

The Baptism of the Lord

January 13, 2018

MARCH FOR LIFE

There will be a bus available to the March for Life in Washington, D.C. on January 18. The cost of a bus ticket is \$73; call Chrissy at 652.7170 to sign up.

The bus will leave Oneonta at 11:30 am on Thursday the 17th with stops at Sacred Heart Church in Stamford at 12 noon, the Hamden Town Hall around 12:40 pm, and St. John the Baptist Church in Walton around 1 pm. There will be a stop for dinner before arrival at the Knights of Columbus Hall, Forestville, MD to spend the night -- bring a mattress, sleeping bag or blanket and a pillow as sleeping will be on the floor.

The Knights will provide breakfast and a bag lunch on the 18th before the bus leaves for the National Mall in D.C. There will be an opportunity to attend activities near the Mall before the March begins. Activities finish around 3 pm, then board the bus, a stop for dinner, and arrival back late Friday night.

Knights of Columbus, as in the past, will be supplementing the cost of the March for Life bus trip.

A MINISTRY OF IMMENSE LOVE

If you have a friend or loved one in need of Holy Communion or a visit, please give them a Pastoral Care Ministry pamphlet with more information, which is located in the vestibules at St. Peter and at St. John. Please notify the church at 865.7394, extension 207 to request communion or a visit.

Only **7** weeks before the

2018 Bishop's Appeal closes!

Deficits: St. John the Baptist: **\$7,398**
St. Peter's Church: **2,717**

HELP DEFEAT NY ABORTION EXPANSION

Sadly, New York State is the Abortion Capital of our nation with a rate of 29.6 abortions for every 1,000 women of reproductive age--more than twice the national average. Abortion is legal here for any reason up to 24 weeks of pregnancy, and any time after that if the mother's life is at risk; even if Roe were to be overruled the vast majority of abortions here would continue to be legal and available.

The Governor and the Democratic leadership in the NYS Legislature want to go even further and make abortion less safe and more expansive. They have promised to enact the so-called "Reproductive Health Act" early in 2019. This bill would:

- Allow non-doctors to perform abortions.
- Allow abortions for any reason up to due date.
- Remove all criminal penalties for abortion, even if it was contrary to the mother's choice, such as the intentional targeting of an unborn child in an act of violence.
- Remove our state's protections for infants accidentally born alive during an abortion.

This extremism goes **far** beyond Roe vs. Wade! Take Action Now! We need to stand up in unison and make their voices heard on behalf of women and their unborn children. Tell your state lawmakers that enough is enough!

Here is a simple way to do this: go to the New York State Catholic Conference website at nyscatholic.org, and click on "Stop Abortion Expansion." Enter your home address and select "Send Message." Your message will automatically be sent to your State Senator, State Assembly Representative, and the Governor.

Please do it as soon as you can. It is so important to register our strong protest at this time. Tragically, the political reality following the 2018 mid-term elections means that we are unlikely to defeat this measure in the State Legislature. Governor Andrew Cuomo is a strong proponent of the bill, and has promised to sign it into law.

WALTON FOOD BANK

Needed items are: canned fruit: peaches, fruit cocktail, applesauce; mac 'n cheese; peanut butter; cold & hot cereal; canned vegetables: corn, peas, green beans, and pork 'n beans.

PARENTING POINTERS Susan Vogt

If your children are old enough, reminisce with them the story of their baptism. If you can remember, tell the story of your own baptism and what it has meant to you.

RETROUVAILLE

Has your marriage has become troubled or stressed, unloving, or uncaring, your relationship has grown cold and distant, are you thinking of separation or divorce, or are you already separated or divorced but want to try again? Then the Retrouvaille Program can help you! It has become a lifeline that has helped other couples' marriages and their families. All faiths are welcome. Call 800.470.2230 for info.

Catholic Volunteer Network

Are you interested in making a difference in our community, the country, or the world? One source to serve those in need and work for social justice is the Catholic Volunteer Network. For more than 50 years CVN has been a leader in faith-based lay mission service for people who want to help.

Check out the thousands of prospects in the RESPONSE 2019 Guide in the office with one week and one year opportunities or their website: catholicvolunteernetwork.org.

MARRIAGE MOMENTS Susan Vogt

It is New Year's resolution time. Even if you have already broken some resolutions, just recommit to putting your beloved first -- in words, in acts of kindness, in attention.

The Anointing

Jesus does not submit to John's baptism as a sinner in need of purification. He humbles Himself to pass through Jordan's waters in order to lead a new "exodus" --opening up the promised land of heaven so that all peoples can hear the words pronounced over Jesus, words once reserved only for Israel and its king -- that each of us is a beloved son or daughter of God.

Jesus is the chosen servant, Isaiah prophesies, anointed with the Spirit to make things right and just. God puts His Spirit upon Jesus to make Him "a covenant of the people," the liberator of the captives, the light to the nations. He is the One long expected in Israel, "anointed . . . with the Holy Spirit and power."

The word messiah means "one anointed" with God's Spirit. King David was "the anointed of the God of Jacob" (2 Sam 23:1-17; Ps 18:51; 132:10, 17). The prophets taught Israel to await a royal offshoot of David, upon whom the Spirit would rest (Isa 11:1-2; Dan 9:25). That is why the crowds are so anxious, but it isn't John they are looking for. God confirms with His own voice what the angel earlier told Mary: Jesus is the Son of the Most High, come to claim the throne of David forever (Lk 1:32-33).

In Baptism God has sanctified the waters and made them a passageway to healing and freedom-- a fountain of new birth and everlasting life.

Dr. Scott Hahn

FAMILY PERSPECTIVE Bud Ozar

Jesus was publicly Affirmed by His Father: "You are My beloved Son, with You I am very pleased." As parents we can become SO focused on misbehaviors, we overlook the good behaviors. Jesus needed Affirmation and so do our children.