



*And a voice came from the heavens,  
"You are my beloved Son;  
with you I am well pleased."*

*Mark 1:11*

Baptism of Christ, Pieter de Grebber

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*St. John the Baptist Parish, Haverhill, MA  
January 10, 2010*

*Father of all, we pray to You for those whom we love, but see no longer. Grant them Your peace; let light perpetually shine upon them; and in Your loving wisdom and almighty power work in them the good purpose of Your perfect will through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. This week the Sanctuary Lamp is given as a loving remembrance of **John & Helen Riley and Mary Petell** by their family.*



## Mass Intention

Saturday, January 9	4:00 PM	<b>Frederick Conte</b> (11th Anniversary Mass by Family)
Sunday, January 10	8:30 AM	<b>Philip FitzGerald</b> (Birthday Remembrance by Family)
Sunday, January 10	10:30 AM	<b>John Costa</b> (3rd Anniversary Mass by Wife & Family)
Monday, January 11	9:00 AM	<b>Intention of the Celebrant</b>
Tuesday, January 12	9:00 AM	<b>Deceased Members of St. John the Baptist Parish</b>
Wednesday, January 13	9:00 AM	<b>George A. Lessor</b> (Memorial Mass by Friend)
Thursday, January 14	9:00 AM	<b>Prayer service</b>
Friday, January 15	9:00 AM	<b>Biffy Peel</b> (Birthday Remembrance by Mother) & <b>Mary B. Clark</b> (Anniversary Mass by Daughter)
Saturday, January 16	9:00 AM	<b>All the Departed Souls in Purgatory</b>
Saturday, January 16	4:00 PM	<b>Christopher Ducharme</b> (Living Intention for Safe Keeping by Grandparents)
Sunday, January 17	8:30 AM	<b>Alice &amp; Louis Grieco</b> (Wedding Anniversary Remembrance by Daughter)
Sunday, January 17	10:30 AM	<b>James A. Croteau</b> (1st Anniversary Mass)

### Mass Schedule

**Saturday** ~ 9 AM, 4 PM;  
**Sunday** ~ 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM Family Mass  
**Monday to Friday** ~ 9 AM  
**Eve of Holy Days; Holy Days** ~ As announced

### Sacraments

**Reconciliation** ~ Saturday 3 to 3:45 PM; also by appointment; **Marriage** ~ Couples are asked to call the parish office at 978-372-2780 at least 6 months prior to the planned wedding date; **Baptism** ~ 2nd Sunday of each month @ 1 PM Contact the parish office at 978-372-2780 for more information

### Religious Education

**Grades K to 4:** Sunday, 9:00 AM to 10:25 AM  
**Grades 5 to 10:** Sunday, 5:30 PM to 6:55 PM  
*Classes meet every other week in the lower Church hall*  
**Phone:** 978-521-4557  
**Administrator:** Renee Barrick (rbarrick@parishmail.com)  
**Safety Coordinator K to G3:** Kim Shapiro (kshapiro@parishmail.com) **Safety Coordinator G4 to 6:** Jennifer Connolly **Safety Coordinator G7:** Deacon Tom Anthony

### Parish Contact Information

**Address:** 110 Lincoln Ave, Haverhill, MA 01830  
**Phone:** 978-372-2780 **Fax:** 978-469-0947  
**Website:** www.stjohnhaverhill.org  
**Pastor:** Fr. Keith LeBlanc (stjohn@parishmail.com)  
**Permanent Deacon:** Tom Anthony (978-973-0437; razorsedge1970@aol.com) **Secretary:** Diane Forte (dforte@parishmail.com) **Pastoral Council:** Deacon Tom Anthony, Bill Bibeau, Donna Bibeau, Joann Corthell, Linda LeBlanc, Celeste McCusker, Joan Pechnik, Mary Peel & Anne Six **Finance Council:** Deborah Conner, Bill Dale, Mary Duchemin & John Stevens **Activities Committee** (stjohnactivitiescommittee@parishmail.com) ~ Roberta Alicata, Deacon Tom Anthony, Donna Bibeau, Sue Brewster, Betty Burrill, Don Clough, Pauline Clough, John Connor, Kathy Connor, David Corthell, Joann Corthell, Mary Duchemin, Celeste McCusker, Barbara O'Shea, Joan Pechnik, Mary Peel, Frank Perra, Joan Perra, Margaret Pfifferling, Anne Six & Bill Vlahos **Youth Group** ~ Leslie Crowe (stjohnyouthgroup@parishmail.com) **Health Ministry** ~ Donna Bibeau (dbibeau@parishmail.com) **Prayer Shawl Ministry** ~ Donna Bibeau, Diane Forte, Celeste McCusker, Barbara O'Shea, Norma Pappas, Kay Poole, & Marsha Tartaglia

Welcome to St. John the Baptist. We're glad you are here to celebrate Mass with us today. If you are new to our parish or haven't been here in awhile, *WELCOME*. If you would like to register as a parish family, registration forms can be found at the back of the Church. You can either mail it to the Rectory or drop it in the collection basket. God Bless.



