

St. Lawrence Martyr Church

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PASTORAL TEAM:

Rev. Fr. Thomas Lim, *Pastor*

Rev. Fr. Russell Asch, *Chaplain to the Faithful participating in the Extraordinary Rite of the Latin Mass*

Rev. Fr. Giuseppe Scollo, *In Residence*

Julia Di Paolo - *Secretary*



The Baptism of our Lord

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD – JANUARY 12TH, 2025

Luke 3:15-16, 21-22



“When Jesus had been baptized and was praying, Heaven was opened.”

Luke does not tell us who baptised Jesus. In Luke the story of John the Baptist ends with his promise of one who will baptise with the Holy Spirit — then John is arrested. At the baptism itself all Luke’s concentration is on the coming of the Spirit. Indeed, it is hardly an account of the baptism at all, for the baptism is only a time-marker for the coming of the Spirit ‘when Jesus, after his own baptism, was at prayer’. Jesus’ mission begins with the coming of the Spirit. In the same way, in Luke’s second volume, the Acts of the Apostles, the mission of the apostles begins with the coming of the Spirit at Pentecost. It is as though Luke wants to show the importance of the Spirit from beginning to end of the Christian life. And this is the case: in both writings the part played by the Spirit directs all the action. The same is still true in the Church today, though often human stubbornness and blindness does its best to retard or impede this leadership and guidance by the Spirit. Most of us are artists at blocking the Spirit when the Spirit’s promptings are inconvenient.



Lo Spirito Santo giunge ad attestare in modo solenne la divinità di Gesù nel momento in cui ha compiuto, come un uomo qualsiasi, il gesto penitenziale, essendosi sottoposto al battesimo di Giovanni. Durante la sua vita terrena, Gesù non si mostrerà mai tanto grande come nell’umiltà dei gesti e delle parole. Importante lezione questa, per noi che vediamo le cose in modo tanto diverso. Seguire Cristo significa intraprendere questo cammino di umiltà, cioè di verità. Cristo, vero Dio e vero uomo, ci insegna la verità del nostro essere.

Feriti dal peccato, purificati dal battesimo, noi oscilliamo fra i due estremi, entrambi attraenti, del male e della santità. E questo si vive nella quotidianità più umile. Ad ogni passo possiamo scegliere Dio e il suo amore, o, viceversa, rifiutarlo.

Seguire le orme di Gesù, significa assicurarsi un cammino che, nonostante sia stretto e sassoso, conduce alla vita eterna, alla vera beatitudine.



Vocation Reflection ~ As John the Baptist introduced the people of his time to Jesus a voice from heaven said, “You are my Son, the Beloved, with you I am well pleased.” Perhaps God is calling you to do the same in our time as a priest, deacon or religious. If He is, contact Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997.

It is because of FAITH that we exchange the PRESENT for the FUTURE

-St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen-

Stewardship Reflection ~ As we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, we should first realize that Jesus didn’t need to be baptized but rather did so in order to give us an example to imitate. Similarly, as stewards we are called to be authentic models of the faith so that others can be inspired by our witness. Moreover, it is extremely important that we avoid anything that may scandal others because this could drive them away from the Church. Let us strive to be true models of the faith.



Eucharistic Adoration

Mon - Thur 9am - 12pm (Church)*
Every Friday 9am - 7pm (Church)*
*In Chapel, when there is a funeral.

Come and spend some quiet time in prayer!



Mass Intentions for the week



SATURDAY JANUARY 11TH – SABATO

5:00 P.M. + Marjorie & Thomas Reilly

SUNDAY JANUARY 12TH – DOMENICA

8:30 A.M. - For All Our Parishioners

10:00 A.M. (Italian)

Pietro e Elvira Fugaccia
Rosario Vella
Anna Menna
Maria e Angelo Baroni
Marco, Edda e defunti famiglie
Carlevaris e Nevodini
L’Anime del Purgatorio

