an arrest. Which "enemies" might the Spirit invite you to talk to?*

## GOSPEL

MATTHEW 3:13-17

"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Even heaven couldn't keep quiet about the identity of Jesus. Divine lineage and approval thundered out over the scene at the Jordan. The hidden days of Jesus were over the day he stepped into that river for John's baptism. Could the same be said of us? Did our private lives end the day we took up the identity of Christ?

That would be an optimistic assessment for many of us. The truth is, we like living our private little lives that are built around acquiring things that give us comfort and security. Taking up the identity of Christ is something we may prefer to keep in a drawer, along with our baptismal certificate, medals from science fairs, and letters from old lovers. These are markers of past achievements and once-significant relationships. But they belong to the past and have little to say about who we are right now. Would we be willing to take that certificate out of hiding and hang it on the wall? Are we willing to be public in our Christianity, witnessing to its values and priorities in the kind of life we live?

» *Does your life as a believer differ significantly from how you would live without faith? In what ways?*

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