

**January 13, 2018**  
**The Baptism of The Lord**

<u><b>MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK</b></u>				<u><b>Weekday Readings</b></u>
Mon	Jan 14		No Scheduled Mass	Heb 1: 1-6/Mk 1: 14-20
Tue	Jan 15	(SN) 8:00am	Laurene Halm/Exposition Closing 4pm	Heb 2: 5-12/Mk 1: 21-28
Wed	Jan 16	(HF) 8:00am	Tom & Ruth Lammers/Norm & Donna Recker/ Exposition Closing 8pm	Heb 2: 14-18/Mk 1: 29-39
Thu	Jan 17	(HF) 6:30pm	Rita J. Singler	Heb 3: 7-14/Mk 1: 40-45
Fri	Jan 18	(SN) 8:00am	Marilyn Frederick	Heb 4: 1-5, 11/Mk 2: 1-12
Sat	Jan 19	(SN) 4:00pm	Charlie, Jerry & Amber Pester/Joseph & Mary Motycka	
Sat	Jan 19	(HF) 7:00pm	Liv & Dec'd Gerten-Recker families Larry & Maryann Siebeneck	<u><b>Sunday Readings</b></u>
Sun	Jan 20	(HF) 8:30am	For the Parish	Is 62: 1-5/1Cor 12: 4-11/ Jn 2: 1-11
Sun	Jan 20	(HF) 9:30am	Eucharistic Exposition for Life/3pm Benediction	
Sun	Jan 20	(SN) 10:30am	For the Parish	

*From the Pastor's Desk*

Dear Parishioners,

Like the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord last Sunday, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord this weekend expresses further God's manifestation or revelation in our human life. The fact that Jesus stood in line to be baptized at the Jordan River and followed the protocol of other believing people reveals to us that God desired to share everything in common with the human race. The God we profess is not distant from us, but desires to share life with us. In this way, Jesus' witness of obedience to the will of the Father and at the same time sharing in our human condition and emotion makes Jesus truly the Savior of the world.

Of the seven sacraments we celebrate as Catholic Christians, Baptism sets the course for our journey to eternity. In fact, the ritual protocol during the baptismal rite itself offers us a touchstone of symbolic meaning where we spiritually find ourselves "dying and rising" with the Lord. In the early Christian Church, baptisms were performed by immersion, that is, where the one being baptized was submerged head to toe in a baptismal pool in the ground. It was literally an experience close to death as the one baptizing would keep the candidate's head held under water with the accompanying words, "I baptize you, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit". Regardless of our age at the moment of baptism, our souls are purified in this ritual bath when the names of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are invoked. The ritual anointings seal the grace offered to us in baptism. Added signs of the unique relationship God has with us at baptism are expressed in the vesting of the baptismal garment and the lighting of the baptismal candle from the Easter Candle. All of these sacramental expressions tell the story of how God intends to save us. Imagine the power of these sacramental signs over time. To think that we perform the same ritual formularies that our ancestors have performed since the time of the apostles likewise says something special about our faith.

Most importantly, our Baptism calls and empowers us to an active witness of faith. It's not enough only to go through the ritual motions and say we belong to a religious denomination. What Baptism really does for us is charge us and motivate us to live the faith entrusted to us. That is to say we follow the way of Jesus from the banks of the Jordan River uniting our own baptism with his in service of others. Like Jesus, we are charged to bring mercy, charity, hope and love to those around us. We do that in many ways.

One of my greatest joys as a priest is to baptize new members into a family of faith. Of late, we have had a number of baptisms in our parishes. To me, this is a sign of life to our communities and a sacred charge given to all of us, parents, godparents, parishioners and pastor to nurture the precious gift of life in our midst. God bless you all these winter days.

*Monsignor Singler*

**WEEKLY OFFERINGS**

**January 5 & 6, 2019**

<b>St. Nicholas:</b>	<b>Holy Family:</b>
Regular: \$6,790.00	Regular: \$3,210.00
Fuel: 250.00	Fuel: 306.00
Christmas: 600.00	
Holy Day: 55.00	Holy Day: 20.00
<b>Total: \$7,695.00</b>	<b>Total: \$3,536.00</b>

**TOTAL CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS TO DATE**

**St. Nicholas \$10,994.00    Holy Family: \$8,781.98**

*Thank you for your generosity and support of our parishes.*

**CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY REPRISE**

**St. Nicholas Rectory will again be available for an Open House review of holiday decorations today, Sunday, January 13, between the hours of 2:00PM and 4:00PM for those who were unable to attend the pre-Christmas Open House on December 16.**

### CHRISTIAN FORMATION/YOUTH GROUP

All Junior High Christian Formation students meet this Wednesday, January 16. Be reminded that there will be a prayer service/gathering, including lunch, for 8<sup>th</sup> graders and their Confirmation sponsors on January 20 at St. Nicholas following 10:30 AM Mass. Please let Deb Wehri know how many will be attending by Jan. 16.