11:30 A.M. + Geraldine Senewiratne

1:00 P.M. - Pro Populo

5:00 P.M. + Jolanta Nowakowska

MONDAY JANUARY 13TH – LUNEDI

8:30 A.M. + Maria & Paul Dalgado

12:00 P.M. + Sandra Rickaby

TUESDAY JANUARY 14TH – MARTEDI

8:30 A.M. - Conrado Gonzales

12:00 P.M. + Mary Judin

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 15TH – MERCOLEDI

8:30 A.M. + Nadine Weir

12:00 P.M. - Oto Lam & Family

THURSDAY JANUARY 16TH – GIOVEDI

7:00 A.M. - Thomas de Ruiter

8:30 A.M. - Gordon Bolcic

FRIDAY JANUARY 17TH – VENERDI

8:30 A.M. + Cicely Espinoza

7:00 P.M. + Deceased Butcher Family

SATURDAY JANUARY 18TH – SABATO

8:30 A.M. + Anna Menna

10:00 A.M. - Kau Lam Leung



OFFERTORY LAST WEEK

Regular: \$5,208.60

Bldg Fund: \$3,227.25

Thank you

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD – JANUARY 12TH, 2025

Pastor's
Corner

Dear Friends in Christ, as we come to the last days of Christmas, the Church offered for our reflection a number of epiphanies related to Our Lord, Jesus Christ. The Greek word, epiphany, means 'revelation' or 'manifestation'. Originally it was used in connection with the actions of a king, who would go out to meet the subjects in his kingdom. Christians, however, would use the term to denote God's revelation to the world and Jesus Christ's manifestation as the long awaited Messiah.

The epiphanies of the Lord consist of three key mysteries. The Feast of Epiphany that we just celebrated last weekend - the manifestation of Jesus to all the nations as represented by the Magi, the wise men from the East - began around the fourth century in the Western Church. Interestingly, Christians in the Eastern Church were already celebrating as early as the second century two other epiphanies: the mystery of the Baptism of the Lord, and Jesus' self-manifestation at the wedding feast of Cana. To celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord, then, means to celebrate all these three mysteries of Christ!

The Baptism of the Lord that we celebrate this Sunday offers us an additional opportunity to see another dimension of Our Lord's incarnation and his manifestation as the Christ. Jesus' Baptism by John the Baptist in the Jordan river is His definitive manifestation as the Messiah or Christ to Israel and as the Son of the Father to the entire world.

The word baptism means "to be immersed/ submerged in water." Baptism was a very common ritual for the Jewish people. The Jews often used the rite of immersion as a means of legal purification for anyone who had become defiled according the Mosaic Law. It was also the ritual used to convert Gentiles into the Jewish faith.

The baptismal ritual that John administered in the river Jordan focused on the call of conversion. Although it was a ritualistic expression of conversion, penance and repentance, John's baptism however did not confer sanctifying grace. The baptism that Jesus instituted, when he commanded His disciples to "*Go therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit*" (Mt. 28:18), however, is a sacrament; thus, it gives sanctifying grace to those who are baptized.

Why did Jesus, who is without sin, allow himself to be baptized by John? First, it was the means by which Jesus was able to make Himself known to the Jewish people. Prior to His baptism, Jesus lived a life of relative obscurity for thirty years. He had faithfully carried out his Father's will by living all the ordinary circumstances of his hidden life. The time, however, had come for Him to now fulfill His Father's mission by moving out of the shadows and into the public domain. It was thus very appropriate that Jesus began His public ministry by making His first appearance precisely where John was baptizing many of their counterparts. John, for his part, confirmed Jesus as the long awaited one, when he exclaimed to the people: "*Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world*" (Jn. 1:29).

Jesus' baptism can be seen as a second epiphany - a second manifestation or revelation. Luke provides us with a powerful account of what happened after Jesus was baptized: "*The 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 Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased'*" (Lk. 3:21-22). The Father's voice from heaven shows us that Jesus of Nazareth is the Eternal Son of God, and the descent of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove shows the Trinitarian nature of our Christian God.

Jesus' baptism was also a moment of decision and identification. Although Jesus was without sin, He nevertheless identified Himself with the very people that He had come to save. By allowing Himself to be immersed in the river Jordan, Jesus took upon Himself the sins of all of humanity. What Jesus freely chose to begin on the day of His baptism would find their ultimate fulfillment on the Cross on Calvary, where He would take upon Himself the sins of the world.

Jesus' public mission and ministry did not simply end on Calvary. In fact, it continues to this very day through His Church, of which we are made members through baptism. Each one of us, by virtue of our own baptism, has a share of the three-fold offices of Jesus Christ as priest, prophet and king. The Christian vocation, no matter what is our state in life (e.g., priest, religious, married, single), is to reveal the love of the Trinity to our broken world, so that others might also experience the unconditional love of God and be washed in the redemptive waters of baptism. In a sense, we are all called to be "epiphanies" to all those we encounter; to be manifestations of God's love in the world.

