

WORD FOR THOUGHT

We baptized are public people. We baptized are acknowledged members of a community, and we are called to play our parts, to take responsibility for the good of all. We cannot point our fingers and whine and complain and accuse “them.” There is no “them” among the baptized, only “us” and “we.” And together we are called to take responsibility for the work of the community and for each other, even and especially for our leaders. Leaders are like the point in a flying flock of geese. To bear the headwind, they must have the support of the flock. And sometimes they must exchange positions resting for a while on the efforts of others.

Patricia Sanchez



RESPECT LIFE CORNER

Thus says the Lord; all you are thirsty, come to the water.” In Isaiah 55, we receive an invitation to receive the fullness of God’s love that He has for each of us. God asks for one thing: for us to listen to Him. “Come to me heedfully, listen, that you may have life.” The invitation to come to the water represents the fullness of life that God promises. The water also represents the water of baptism that frees us from original sin. Once things return to normal, we will be able to make the sign of the Cross again with Holy water that symbolizes our own baptism.

LEARN, ACT, CONNECT AND PRAY: We must understand that God’s ways are not our ways. Listening to Him requires us to prayerfully suspend our human expectations. Through prayer we must discern the seeds that He is planting in the world for us. Those who pray and listen to Him will see the seeds grow and blossom.

ST. ANDREW DINNERS

An opportunity for young men and their parents to meet Bishop McGovern and priests in the diocese to enjoy a meal, pray, discuss priestly vocations and whatever else is on your mind!

January 31st | 4 p.m.

The Undercroft of the Cathedral of St. Peter, Belleville



For more information or to RSVP, contact Rev. Nicholas Junker
618-722-5035 | njunker08@hotmail.com

3-POINT PLAN IN THE NEW YEAR

All Christians are called to holiness “Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect” (Matthew 5:48). There are three tools on which every Catholic can rely to attain greater holiness. **Daily Prayer**-God meets us in a very real and present way when we come to him in prayer. Start in the morning and pray throughout the day. **Mass**-The Mass is a sacrifice and meal. We receive Jesus’ body and blood as real food for our souls. He said, “For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him” (John 6:55-56) that’s why we call it, “Communion.”

Confession-Jesus created the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation because he knew we would stray. He also knew we would want to come back. Participation in this Sacrament sharpens our sense of sin, holds us accountable for our errors, and gives us the grace to keep trying for holiness.

“RACIAL HARMONY PRAYER SERVICE”: You are invited to attend a special Ecumenical Prayer Service for racial harmony in connection with observance of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The service will be held at the Cathedral on Sun., Jan., 17, 2021 at 2:00 PM. Bishop McGovern will deliver the sermon. Since seating will be limited, please contact St. Augustine of Hippo Church at 618-274-0655 to reserve a seat. Event is sponsored by the Diocesan Racial Justice and Equity initiative.”

GIBAULT HIGH SCHOOL

Placement exam for the Class of 2025 is rescheduled for Saturday, January 16th at 8:30am. Please RSVP to Susan Mackin at smackin@gibaulthawks.com.

We are currently offering private tours of our campus and are also scheduling shadow visits. Contact Kelly Day at kday@gibaulthawks.com or 939-3883.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ASSISTANCE-The Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP) Belleville Council’s Night-Time Drop-In Center, which opened one year ago, continues to operate at full capacity every night, helping homeless men, women and children survive freezing temperatures and dangers of the city streets. COVID has provided additional challenges for SVDP staff and volunteers. We humbly ask for your prayers for the Center and its clients and, if you are able, to help provide sack lunch items (individually packaged) for them: cookies, fruit cups, tuna and chicken snack packs, chips, crackers, cheese sticks, yogurt, cereal, Pop Tarts, breakfast bars, soup/pasta in a cup, bottled water. Items can be dropped off at the SVDP office, 8800 West Main Street, Belleville (across the street from Blessed Sacrament Parish). Cash contributions are also appreciated. For additional information contact Joe Hubbard, 394-0126, or Pat Hogrebe, 799-8505. Thank you and God bless you for your generosity which enables this ministry to serve the very poorest among us.

The Baptism of the Lord

First Reading

Is 55:1-11

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

Thus says the LORD: All you who are thirsty, come to the water! You who have no money, come, receive grain and eat; come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and milk! Why spend your money for what is not bread, your wages for what fails to satisfy? Heed me, and you shall eat well, you shall delight in rich fare. Come to me heedfully, listen, that you may have life. I will renew with you the everlasting covenant, the benefits assured to David. As I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander of nations, so shall you summon a nation you knew not, and nations that knew you not shall run to you, because of the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, who has glorified you.

Seek the LORD while he may be found, call him while he is near. Let the scoundrel forsake his way, and the wicked man his thoughts; let him turn to the LORD for mercy; to our God, who is generous in forgiving. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. As high as the heavens are above the earth so high are my ways above your ways and my thoughts above your thoughts.

For just as from the heavens the rain and snow come down and do not return there till they have watered the earth, making it fertile and fruitful, giving seed to the one who sows and bread to the one who eats, so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; my word shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it.

Responsorial Psalm

Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6

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

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.

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

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

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

Sing praise to the LORD for his glorious achievement; let this be known throughout all the earth. Shout with exultation, O city of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel!

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

Second Reading

1 Jn 5:1-9

A Reading from the First Letter of Saint John

Beloved: Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is begotten by God, and everyone who loves the Father loves also the one begotten by him. In this way we know that we love the children of God when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whoever is begotten by God conquers the world. And the victory that conquers the world is our faith. Who indeed is the victor over the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is the one who came through water and blood, Jesus Christ, not by water alone, but by water and blood. The Spirit is the one who testifies, and the Spirit is truth. So there are three that testify, the Spirit, the water, and the blood, and the three are of one accord. If we accept human testimony, the testimony of God is surely greater. Now the testimony of God is this, that he has testified on behalf of his Son.

Gospel Acclamation

Cf. Jn 1:29

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

John saw Jesus approaching him, and said: Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Mk 1:7-11

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

This is what John the Baptist proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."