The Baptism of the Lord ~ January 12, 2020

Please pray for the souls of
Loretta Smith, Nancy Condon, & Alma Deluise.
May they rest in the peace of our Lord.

⇒ March for Life on the 24th!

1/23 bus stops*: Sacred Heart, Stamford – noon
Hamden Town Hall – 12:40 pm
St. John the Baptist – 1 pm

* There is another bus with pick-up at 11:30 pm at St. Paul in Hancock. Call: 637.2517.

K(night) accommodation: Forestville, Maryland

1/24: breakfast with the Knights (providing us with bag lunches). Drop off near National Mall.

There will be an opportunity to attend numerous activities near the Mall before the March. We usually finish around 3 pm, board the bus, stop for dinner, and arrive back late Friday night. Bus tickets: $73 ($50 for youth -- benevolence of Coalition for Life). Tickets/info: 652.7170, x102.

Your Help is Needed

Please consider volunteering for one of our Church ministries: lector, altar server, money counter, environmental, sacristan, Eucharistic minister, usher, catechist or aide. Training provided. The ministries at our three churches are in urgent need of more hands to help out with our Masses, faith formation program, and church liturgical season set ups.

Justice Series on Wednesday

Start the new year off learning about Catholic justice by joining the on-going series this Wednesday, January 15, at 7 pm with Rick Howard, Esq. in Father Willis Hall.

Caring for the Sick

Is there a Catholic friend, neighbor, or relative, who is homebound, in the hospital, or nursing home? Call the office or leave a message on the Pastoral Care line, 865.7394 dialing extension 207. A care minister will be in touch.

The Baptism of the Lord

Why did Jesus, the Sinless One, submit Himself to John's baptism of repentance? At His baptism, Jesus accepted His mission as God's suffering servant on behalf of all sinful men and women. By submitting humbly to John's baptism, Jesus gave us a foreshadowing of the "baptism" of His bloody death on the cross, where out of love He gave His life for the remission of our sins. Because Jesus humbled Himself so completely, His Father proclaimed how delighted He was in Him.

The Holy Spirit, too, was present, anointing Jesus for the work He was about to begin. At His baptism, Jesus became the source of the Spirit for all who would believe in Him. The heavens were opened, the Spirit fell, and a new creation was inaugurated. Patricia Mitchell

Keeping Our Community

In 2018, Catholic Charities provided just over $37,000 in heating assistance to 125 households which otherwise would have been left out in the cold by providing these families and individuals with one-time heating/utility assistance where there was no other help available. Catholic Charities is conducting a fundraising campaign entitled *"Keeping Our Community Warm one Brick at A Time"*. We are selling paper bricks for a fireplace, which will be displayed in the front window of the Oneonta Catholic Charities office.

We are asking community members to consider sponsoring this fundraiser by purchasing a brick for the fireplace, at a cost of $25 per brick. 100% of the money raised will be used in our local community to help keep children, seniors, and adults warm this winter. Bricks can be purchased at the Oneonta office at 176 Main Street or you can mail a check to Catholic Charities, 176 Main Street, Oneonta, NY 13820. Thank you for your kind consideration.

Parenting Pointers — Susan Vogt

Often people are baptized as infants. If so, tell your child about their baptism day.

Marriage Moments — Susan Vogt

Affairs usually start with friendships. You start by sharing your problems with each other. As the friendship deepens you start giving each other mutual support and encouragement - - especially about your unmet needs. That may evolve into an attraction, like a powerful magnet. Let your "friend" be your spouse.

Learn More about Catholicism

If you want to learn more about our faith, would like to become a Catholic, or maybe you did not receive one of the sacraments, call the office or speak to Deacon Freeman about an upcoming RCIA class.

Family Perspective — Bud Ozar

The words in the Gospel, *"This is my beloved, with Him I am pleased,"* are words every child need to hear …. often. Affirmation is important to raise happy and confident children.

The Bible & Your Finances

Use biblical wisdom to take control of your money with Financial Peace University (FPU)! This nine-lesson course uses biblical wisdom and common sense to help you tackle budgeting, pay off debt, and make your $ work for you. The $99 fee includes your workbook and a year of free online resources.

A local FPU class will be held at the Hamden Town Hall starting Thursday, January 16, at 6 pm. You are welcome to come to the first class to check it out, no obligation or need to register! Sign up at **fpu.com/1107942** or contact the coordinator, Jill Ogden, at 267.0313.

Dominican Retreat Center *518.393.4169*

January 17-19 -- Silent Weekend Directed Retreat. $205
An opportunity to spend time with God in silence and solitude!

Discernment in our Diocese

Do you think God may be calling you to the religious life- -a life of love and service through the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience? Would you like to learn more about such a life?

There are approximately 18 communities of religious sisters who live and serve in our Diocese, and all are in need of vocation. If you would like to learn more about the religious life, please contact Sister Laurie-Marie at lauriemarie.parisi@rcda.org or give her a call at 518.453.6690 for more information.

The Six-Month Discernment Challenge

Make a Commitment: It takes time to discern well. Consider setting aside six months (even a year) to focus explicitly on your vocational discernment.

Develop Your Prayer Life: Discernment flows out of your relationship with God, so commit to Mass, frequent Confession, adoration, and personal prayer time, including silence, praying with the Scriptures, and Marian Consecration.

Seek Accompaniment: Don't make the journey alone -- find a good spiritual director.

Don't Date and Discern: Discern marriage and religious life separately. Let the discernment of each vocation have its time and place.

Start Visiting: Narrow down the search. Pick a few communities that you are attracted to, make contact, and schedule a visit -- sooner rather than later.

Look for Confirmations of the Call: As you grow in clarity about your call, your heart will provide confirmations in the form of peace and joy. The community, your spiritual director, and those who know you best will also be sources of confirmation.

Take a Leap of Faith! Some things you can only know for sure by doing. At a certain point, you've got to go for it.

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