



*The Feast of The Baptism of the Lord  
~ January 10, 2021 ~*

*Beloved Son ... After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased. Mt 3: 16-17*

*Sunday (10)*

8:00 AM *Jim Dolak by Frank and Mary Wiedl*

10:00 AM *Sacred Heart Holy Name Society*

*Monday (11)*

7:30 AM *William Stofanek by Son and Family*

*Tuesday (12)*

7:30 AM *Shirley Ackerman by Jane Magdasy*

*Wednesday (13)*

7:30 AM *Michael Resetar by Joann Turocy*

*Thursday (14)*

7:30 AM *Nancy Chickey by Joe and Joy Hughes*

*Friday (15)*

7:30 AM *Fr. Clifton E. Bishop*

*Saturday (16)*

7:30 AM *Kathleen Caragher by Bob and Deb Boyer*

5:00 PM *In Loving Memory of Mary Linsenbigler  
by husband Robert and her Children*

*Sunday (17)*

8:00 AM *John Rotunno by Family*

10:00 AM *Theresa Steigler-Vegh by Sylvia and Mark Hahn*

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Sunday, January 10, Readings:

➤ **First Reading:** Is 55: 1-11... (Called through Baptism)

The "water" stands for Baptism but also for the word of God. Both will give us strength to keep moving, especially if we make use of daily Bible readings.

➤ **Responsorial Psalm:** Is 12... (Sing for Joy)

"You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation."

➤ **Second Reading:** 1 Jn 5: 1-9... (Born of God)

At baptism we had the love of God placed in us as in a seed, and it bore fruit both vertically and horizontally toward God and neighbor. If we practice our faith by keeping the commandments, we end up victors over the world.

➤ **Gospel:** Mk 1: 7-11... (Beloved Son)

The Spirit of God is seen coming upon Christ. The words of Isaiah are beginning to be fulfilled.

▶ (11) **Monday:** Weekday

- Heb 1: 1-6... God spoke to us through the Son.
- Ps 97: 1, 2b, 6, 7c, 9... Let all the angels worship him.
- Mk 1: 14-20... Repent and believe in the Gospel.

▶ (12) **Tuesday:** Weekday

- Heb 2: 5-12... He made the one who leads them to their salvation perfect through suffering.
- Ps 8: 2ab, 5-9... You have given your Son rule over the works of your hands.
- Mk 1: 21-28... Jesus taught them as one having authority.

▶ (13) **Wednesday:** Weekday; *St. Hilary, Bishop, Doctor of the Church*

- Heb 2: 14-18... He had to become like his brothers and sisters in every way, that he might be merciful.
- Ps 105: 1-4, 6-9... The Lord remembers his covenant forever.
- Mk 1: 29-39... Jesus cured many who were sick with various diseases.

▶ (14) **Thursday:** Weekday

- Heb 3: 7-14... Encourage yourselves daily while it is still "today."
- Ps 95: 6-7c, 8-11... If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.
- Mk 1: 40-45... The leprosy left him, and he was made clean.

▶ (15) **Friday:** Weekday

- Heb 4: 1-5, 11... Let us strive to enter that rest.
- Ps 78: 3, 4bc, 6c-8... Do not forget the works of the Lord.
- Mk 2: 1-12... The Son of Man has authority to forgive sins on earth.

▶ (16) **Saturday:** *BVM on Saturday*

- Heb 4: 12-16... Let us confidently approach the throne of grace.
- Ps 19: 8-10, 15... Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life.
- Mk 2: 13-17... I did not come to call the righteous but sinners.

**Diocesan Victim Assistance Co-ordinator:**

Ms. Wendy S. Krisak M.A., NCC, LPC;  
Direct Telephone: 1-800-791-9209

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**Office of Safe Environment:** Pamela J. Russo, MSW, MS;

Secretary, Youth Protection and Catholic Human Services;  
P.O. Box F; Allentown, PA 18105-1538;  
610-871-5200, Ext. 2204; (Fax): 610-871-5211; Email: [prusso@allentowndiocese.org](mailto:prusso@allentowndiocese.org)

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**Diocese of Allentown Protection of Youth Policy:**

[www.allentowndiocese.org](http://www.allentowndiocese.org)

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**Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service:**

If you have an allegation of abuse against a bishop, please contact the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service at [www.ReportBishopAbuse.org](http://www.ReportBishopAbuse.org) or by calling 1-800-276-1562.

