

# The Baptism of the Lord

Parish Update: January 11, 2026



*"The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard; this is my Son, the beloved; listen to him!"*  
(Mark 9.7)

## CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK JANUARY 12<sup>TH</sup> TO JANUARY 18<sup>TH</sup>

<b>Monday, 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>St. Marguerite Bourgeoys – Memorial</i>	<i>Office Closed</i>	<i>No Mass</i>
<b>Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Ferial</i>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Holy Souls (N Vendittelli)</b> <b>+Dave Cole (T&amp;K Gerden)</b> <b>+Joseph Vendittelli (N Vendittelli)</b>
<b>Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Ferial</i>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>All Souls in Purgatory (T Miketic)</b>
		<b>9:30-10:30 a.m.</b>	<i>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</i>
<b>Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Ferial</i>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>+Dave Cole (T&amp;K Gerden)</b>
		<b>6:45-8:15 p.m.</b>	<i>Choir Practice, Church</i>
<b>Friday, 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Ferial</i>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>+Debbie Young (Dn M&amp;F Prindiville)</b>
		<b>9:30-10:30 a.m.</b>	<i>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</i>
<b>Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Confession</i>	<b>3:30-4:30 p.m.</b>	<b>+Lucy Cwierniewski (J Kubica)</b>
		<b>5:00 p.m.</b>	
<b>Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>+Joelle Toal (SOTS Choir)</b>
		<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>+Carmen &amp; +Anthony Zahra (Zahra Family)</b>

### From the Pastor's Desk

**Dear Friends:** As we bid farewell to what I hope has been a joyous and reflective Christmas season, I need to express my sincere gratitude for the kind, heartfelt wishes (often communicated on some really beautiful cards!) and generous, thoughtful gifts which I have received from so many. Since you welcomed me nearly 11 years ago, it has been a real privilege to serve this special community of faith. Your fine character as disciples of Christ shines through in so many ways through your acts of service, encouragement of me and one another, your

spirit of openness to the ways in which I try to share my faith and pass on what I have received through study and prayer, and your generous sharing of the resources entrusted to you for the glory of God and the support of our ministry. Indeed, so very much for which to give thanks!

Just recently, our diocese hosted the first annual Bishop's Gala to launch an annual campaign in support of new diocesan initiatives in the areas of evangelization and life in Christ. As you may recall reading in last month's Parish Newsletter, the results of the Parish Missional Survey in which everyone was invited to participate earlier in 2025, had finally been released for all to see and consider how well we as a parish have been fulfilling our mission. As part of my analysis of these results, I noted that the current cultural milieu with its characteristic secular bent, has contributed to a decline in church attendance. At the same time, the ability of families to support the faith development of their children through shared mealtime and cohesiveness has steadily waned. The traditional role of the Church, which was to reinforce the faith and human formation introduced and nurtured by the family, has come up short in the face of this new reality. While the family would once introduce children to Christ and daily teach what it meant to be a Christian disciple through word and example, the need for the Church (and Catholic school) to do this has dramatically increased. With neither solid transmission of the faith nor a "small Christian community" (Domestic Church) previously provided by families, the Church has recognized the challenge to more effectively evangelize, catechize and accompany individuals than ever before. Trained staff who can implement programs and processes which are systematic and sound and which have met with success elsewhere are being introduced beginning at the diocesan level. This is a tremendous development, but it would be largely ineffective if these initiatives did not affect the people in our parishes, which is where frontlines ministry takes place. As Baptized members of the Body of Christ, it has always been our privilege and responsibility to share the Good News in so many ways, passing it along in particular to our own children. I recently saw on Instagram a moving video clip speaking of how the most important thing for most every parent as they age is to see their children doing well and living good, productive, loving and happy lives. When I scrolled through the comments, I was edified to see just how many named a lifelong relationship with Christ as their primary wish for their children. Some in fact, said quite simply, that their children's lives, no matter how happy they appeared, would not be entirely complete if they no longer had a relationship with Jesus. A life yoked with Christ was seen as the most desirable result of their years of work, prayer and sacrifice for the children they were given to shape. Let's speak more about this in the coming weeks. *Fr. Richard*

### Pope's Prayer Intention for the Month of January

For prayer with the Word of God:  
Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

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**2026 Offertory Envelopes** – If you haven't picked yours up, please check the main entrance of the church. **ALL OLD** contribution envelopes need to be **RECYCLED** as that number maybe allocated to another member. If you want to start using envelopes in 2026, please contact the parish office to get a box. Clearly print your information on the first couple of envelopes used in 2026. Thank You!

