

A serene winter landscape featuring a dense forest of evergreen trees heavily laden with snow. In the foreground, a calm body of water, possibly a lake or a wide river, is partially frozen, with a layer of clear, blue-tinged ice reflecting the sky and the surrounding trees. The sky is a pale, overcast blue with soft, wispy clouds. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and quiet.

# *The Baptism* OF THE LORD

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“I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” - Lk 3:16bc



**Mass Intentions  
for the Week**

**Saturday, January 8th, Vigil of the Lord's Day**

4:00 p.m. - Deborah Richitelli, req. by Scoppetto family

**Sunday, January 9th, Baptism of the Lord**

9:30 a.m. - Charles Vincent Arcangelo, req. by Michael Viapiano

**Monday, January 10th, Weekday**

8:00 a.m. -

**Tuesday, January 11th, Weekday**

8:00 a.m. -

**Wednesday, January 12th, St. Marguerite Bourgeoys**

8:00 a.m. - NO MASS

**Thursday, January 13th, St. Hilary**

8:00 a.m. -

**Friday, January 14th, Weekday**

8:00 a.m. -

**Saturday, January 15th, Vigil of the Lord's Day**

4:00 p.m. - In Honor and Health of Janet Robinson, req. by Kate & Kerry Robinson

**Sunday, January 16th, 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

9:30 a.m. - Deceased members of St. Catello Society

***Sanctuary Lamp***  
**Sunday, January 9, 2022**

**In Memory of**

**Deceased Members of St. Michael Parish**

**In remembrance of those who died,  
John Cirillo & Valentino DiGioia  
May they rest in peace.**

**Weekend of January 2, 2022**

**Weekly Collection \$ 1461.00  
Online Collection \$70.00  
Monthly Collection \$ 467.00  
Solemnity of Mary \$286.00**

**One Collection This Week  
Weekly Collection**

**Baptism of the Lord  
January 9, 2022**

In various ways, today's feast and its Scriptures extend last Sunday's revelation of Christ and his all-embracing compassion. The second reading announces once again that the "grace of God has appeared, saving all." We are further reminded that God pours out his saving presence in Jesus Christ, not because of human merit, but because the very character of God is loving mercy, extended to all without exception.

The first reading and Gospel further illustrates a common theme in Luke: Christ fulfills the prophecy of old. While Luke's hearers, Greek-speaking Gentile converts, might not have been familiar with Old Testament prophet, they did believe in prophecy. Hence the evangelist frequently refers, direct or indirectly to Old Testament Scriptures, especially prophetic figures or writings.

Isaiah speaks God's Word of comfort to Judean captives in Babylon. Though their present existence seems to be nothing but desolate wasteland, the same God who led their ancestors through the desert in the exodus story will again bring them through the "rough country" to new freedom. The prophet proclaims that God will come as a strong yet tender shepherd, gently carrying them home.

A few chapters after today's reading, Isaiah indicates how God's people will be renewed: through a servant of the Lord. Through the prophet, God describes the servant as "my chosen one with whom I am pleased," empowered by "my spirit." By divine power, the servant will bring God's healing to the weak and bruised.

Luke portrayed a people "filled with expectation" wondering if John the Baptist could be God's chosen one. The Baptist says he is not, and points to the one who will fulfill the prophecy. As Jesus prays after his baptism, the divine voice proclaims, "You are my beloved Son."

**Readings for the week of January 9, 2022**

**Sunday:** Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7; Acts 10:34-38; Luke 3:15-16, 21-22 or, Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7; Luke 3:15-16, 21-22  
**Monday:** 1 Samuel 1:1-8; Mark 1:14-20  
**Tuesday:** 1 Samuel 1:9-20; 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Mark 1:21-28  
**Wednesday:** 1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20; Mark 1:29-39  
**Thursday:** 1 Samuel 4:1-11; Mark 1:40-45  
**Friday:** 1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22a; Mark 2:1-12  
**Saturday:** 1 Samuel 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a; Mark 2:13-17

## PASTORAL REFLECTIONS

I can't believe how quickly the Christmas Season has come and gone. I am talking about the Liturgical Season of Christmas which began Christmas Eve and not the secular season of Christmas which seems to start the day after Halloween.

Today, we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord which brings to a close the Liturgical Season of Christmas and the start of Ordinary Time. The Feast of the Baptism of Lord invites us to reflect upon our own baptism wherein we were made sharers in the life, suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus. "Sharers in the Divine Nature..." 2 Peter 1:4

In John's gospel, Jesus tells Nicodemus, a Pharisee, "Unless a person is born of water and the spirit they cannot enter into the kingdom of God." Nicodemus is confused and asks Jesus, "How can a person be born over again once he is old? Can he return to his mother's womb?" While Nicodemus was thinking on a physical level, Jesus was talking about spiritual matters. What Jesus was talking about is baptism. When we look at the sacrament of baptism it is truly a spiritual rebirth in every sense of the word.