*God indeed is my savior;  
I am confident and unafraid.  
My strength and my courage is the Lord,  
and he has been my savior.  
With joy you will draw water  
at the fountain of salvation.*

Is 12

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**Act of Spiritual Communion**

*My Jesus, I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though You have already come, I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You; never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.*



*When you can't make it to Mass and are stuck at home, send your guardian angel to Church to intercede for you!*

O HOLY ANGEL at my side, go to Church for me. Kneel in my place, at Holy Mass, where I desire to be. At Offertory, in my stead, take all I am and own, and place it as a sacrifice upon the Altar Throne. At Holy Consecration's Bell, adore with Seraph's love, my Jesus hidden in the Host, come down from Heaven above. Then pray for those I dearly love, and those who cause me grief, that Jesus' Blood may cleanse all hearts, and suffering souls relieve. When the priest Communion takes, bring my Lord to me, that His sweet Heart may rest on mine, and I His temple be. Pray that this Sacrifice Divine, may mankind's sins efface; then bring me Jesus' blessing home, the pledge of every grace. Amen.

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► *Holy Hour... Beginning Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, and every last Sunday of the month there after, a Holy Hour will be held following the 10:00 AM Mass.*

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**Sacred Heart Church Rectory Office... Due to COVID-19, access to the rectory office will be extremely limited!**

► *As much as possible, business will be conducted by phone, email,*

*and US mail. For all necessary secretarial business available via phone, email, US mail:*

- Mass Intentions
- Memorials
- Sanctuary Candles
- Sponsor Forms
- Sacramental Records
- Contribution Information
- Bulletin Information to Add/Delete

- 1) Phone: 610-865-5042 ext. 2 or
- 2) Email: [sacredheartrectory1936@gmail.com](mailto:sacredheartrectory1936@gmail.com) or
- 3) US mail: Sacred Heart Church Rectory  
1817 First St.  
Bethlehem PA, 18020

Joanne will be in the office Tuesdays and Fridays from 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM, to answer the phone, return phone calls and respond to emails.

● **Please DO NOT come to the rectory unless you first call and speak to someone. Most business transactions will not require anyone to enter the rectory!**

► Drop-off and pick-up of items will be done with non-contact at the rectory front door.

➤ *Sunday Bulletins* are now available before/after Saturday/Sunday Mass in the Church vestibules.

➤ The *Sunday Bulletin* has also been available on the parish webpage:

[www.sacredheartbethlehem.com](http://www.sacredheartbethlehem.com)

Father Bob can be reached at:  
[sacredheartbethlehem@gmail.com](mailto:sacredheartbethlehem@gmail.com)



Today, as we celebrate the *Feast of the Baptism of Jesus*, we are remembering that Jesus is not simply a person who is being baptized by John the Baptist; he is also the only-begotten Son of God.

*"Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near."* (Is 55:6)

These words from the second part of the Book of Isaiah ring out on this Sunday that ends the Christmas season. They are an invitation to go more deeply into the meaning for us of today's *Feast, the Baptism of the Lord*.

In spirit let us return to the banks of the Jordan where John the Baptist administered a Baptism of repentance, exhorting to conversion. Coming up to the Precursor is Jesus, and with his presence he transformed that gesture of repentance into a solemn manifestation of his divinity.

A voice suddenly comes from heaven: *"You are my beloved Son; in you I am well pleased"* (Mk 1:11) and, in the form of a dove, the Spirit descends upon Jesus.

In that extraordinary event John saw, he realized what had been said about the Messiah born in Bethlehem, adored by the shepherds and the Magi— was the very One foretold by the prophets, the beloved Son of the Father. We must seek him while he can be found and call upon him while he is at hand.