### Automated Fund Transfer (AFT) & E-Transfer

**Contributions** – if you are interested in setting up setting up AFT contributions for the new year. Please see the office for the form. E-Transfers can be made to [starofthesea@saintcd.com](mailto:starofthesea@saintcd.com). Please note all AFT and E-Transfer contribution are appreciated. We thank everyone for their continued support.

**2025 Tax Receipts** – The office will be working on 2025 Tax Receipts next week. They will be available for pickup the first week of February. Please notify the office if you have any questions. Thank you.

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (WPCU), January 18-25, 2026.** Every year, Christians from a different host country choose the theme and provide draft texts for the WPCU, with a final booklet being published in turn by an international writing team jointly appointed by the [Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity](#) and the [Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches](#). **This resource may be used to promote prayer for unity in your parish and is available on the WPCU website: - in English: [2026 WPCU Resources – Week of Prayer for Christian Unity](#) - in French: [Ressources pour la SPUC 2026 – Semaine de prière pour l'unité des chrétiens](#)**

**Coldest Night of the Year** – February 28, 2026, You're invited to take part in the Coldest Night of the Year, a winter walk in support of people in our community who are experiencing homelessness, hunger, and hurt. This event brings people together to walk, learn, and raise funds that support local care and outreach. New in 2026: The St. Catharines walk will start and finish at the Niagara Pen Centre, offering both the traditional outdoor lived-experience walk and an indoor route for participants with mobility needs. See the poster on the community board for details. Register a team and join in making a meaningful impact on the coldest night of the year.

**World Day of Marriage** – Sunday, February 8, 2026, at 3:00pm. The Annual Mass of Thanksgiving with Bishop Gerard Bergie at the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria (Corner of Church and Lyman Streets, St. Catharines, ON) Celebrating All Married Couples especially those with significant 2026 Anniversaries. Reception to Follow. No registration needed. All are welcome.

**PRAYER ANGELS** Our ministry is set up to pray for the parish's intentions. Please send by email or phone your concerns or cares and they will be passed on to the members of this group who will daily offer up your intentions to the Lord. Prayer is powerful. Let us help ease your

troubles or shower the Lord with praises. Please call or email Marg 289-214-6679 [mgmartin113@gmail.com](mailto:mgmartin113@gmail.com)

*'He who prays most receives most.'*  
*St. Alphonsus Maria de Liguori*



**CWL CORNER**  
(Catholic Women's League)  
"Blessed are the Poor"

**E-transfer payments** for CWL may be made to [cwlstarofthesea@gmail.com](mailto:cwlstarofthesea@gmail.com). Please remember to indicate which event in the subject line.



With this new year, the CWL National President, Betty Colaneri from Niagara, has shared the new logo for 2026-2027. The large heart symbolizing the Sacred Heart of Jesus with the crown of thorns reminds us that we have been saved by Jesus' Passion. The white colour symbolizes the Holy Spirit coming down from heaven to set the heart on fire. The red and white colours together symbolize the Divine Mercy. The crown of thorns on the right serves as a reminder of Jesus' Passion and ultimate sacrifice. The smaller heart inside the large heart symbolizes members' hearts, enflamed by the gift of the Holy Spirit. Jesus surrounds and protects us with His own heart. The national theme is "Blessed are the Poor" which is closely connected to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. His ministry included a special focus on the poor and marginalized, revealing God's compassionate care for those in need.

Our Star of the Sea CWL Council has always made service to the poor and marginalized our mission, and we pledge to honour this new theme. Won't you join us in this quest?

**Memberships** are now being accepted via e-transfer at [cwlstarofthesea@gmail.com](mailto:cwlstarofthesea@gmail.com) or by depositing \$40 in the collection basket. Please include your contact information including your email.



Jan. 17 / 18	5 P.M.	9 A.M.	11 A.M.
<b>Ministers of Holy Communion</b>	N Linkson	J Bayza	Dn Maurice
<b>Lector</b>	R Jesik	G Rego	K Shakespeare-Eckstein
<b>Hospitality Ministers</b>	M Ford P Waters C Tracey	Zacharchuk Family	H Green M Mouradikian G LaRoche

### WEEKLY COLLECTION CONTRIBUTIONS:

January 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026

	Jan. 1 <sup>st</sup>	Jan. 4 <sup>th</sup>
Parishioner Envelopes	\$ 480.00	\$ 4,949.00
Loose Collection CAD	\$ 180.00	\$ 438.00
Christmas	\$ 120.00	\$ 360.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$ 1,434.00	\$ 225.00
Initial Offering	\$ 340.00	\$ 440.00
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>\$ 2,554.00</b>	<b>\$ 6,412.00</b>
<b>Our Special Needs</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 595.00</b>

*Thank you*  
MAY GOD BLESS YOU