*From the desk of Father Keith...*

*My Dear Parishioners:*

*"In the Rite of Baptism there is an eloquent sign that expresses the transmission of faith... the presentation of a candle lit from the flame of the Easter candle: it is the light of the Risen Christ, which you will endeavor to pass on to your children. Thus from one generation to the next we Christians transmit Christ's light to one another in such a way that when He returns He may find us with this flame burning in our hands."*

This is part of a homily delivered to parents in the Sistine Chapel in 2008 by Pope Benedict XVI on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord when he baptized their children, 13 in all. Speaking to the parents he explained a bit of the meaning of both Jesus' baptism and our own. The two baptisms are certainly for different reasons. Jesus did not need to be set free from Original Sin. The Pope turned the candle presented at baptism, and he spoke of the obligation of parents to the "flame of faith" alive in the hearts of their children. He spoke too of the responsibility we all have as recipients of that flame at our own baptisms.

The word "baptism" means "immersion." As Catholics we do not often witness the full immersion of a person at baptism, but we are aware that this is what we call to mind whenever a person steps into our own baptismal pools or water is poured over the head of a person at a baptism. This can be revealed simply by knowing that the word "baptism" means "immersion."

Baptism for Jesus was an outward sign that He had been fully immersed into humanity. He is like us in all things but sin. He had to grow up like us.

He had to learn like us. He had to live like us, and ultimately He had to share in the same death that all humanity shares. Jesus' identity was then revealed.

We too are immersed, but rather than being immersed into humanity, we are immersed into the life of Christ a life of grace. This immersion changes us entirely. Throughout the rest of our lives, after our baptism we are different. Though we might forsake our faith, we can never be "unbaptized." In the beginning words of the baptism rite we were "claimed" for Christ our Savior. This was the way we were given our identity. At Baptism, our parents first identify us by announcing our name. For the rest of our lives we will struggle to understand the new identity give to us in baptism which is that of a Christian.

The baptismal candle is a sign of what was given to us in baptism: the gift of faith. This gift is very special because though it is given to us, it was never intended that we remain in full possession of it. It is a gift that is given so that we might in turn give it to others.

As the priest lights the Baptismal candle to the Easter Candle the following prayer is recited: "Parents and Godparents, this light is entrusted to you to be kept burning brightly. This child of yours has been enlightened by Christ. They are to walk always as a child of the light. May he/she keep the flame of faith alive in their hearts."

*God Bless, Father Keith*

Readings for the Mass begin on page 61 of the *Breaking Bread Missal 2010*. Proper parts of the Mass begin on page 3.



## St. John the Baptist Parish

The bishops of the United States have established January 22 as a particular day of penance "for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion, and of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee to the right to life." *General Instruction of the Roman Missal, no. 373.*

St. John the Baptist will participate in the 2010 Archdiocese of Boston **Holy Hour for Life** on **Friday, January 22, 2010, from 6:30 to 7:30 PM.** All those faithful to the inherent dignity of all human life from conception to natural death are invited to participate.



The Archdiocese of Boston Vocation Office is sponsoring a **St. Andrew Dinner** on **Wednesday, January 27** at St. Sebastian High School, Needham from 5:30 to 8 PM.

The St. Andrew's Dinner is a gathering of **young men grades 7 and up** for an informal dinner with Cardinal Sean. The evening consists of Evening Prayer, dinner, conversation with seminarians and vocation witness stories. For more information, please contact Deacon Tom at 978-9783-0437.



St. John's **Adult Choir** sings at the **4 PM Saturday Masses** for the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month. There is no long term commitment; there are no "tryouts." You are welcome to sing whenever you can. **Rehearsals are**

**Wednesday evenings at 6:30 PM** in the church and generally run for about 30 minutes. Questions? Ask anyone you see in the music ministry.

Our **Children's Choir** sings at the **10:30 AM Family Mass on most Sundays.** **Rehearsal for the next Sunday is held right after Mass** and usually lasts about 30 minutes. Children are not asked to commit to every Sunday but we do ask that they attend the rehearsal for that Sunday whenever possible. All kids from Grade 3 & up are welcome.