In Baptism, every Christian personally meets him; he is inserted into the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection and receives a new life, which is the life of God.

The liturgy today invites us to draw water *"with joy at the fountain of salvation"* (Is 12: 3), it exhorts us to relive our Baptism, giving thanks for the great gifts received.

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***Give thanks to the Lord,  
acclaim his name;  
among the nations  
make known his deeds,  
proclaim how exalted  
is his name.***

Is 12

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***Please pray for our sick, for all those homebound, in the hospital or nursing homes and especially those who care for them. We also ask prayers for those not listed and those we are not aware of that are ill.***

Donna Miller, Joan Szemenyei, Joseph Ludrof, Susan G. Tinschmidt, David Cap, Lisa Dreher, A.J. Shuck, M. and D. Shuck, J.A. Rutkowski, Anthony Viera, Bev Russell, Hank Straub, Albina DaSilva, Andrew Filbert, Christopher Brennan, Bill White, Jessica Hewitt, Joan Raymond, John and Charlotte Rzepiela, Lori Watts, Jacob Jarvis, James and Janet DeVaney, Beth Coleman, Mary Saraceno-Wright, Dorothea Saraceno-Atherholt, Mary Lou Schuler, Joe Field, Louis A. Gray, Gail Schneider, Molly Weidemoyer, James Lankford, Karen Hegedus, Patrick McBride, Jane Schreiber, Ron Rutkowski, Jamie Heston, Terry Macripo, Patrice Schwartzman, Leona Oberholtzer, Colleen Pinzon, Sanford Kravett, Jack Herczeg, Grandson, Sheri Radzelovage, Janet Zambo, Loretta Scurato, Theresa Mitchell, Emerson Davenport, Gina Teel, Nonna Frances, Charlotte Gazzana, Russell Gazzana, Rebecca Wasniewski, Larry Muzyka, Teresa Yatko, Pat Warminsky, Carmela Azzolina, JoAnn Connors, Frank Donchez, Carol Jacob, Manny Martinez, Ann Lester, Dorothy Fekula, Irene Nagy, Jackie Swartley, Bobby Ricks, George Treisner, Paul Micci, Janice Mitchell, John Witmer, Neal McNulty, Marion Gombocz, William Balliet, Lorraine Parton, Michael Stern, III, Eileen J. Kokosky, T. & E. Moskella, Julius Balogh, Kevin Jung, Al Nuckols, Gloria Negrete, Anna Mae Stern, Josephine Snow



*"A time of war, and a time of peace":* We pray for those that serve in our military: Michael O'Donnell; Jarrett Buchanan; Blair Holva; Nick Massari; John Flannigan; Joe Owens; Rob McGuire; Joseph Salmento; David Principato; David Colarusso, Jr.; Paul

K. Browne, II; Anthony T. Browne; LCpl Timothy F. Cassidy; Mark McNulty, Jr.; Master Sgt. Scotty W. Hasencz; Josh Brueningen; Sgt. Jared Steirer; Senior Chief Ian Hudak

*Remember our Soldiers that can't be home for the holidays... the Best Gift is Prayer:* Lord God, Almighty Father, thank you for the men and women that protect this nation! Father, as they protect us, protect them as well! Lord, you know where they will be today and I pray that You will be there with them to guide them through whatever challenges and trials they face this day. May they ever experience your firm support, gentle love and compassionate healing. Be their power and protector, leading them from darkness to light. To you be all glory, honor and praise, now and forever. Amen.

*Home of the Free because of the Brave... Thank you!!*

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*A Prayer During Coronavirus Pandemic...* Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages "curing every disease and illness." At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love. Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their

strength and health through quality medical care. Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another. Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

Jesus Christ, healer of all, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow. Be with those who have died from the virus. May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace. Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. May they know your peace!

Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection and peace!

Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks. May they know your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth.

Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give us your peace. Jesus Christ heal us. Amen!

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*Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel.* Saint Michael, the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray; and do Thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.