All Junior High students received registration and medical release forms this past Wednesday for the junior high gathering on January 27 at St. John, Glandorf. Please return forms and fee within the next two weeks for the discounted price of \$7.

Freshmen and Sophomores meet today, Sunday, January 13. There are no classes next Sunday for high school students.

The Youth Group's annual Soup Supper is next Saturday, January 19, serving from 4:00-6:30pm at the SN Parish Center Hall. There will be six varieties of soup, three varieties of homemade bread, and a generous dessert bar. Please mark your calendars and invite your family and friends. Take out will be available. Cost is by donation which supports Youth Group activities.

Submarine sandwich order forms for February 3 have gone out; forms are also available on our parish website. Deadline to order is January 22.

Youth Group meeting is today, Sunday, January 13 at the SN Parish Center Hall from 6:00-7:30pm. All high school youth are welcome! I Am Catholic meets January 27 at the Parish Center at 6:00pm.

Congratulations to Junior High Students for having perfect attendance last Wednesday evening!

### ASKING FOR YOUR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO PROTECT HUMAN LIFE

**Our friends at Putnam County Right to Life are inviting Holy Family and St. Nicholas Parishes to assist their good work with a collection of funds to share in their important work promoting the cause of human life and its protection. Collection envelopes are available in the pews of our churches this weekend. Free will offerings will be accepted this weekend, January 12 & 13, and next weekend, January 19 & 20. Simply place your cash or check donation to Putnam County Right to Life in the designated envelope and drop in the offertory collection. Monies generated from this special collection will be forwarded directly to Putnam County Right to Life. Thank you for your generosity and love for life!**

Putnam County Right to Life will be hosting a Rally for Life next Sunday, January 20 at 2:00 pm at the American Legion Hall in Ottawa. A representative from Heartbeat will be speaking on the new office in our county. Come for pro-life inspiration. Also, our annual Garage and Bake Sale will held on Wednesday, March 27 & Thursday, March 28 with setup on Tuesday, March 26. All gently used items will be accepted.

DYNAMIC CATHOLIC Books and Audio Books entitled *The Seven Levels of Intimacy* by Matthew Kelly have been placed at entrances of St. Nicholas and Holy Family Churches. They are yours to keep or to pass on. Any questions contact Julie Barlage at [julie@tawamulch.com](mailto:julie@tawamulch.com) or 419-303-5366.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter celebrates World Marriage Day, Sunday, February 10, 2019. All "encountered" couples are invited to attend the celebration hosted by Sts. Peter & Paul, Parish, Ottawa. Mass will be celebrated at 3:00pm at St. Peter & Paul with a dinner and dance to follow from 4:30-8:00pm at the Ottawa K of C Hall. Pre-sale tickets are \$30 per couple. For tickets, contact Harold & Mary



Jane Kaufman, 419-876-3541 or Jeff & Beth Steffan, 419-615-5258 by January 28, 2019. Anyone wishing to donate a door prize can bring the items the night of the celebration.

### EUCHARISTIC EXPOSITION FOR LIFE

Join the parish communities of Holy Family and St. Nicholas for two scheduled events of Eucharistic Exposition in solidarity with those attending the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. Holy Family Church will be the site next Sunday, January 20 for an extended period of Eucharistic Exposition which will begin at the conclusion of the 8:30AM Lord's Day Mass and will conclude with a service of Benediction at 3:00PM. A sign-up sheet has been placed in both parish churches for those who will serve as an honor guard during the hours of Exposition.

On Tuesday, January 22, the 46<sup>th</sup> anniversary date of the U.S. Supreme Court decision to legalize abortion in our country, St. Nicholas Church will be the site for a day long Eucharistic Exposition for Life which will begin at the conclusion of the 8:00AM Daily Mass and conclude with a service of Benediction at 4:00PM. Save these dates and plan to attend either or both of these scheduled events to lend your voice in prayer to God to end all abortions in our country and in the world.

9 Days for Life. Join thousands of Catholics nationwide in the annual pro-life novena, *9 Days for Life*, Monday, January 14 – Tuesday, January 22. Pray



for the respect of all human life with daily intentions, brief reflections, and more. Download a free mobile app, or sign up to receive the novena through daily emails or text message. (A printable version is also available online.) Sign up at [www.9daysforlife.com](http://www.9daysforlife.com)!

BULLETIN SPONSOR OF THE WEEK: KUHLMAN'S BODY SHOP & AUTO SALES: We supply complete bumper to bumper auto body repair, mechanical and brake work, tire sales and wrecker service. Call Greg or Jeff at the shop at 419-943-3374 for a free estimate or for more information.