When we were born, we were washed clean of our former way of life in our mother's womb and brought out into the light of the room, the light of a new world, a new way of living. The darkness of the womb, the loneliness of the womb, the old life of the womb is gone forever, we can never return to it. In baptism, when the water was poured on our heads and the words are pronounced, "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," we too were washed clean from the darkness of sin, especially original sin, the loneliness of sin is washed away forever, and we are brought out into the light of Christ ushering us into a new world and a new life: a new way of living and existing, our Life in Christ and a new world, living in the Kingdom of God.

When we were born, we were placed into our mother's and/or father's arms for the first time as their child. By virtue of our physical birth, we became their son or daughter forever, we became their child forever. For all eternity they will our parents, and we will forever be their child. This biological and historical fact can never be un-done. So, it is the same with baptism. In our baptism, we forever became a child of God our Father in heaven and nothing or no one can change that. Just as we cannot physically be un-born, so it is the same with sacrament of baptism; how does one un-pour the water and un-say the words of baptism. We can't. By virtue of our baptism, we have forever become a child of God. This spirituality reality cannot be undone.

When we were born, we became part of a human family, and so it is the same when we were baptized. In and through our baptism, we became part of the family of God the church; we became a member of the church. Later on, when we grow up, we may not want to have anything to do with our natural earthly family or even associate with them, but that does not change the fact of who we are and where we have come from, and so it is the same with our relationship with the church. We may not want to have anything to do with the church, like going to church or practicing our faith but that does not change the reality, the fact of who and what we are spiritually and that is a member of God's family the church. Ignoring the reality of the grace and spiritual effect of the sacrament of baptism does not make our relationship with God the Father and His Son Jesus go away.

By virtue of our birth, we become heirs to our family's estate. By virtue of our baptism we become heirs to the kingdom of God. But this is where the catch comes in. Just as in the case of our parents, if they had any moneys or properties to leave us we can say to them, "Forget it, I don't want any of your money or property, keep it" and so we can also say the same thing to God in regard to inheriting the kingdom of heaven. We can tell God, "Forget it, I don't want any part of the kingdom of heaven, keep it." God does not force his kingdom upon any of us.

As a priest, it saddens me in the sense that some people perceive or look upon the sacrament of baptism as "voodoo or magic". Parents thinking, "Let's get the kid zapped!" Think that once a child, a person is baptized that is all they need and they are automatically saved. Baptism is not "voodoo or magic." The Sacrament of Baptism is only the beginning of a lifelong relationship with the Lord Jesus, God our Father and the Holy Spirit and like any relationship it has to grow and foster all our life long. It is up to us, in and with the practice of our faith that keeps that relationship with Jesus, the Father and the Spirit alive and well. God always offers us the grace and gift of salvation; God never forces us to accept his invitation to His grace, it is up to us to accept or reject His gift.

As one can see, baptism is truly a rebirth in every sense of the word, but it is only the beginning of a life-long relationship with the living Lord Jesus Christ that must grow and be lived out every day of our lives. And if we are true to our baptismal commitment to follow the Lord and walk in His way, then He will be true to the promise He made to us on the day of our baptism and when we die He will proclaim to us, "Come good and faithful servant enter the joy of your master. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

P.S. As the Christmas Season draws to a close, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the many gifts and expressions of "Best Wishes" that I have received during this Christmas Season. Your kindness and thoughtfulness are greatly appreciated. Thank You, God Bless you and Happy New Year!

Fr. Roy

## The ABCs of Annulment” Sponsored by the Metropolitan Tribunal Bloomfield

“Father Philip Schulze, Pastor of Saint Margaret Parish, 24 Academy Street, Madison, Connecticut, in collaboration with Father George Mukuka, the Judicial Vicar of the Metropolitan Tribunal in Bloomfield, Connecticut, will host “The ABCs of Annulment” on Saturday of January 22, 2022, from 10 am to 12:00 pm, in the Church Hall at the address above.

Updates of the process initiated by Pope Francis as well as those made in the Archdiocese of Hartford will be presented by Br. Larry Lussier CSC, and Jim Tottenham.

Follow-up Annulment Workshops to help participants write their applications will be held at the same address on Saturday January 29<sup>th</sup>, and February 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, from 10 am to 12:00 pm. Br. Larry, Jim Tottenham, and other members of the Annulment Team, will be present for the Workshops.

The “ABCs of Annulment” event is open to all at no cost. Participants will receive a folder with the required printed materials. No registration is required. For further information call Br. Larry @ 475-221-8464 or email him at [brolarlus300@gmail.com](mailto:brolarlus300@gmail.com).

### MASS BOOK

**The Mass Book for 2022 is now open  
Masses can be booked from  
Jan 1, 2022 thru June 30, 2022.**

Come to the rectory from 9:00am – 12:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday, or call the Rectory at 203-562-7178 to book your masses.

**All Masses must be paid in full at the time of booking.**

### On Line Giving

Realizing that the Coronavirus has affected us in many ways, even financially, I would like to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to all the parishioners of St. Michaels’s Church who have remembered St. Michael financially by mailing or dropping off your weekly envelopes. We now offer on-line giving through our website, [StMichaelWoosterSquare.org](http://StMichaelWoosterSquare.org), under the Parish Life tab.