The Christmas Season, already a time of great hope and joy, was also the setting for another joyous event when the newest priest in the Diocese of Allentown was ordained. Rev. Mr. Juan E. Rodriguez was ordained to the Sacred Order of the Priesthood by Bishop Alfred Schlert in a special Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Catharine of Siena, Allentown, on Wednesday, January 6. The date of the Ordination, January 6, is the universal date of the Feast of the Epiphany. (In the United States, the celebration is transferred to a Sunday, and it was celebrated January 3.)

*Father Juan Eduardo Rodríguez:* Thank you for saying "Yes" to God's calling! May the Lord bless you as you follow in His way. May you find joy and peace as He inspires you each day.

*"Make known to me your ways, Lord; teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my savior. For you I wait all the long day, because of your goodness, Lord."* Psalm 25: 4-5

O Jesus, our great High Priest, hear our humble prayers on behalf of your priests. Give them a deep faith, a bright and firm hope, and a burning love which will ever increase in the course of their priestly lives. In their loneliness, comfort them; in their sorrows, strengthen them; in their frustrations, point out to them that it is through suffering that the soul is purified. Show them that they are needed by the Church, they are needed by souls, they are needed for the work of redemption.

O loving Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Priests, take to your heart your sons who are close to you because of their priestly ordinations, and because of the power which they have received to carry on the work of Christ in a world which needs them so much. Be their comfort, be their joy, be their strength, and especially help them to live and to defend the ideals of consecrated celibacy. Amen.

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*Mary Undoer of Knots  
~ Pray for Us ~*



Mother of fair love, I look to you. Take into your hands the ribbon of my life and see the snarl of knots that keeps me bound to sin, anxiety, and hopelessness. I beg you, Mother, by your powerful intercession, and loving fingers of love and grace, undo the knots in my heart and in my life. Free me to love as Christ loves. Amen.

*Prayer for More Vocations*

O Holy Spirit, Spirit of wisdom and divine love, impart your knowledge, understanding, and counsel to youth that they may know the vocation wherein they can best serve God. Give them courage and strength to follow God's holy will. Guide their uncertain steps, strengthen their resolutions, shield their chastity, fashion their minds, conquer their hearts, and lead them to the vineyards where they will labor in God's holy service. Amen.





**Sanctuary Lights...** Candles can be lit for 7 days (Saturday to Saturday) on the High Altar of the Tabernacle, Blessed Mother Altar, St. Joseph Altar, St. Anthony, St. Jude, and Sacred Heart of Jesus. The Sanctuary Candles can be lit for any intention, death remembrance or anniversary, birthday, wedding anniversary, thanksgiving for blessings from God, for those who are ill or having surgery, or any special intentions which someone would like special prayers for. To have one of these Sanctuary Lights lit, drop a little note in the collection basket marked "Sanctuary Lights". A donation of \$12.00 is asked. The intention will appear in the bulletin, unless directed not to.

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► **The Gold Wrapping Paper...** Once upon a time, there was a man who worked very hard just to keep food on the table for his family. This particular year a few days before Christmas, he punished his little five-year-old daughter after learning that she had used up the family's only roll of expensive gold wrapping paper.

As money was tight, he became even more upset when on Christmas Eve he saw that the child had used all of the expensive gold paper to decorate one shoebox she had put under the Christmas tree. He also was concerned about where she had gotten money to buy what was in the shoebox.

Nevertheless, the next morning the little girl, filled with excitement, brought the gift box to her father and said, "This is for you, Daddy!" As he began to open the box, the father was embarrassed by his earlier overreaction, now regretting how he had punished her.

But, when he opened the shoebox, he found it was empty and again his anger flared. "Don't you know, young lady," he said harshly, "when you give someone a present, there's supposed to be something inside the package!"

The little girl looked up at him with sad tears rolling from her eyes and whispered: "Daddy, it's not empty. I blew kisses into it until it was all full." The father was crushed. He fell on his knees and put his arms around his precious little girl. He begged her to forgive him for his unnecessary anger.

All his life, the father chased materialistic values of the presents, and today he finally received a genuine present. "This is the best gift," he said, hugging his daughter.