**Thank you** to all who left donations to benefit local food pantries last weekend. And also, thank you to Samantha who collected food from her place of employment. Your generous mission to God's work is a gift to our parish and local community. Thank you.



## The Baptism of the Lord ~ January 10, 2010

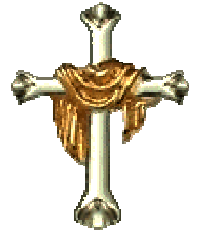
*Please remember in your prayers—*

### **Virginia A. Czerepak**

*whose funeral Mass was Monday  
and*

### **Helen "Marie" Higgins**

*whose funeral Mass was Tuesday*



*May God grant them peaceful rest with the Saints  
and the reward of a good and faithful life. Pray  
also for the consolation of their loved ones.*

**Protecting God's Children training** will be offered here at St. John's for all CCD teachers and aides, on Monday, January 18 at 7 PM and will last approximately 2 hours. If you have any questions, please contact Renee in the CCD office at 978-521-4557 or [rbarrick@parishmail.com](mailto:rbarrick@parishmail.com). Please RSVP with Renee by Sunday, January 17.

This training is mandated by the Archdiocese and must be taken by **all CCD teachers and aides**. If you have already received this training, please confirm that Renee has a copy of your certification on file. Thank you.

**Community Action, Inc.**, which services Haverhill and other towns in the Merrimack Valley, provides low-income taxpayers with **free tax return preparation**. IRS-certified volunteers help taxpayers prepare and E-file most Federal and Massachusetts tax returns. Training can be done on-line with additional training to be provided by CAI.

Tax preparation itself begins mid-January and extends through mid-April. Interested parties should contact Marilyn Luther at 978-373-1971 x 285 or Marge Hooper at 978-373-1971 x227.

NO MAN CAN ATTAIN TO THE  
KNOWLEDGE OF GOD BUT BY  
HUMILITY. THE WAY TO MOUNT  
HIGH IS TO DESCEND.

*~ Bl. Giles of Assisi*

## The Anointing

By Scott Hahn

The Liturgy last week revealed the mystery of God's plan—that in Jesus all peoples, symbolized by the Magi, have been made “co-heirs” to the blessings promised Israel. This week, we're shown how we claim our inheritance.

Jesus doesn't submit to John's baptism as a sinner in need of purification. He humbles Himself to pass through Jordan's waters in order to lead a new “exodus”—opening up the promised land of heaven so that all peoples can hear the words promised over Jesus today; words once reserved only for Israel and its king: that each of us is a beloved son or daughter of God (see Genesis 22:2; Exodus 4:22; Psalm 2:7).

Jesus is the chosen servant Isaiah prophesies in today's First Reading, anointed with the Spirit to make things right and just on earth. God puts His Spirit upon Jesus to make Him “a covenant of the people,” the liberator of the captives, the light to the nations. Jesus, today's Second Reading tells us, is the One long expected in Israel, “anointed...with the Holy Spirit and power.”

The word Messiah means “one anointed” with God's Spirit. King David was “the anointed of the God of Jacob” (see 2 Samuel 23:1-17; Psalm 18:51; 132:10, 17). The prophets taught Israel to await a royal offshoot of David, upon whom the Spirit would rest (see Isaiah 11:1-2; Daniel 9:25).

That's why the crowds are so anxious at the start of today's Gospel. But it isn't John they're looking for. God confirms with His own voice what the Angel earlier told Mary—Jesus is the Son of the Most High, come to claim the throne of David forever (see Luke 1:32-33).

In the Baptism that He brings, the voice of God will hover over the waters as fiery flame, as we sing in today's Psalm. He has sanctified the waters, made them a passage-way to healing and freedom—a foundation of new birth and everlasting life.

A service of the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology  
[www.SalvationHistory.com](http://www.SalvationHistory.com)

*As a body* is one though  
it has many parts, and all the  
parts of the body, though  
many, are one body, so also  
Christ. For in one Spirit we  
were all baptized into one  
body, whether Jews or  
Greeks, slaves or free persons,  
and we were all given to  
drink of one Spirit.

~1 Corinthians 12:12-13

### Readings of the Week

#### Sunday, January 10

Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Acts 10:34-38/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

#### Monday, January 11

1 Sm 1:1-8/Mk 1:14-20

#### Tuesday, January 12

1 Sm 1:9-20/Mk 1:21-28

#### Wednesday, January 13

1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Mk 1:29-39

#### Thursday, January 14

1 Sm 4:1-11/Mk 1:40-45

#### Friday, January 15

1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Mk 2:1-12

#### Saturday, January 16

1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Mk 2:13-17

#### Sunday, January 17

62:1-5/1 Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-11