*From the Twitter Account of  
Pope Francis*

*Let us Pray Together that those who suffer discrimination and religious persecution may find in the societies in which they live the rights and dignity that comes from being brothers and sisters.*

**FOOD BANK** – Each week there is a box in the rectory entrance to receive donations of non-perishable foods that are brought to various non-profit agencies and families in need in the New Haven area. **(PLEASE DO NOT INCLUDE OPEN AND EXPIRED FOOD)**. Your donation of these items are appreciated greatly by those who receive them. Please consider bringing one or two non-perishable items per month as a way of fulfilling the Corporal Work of Mercy, **To Feed the Hungry**.

### The Baptism of the Lord January 9, 2022

This is National Vocation Awareness Week. Revel in the gift of your baptism; pray for and with those who are called to fulfill their baptismal promises as priests, sisters, and brothers. Encourage someone you know to consider a life of service in the church and have them call **Fr. Michael Casey**, Director of Vocations, Pastoral Center, 860-761-7456, e-mail [vocations@aohct.org](mailto:vocations@aohct.org) or visit the web at [www.hartfordpriest.com](http://www.hartfordpriest.com).

### Question of the Week

How has the Holy Spirit, whom I received in baptism, influenced my outlook and my actions?

**Please mail me/us a registration form for Saint Michael Church**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_

**Send this request to:  
Saint Michael Church Office:  
29 Wooster Place  
New Haven, CT 06511  
Or place in offertory basket.**



## **Christmas Flowers 2021 In Memory of**

*Agnellino & DeMayo Families; Mrs. Madeline Barbato Aiello; Andrew Anastasio, Sr.; Patricia Anastasio; Anastasio Family; Jennie Argento; Frances Argento Scaramella; Theresa Argento; B-pa & Moma Astarita; Marylyn & Ed Astarita; Norma Bailey; George Bentley; Susan & Nick Berardesca; Alfonse Bonito; Grace Bonito; Angelo Bonzi; Daniel Bradley; Brand Family; Eunice Buckmiller; Campagnuolo Family; Helen Carofano; Ralph Carofano; Carrano Family; Joseph A. Celentano Sr.; Olga & Fred Ciaburro; Lucille Cogswell; Consiglio & Langello Families; Frank & Mary Colloso; Fred & Mary Colloso; Colloso Family; Giuseppe Curcio; Curcio Family; Dadio Family; Jenny DeLoughery; Diglio Family; Catello & Mary Donarumo; Bob & Mary Ann Ezold; Alice Ezold; Frank Florenzano; Florenzano Family; Frank & Ann Gambardella; Louis & Theresa Gargano; Gargano & Vanacore Families; Andrew & Josephine Gargano; Gioiosa, D'Agnelli, Campenelli & Ciarlone Families; Genoveva Gruttner; Roger & Dolores Hawley; Philip Hersey; Davide, Angelina, Marisa & Luciana Incarnato; Mrs. Betsy Jankoski; Kemp Family; Tim Laffin; Mr. & Mrs. Albert Lindsay; Iva Lucarelli; Robin Lucarelli; Reginald & Dorothy Ludington; John, George, Tommy & Edward Ludington; Salvatore & Anna Maiorano; Frances co & Letizia Marino; John Maselli; Joseph Mastriano; Mother Theresa & Arthur McClure; Natividad Otero; Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Parillo; Marjorie & Ed Peters; Mr. N. & Mrs. O. Pisani; Dae Orti Pisani; Charles Piasecki; Jeffery Ponzio; Anna, Frank & Anthony Proto; Laura & Anthony Proto; Rose & Pasquale Proto Family; Rachel Riccio; Stephen Christopher Sanseverino; Stephen & Luisa Sanseverino; Rosemary Santanello; Frank Santanello; Mary Santanello; Catherine & Philip Santore; Joann Santore; Lucy & Louis Sasso; Joseph & Anna Scarpellino; Joseph Scarpellino, III; Scoppetto & Connelly Families; Salvatore & Michelina Staiano; Erika Stevenson; Wendell Sutherland; Julia Mary Sutherland; Reubin Teodoro; Rose Teodoro; Agnes Tripp; Steve & Nancy Valente; Vasquez Family; Andrew & Antoinette Vissicchio; Gilda & Joseph Vissicchio; Mr. & Mrs. Carl Welz, Jr.; Patricia Ann Wetteman.*

### ***In Thanksgiving***

*Mr. Ronald F. Abbott; Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Agnellino; Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Ambrogio; Michael Argento; Marianne DeLillo; Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Fanning; Mr. & Mrs. F. Ferrie; Mr. & Mrs. Christian Festa; Mary Lou Horan; Mr. & Mrs. Silvio Marchione; Mr. & Mrs. Edward Naclerio; Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Onofrio; George Pisani; Anne Potenziani; Frank R. Proto; Theresa Scarpellino; Roberta Seipold; Mrs. Maria Thompson; Ms. Joanne Young.*