Sometime this week, I invite you to take a moment to thank the Lord for not only identifying Himself with us sinner by virtue of His baptism at the Jordan River; but especially for being Our Lord and Savior. Pray also for the grace to faithfully live out your own baptismal promises, so that you might be a light for others in this world darkened by sin and division. Pax Christi, Fr. Thomas



SACRED JOURNEY
RESTORING THE HOUSE OF GOD

THANK YOU!!!

FUNDS RAISED TO DATE: \$159,126.00

To donate SCAN the QR CODE or

<https://tinyurl.com/SLMDonationForm>



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD – JANUARY 12TH, 2025



Pilgrimage Churches

The Archdiocese of Toronto has identified holy places of worship in each of the major regions of the archdiocese to serve as pilgrimage destinations during the Jubilee Year. These locations are as follows:

Archdiocesan

St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica, Toronto

Shrines

Martyrs' Shrine, Midland

Central Region

St. Paul's Basilica, Toronto

St. Mary's Parish, Toronto

St. Edward the Confessor Parish, North York

Western Region

Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Etobicoke

St. Mary's Parish, Brampton

Eastern Region

St. Barnabas Parish, Scarborough

St. Gregory the Great Parish, Oshawa

Northern Region

St. Padre Pio Parish, Kleinburg

St. Mary's Parish, Barrie

Click for Indulgence > [Catechetical Resource on Plenary Indulgences during the Jubilee Year](#)



2025 JUBILEE YEAR ITALY PILGRIMAGE

With our Pastor
Father Thomas Lim
September 27 to
October 10, 2025

[Click for Details](#)

BELL TOWER Envelopes Offertory NEXT WEEKEND – Jan 19th!



Your Donation is *appreciated*
no matter how *big or small!*
Thank you! GOD bless you More.

Dear Padre

January 12, 2025

We are told that we are baptized into Jesus' death and resurrection, and that baptism is necessary for our salvation. But why was Jesus baptized?

Jesus was baptized, not because he needed saving, but so that others might be saved. By accepting baptism, he established this act as the normative path for salvation. Saint John Chrysostom addressed this question: "Though [Christ] needed not baptism for his own sake, yet carnal nature in others had need thereof." Or as St. Gregory Nazianzen said more poetically: "Christ was baptized that he might plunge the old Adam entirely in the water."

Another reason Jesus accepted baptism is suggested by St. Augustine. He said our Lord was baptized "because he wished to do what he had commanded all to do." This is true servant leadership—not asking of others what one is not willing to do oneself. Or as St. Ambrose said, "This is justice, to do first thyself that which thou wishest another to do, and so encourage others by thy example."

Perhaps as we launch into a new year, we might try to remember our baptismal promise to "put on Christ" and imitate Jesus in this way: to not ask of anyone—our children or parents; employers or employees; teachers or students; principals or pastors; or even presidents—what we do not ask of ourselves, especially when it comes to honesty, dedication, civility, and charity. ●

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

Regional Masses & Celebrations Solemn Opening of the Jubilee Year



The Archdiocese of Toronto has invited a Jubilee church to host a regional celebration to focus our attention on the Jubilee Year as a faith community.



All are welcome to join this Special Mass!

These celebrations will take place as follows with receptions after Mass:

Western Region

Wednesday, January 29, 2025, 7 p.m.
St. Mary's Parish, Brampton

Northern Region

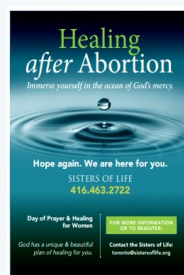
Tuesday, February 4, 2025, 7 p.m.
St. Padre Pio Parish, Kleinburg

Eastern Region

Wednesday, February 19, 2025, 7 p.m.
St. Barnabas Parish, Scarborough

Central Region

Tuesday, February 25, 2025, 7 p.m.
St. Edward the Confessor Parish, North York



Healing after Abortion: The Sisters of Life

A "Day of Prayer and Healing" Upcoming dates are: February 8 and April 5, 2025. For more details, please call (416) 463-2722 or reach us by email at toronto@sistersoflife.org.

With God nothing is empty of Meaning.
~ St. Irenaeus of Lyons ~



FATHER YOU CALLED

SAINT LAWRENCE
TO SERVE YOU BY LOVE
AND CROWNED HIS LIFE
WITH GLORIOUS
MARTYRDOM.

HELP US TO BE LIKE HIM
IN LOVING YOU
AND DOING YOUR WORK.

AMEN

PRAYER FOR THE SICK:

We keep in our prayers the sick, the homebound, and the forgotten members in our community.



"Make sickness itself a
Prayer"
~ St. Francis de Sales ~