► Moral of the story: Presents given with love, no matter how small, are always better than materialist presents.

**Prayer for Our Priests**

Eternal God, please bless our priests, who represent you on this earth. Make them more greatly aware of the grace that you pour out through them when they minister the sacraments and help them to fall more deeply in love with you after each and every Mass that they celebrate. Please strengthen our priests, who shepherd your flock, when they are in doubt of their faith, that they may be examples of your Truth and guide us always on the path to you. We ask these things of you our Eternal Priest. Amen.



**Sacred Heart Memorial Society...**

Those who are enrolled in the Memorial Society will have their names written in a special book. The Memorial Book will be on display by the St. Joseph Altar. An intention will also be included in the Sunday petitions for those enrolled in the Memorial Society. All donations from the Sacred Heart Memorial Society will be used for the

purchasing of items needed to celebrate the Sacraments. Suggested offering: \$20.

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*"You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."*



Thank you, to everyone for your help, support, and prayers. Whether you are dropping off your donation or mailing them to the rectory:

Sacred Heart Church Rectory  
1817 First Street  
Bethlehem, PA 18020

... or utilizing online giving, any donation is greatly appreciated!

The Diocese of Allentown Office of Temporal Affairs has set up an online giving site for every parish within the Diocese. The URL is:

<https://www.allentowndiocese.org/parish-support>

• If you decide to use it, please make sure you hit:

**Sacred Heart – Bethlehem**

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**The Fourth Wise Man**

(Henry Van Dyke – "More Sower's Seeds")

The Gospel does not tell us how many wise men, or magi, journeyed to Bethlehem following the star. Popular tradition holds that there were three—Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. But there is also a tradition of a fourth wise man, named Artaban.

As Artaban prepared to set out and follow the star, he took with him a sapphire, a ruby and a pearl of great price as gifts for the newborn King, wherever He is to be found.

On his way to join the other wise men, Artaban stopped to care for a sick traveler. If he stayed, however, to help he would miss the rendezvous with his friends. He stayed, and the delay was just enough to make him late for the departure of the caravan. Now Artaban was alone, and he needed transportation and supplies to cross the desert. So he sold the sapphire to purchase camels and supplies. He was saddened because the King would never have this precious gem.

Artaban journeyed onward and reached Bethlehem, but again he was too late. There were soldiers everywhere to carry out Herod's command that the male children should be slain. Artaban, therefore, took out the brilliant ruby to bribe the captain and save the children in the village in which he was staying. Children were saved, mothers rejoiced; but the ruby, also, would not reach the King.

For 33 years Artaban searched in vain, and finally found his way to Jerusalem on the day several crucifixions were to take place. Artaban hurried towards Calvary in order to bribe the Roman guard with the precious pearl and save the man called Jesus. Something told him that this was the King of Kings for whom he had been searching all his life.

Just then, a young woman being dragged along the street toward the slave market, called out to Artaban pleading for help. With only a slight hesitation, he gave the last jewel, the pearl of great price, for her ransom. Now Artaban had none of the precious gems he was going to present to the King.

Reaching the place where the crucifixions were to occur, he was heartbroken when he saw that he could do nothing to help Jesus. But then something remarkable happened. Jesus looked over toward Artaban and said to him:

"Don't be brokenhearted, Artaban.  
You've been helping me all your life.  
When I was hungry, you gave me food,  
when I was thirsty, you gave me drink,  
when I was naked, you clothed me,  
when I was a stranger, you took me in."

Some say Artaban never found Christ. Others say he was the wisest of the wise men.

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► **St. Francis Retreat House** (3918 Chipman Road, Easton, PA 18045 / 610-258-3053) ... January 25: Robert J. Barber, BA Studio Art and BA Fine Art: "Painting with the Eyes of Faith" Plein air painter Robert J. Barber has nicknamed painting outside: "listening to the love sonnets of God, and humming along." Come and see many oil paintings directly and indirectly inspired by our Faith and hear some of Robert's stories of their creation and inspirations.