

St. Thomas More Church

January 10, 2021



Sunday, January 10, 2021

**Baptism of the Lord
(English Mass)**

Holy Family
(Tridentine Mass)

Sunday, January 17, 2021

**Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
(English Mass)**

Second Sunday after Epiphany
(Tridentine Mass)

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Weekend: Saturday Vigil, 4:30 pm
Sunday, 10:00 am, 12:00 pm (Tridentine)

Weekday: Monday-Friday, 12:00 pm
Saturday, 8:00 am

Reconciliation

Saturday, 4:00-4:20 pm
Sunday, 9:30-9:50 am, 11:30-11:50 am
Thursdays, 1:00-2:00 pm
Also, you may request an appointment with a priest for confession.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursdays, 12:30-2:00 pm

Devotions

First Friday, 12:00 pm Mass, followed by adoration, First Friday Prayers and the Rosary.
First Saturday, 8:00 am Mass, followed by adoration, First Saturday Prayers and the Rosary.

2020 Contribution Statements

Contact the Parish Office if you'd like your 2020 Contribution Statement mailed to you.

Parishioner Registration

To register or make changes to your current information, please contact the Parish Office.

A MEDITATION ON THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD



The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord concludes the Christmas Season in the Ordinary Form of the Roman Rite. It transitions us into the beginning of Ordinary Time. From a Scriptural point of view, this event in Jesus' life is also a transitional moment from His hidden life in Nazareth to the beginning of His public ministry. Recall that John's baptism was one of repentance, an act by which he invited his followers to turn from sin and to turn to God. But Jesus was sinless, so what was the reason for His Baptism?

First of all, we see in the quoted passage above that Jesus' true identity was made manifest through His humble act of baptism. "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased," spoke the voice of the Father. We're told that the Spirit descended upon Him as a dove. Jesus' baptism is in part a public declaration of Who He is. He is the Son of God. This public testimony is an "epiphany," a manifestation of His true identity for all to see as He prepares to begin His public ministry.

Second, by His baptism, Jesus' incredible humility is made manifest. He is the Second Person of the Most Holy Trinity, but He allows Himself to become identified with sinners. By sharing in an act that was focused upon repentance, Jesus speaks volumes through His action of baptism. He came to unite Himself with us sinners, to enter our sin and to enter into our death. By entering the water, He symbolically enters into death itself, which is the result of our sin, and rises triumphantly, allowing us to also rise with Him to new life. For this reason, Jesus' baptism was a way of Him "baptizing" the waters, so to speak, so that water itself, from that moment onward, would be endowed with His divine presence and could be communicated to all who are baptized after Him. Therefore, sinful humanity is now able to meet divinity through baptism.

Lastly, when we share in this new baptism, through water that has now been sanctified by our divine Lord, we see in Jesus' baptism a revelation of who we become in Him. Just as the Father spoke and declared Him as His Son, and just as the Holy Spirit descended upon Him, so also in our baptism we become the adopted children of the Father and are filled with the Holy Spirit. Thus, Jesus' baptism gives clarity as to whom we become in Christian baptism.

PARISH INFORMATION

Parish Office

2825 West 81st St., Chicago, IL 60652
Phone 773-436-4444 - Fax 773-778-9087
Email address: stmrcc@comcast.net
Visit our official Facebook page at:
St. Thomas More Chicago
Website address:
<http://stthomasmorecatholicchurch.org/>

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday - 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Friday-Sunday - Closed

Rectory

Rev. Msgr. Richard Zborowski, Pastor
Rev. Scott Haynes, Associate Pastor

Business Manager

Pat Lave

Director of Music

Michel Domingue

Coordinator of Religious Ed

Debbie Ksycki

Registration

New parishioners should register at the parish office.

Religious Goods Store

Open on the third weekend of the month.

SACRAMENTS

Visitations

Hospital or Homebound; Please contact the Parish Office at 773-436-4444 as soon as possible for Communion, Confession or Anointing of the Sick.

Marriage

Registered and supporting members should call the parish office. A date should not be set until consulting with the Pastor.

Baptism

Registered parishioners should contact the parish office.

Funeral

Registered parishioners should contact the parish office.

Bulletin

Please submit all requests for bulletin announcement on Mondays by 10:00 am.

SUNDAY, January 10

Baptism of the Lord

10:00 am Bill Striegel (Family)
Sean Rowley (William MacDonald)
12:00 pm Repose of the Soul of Mary Moroney
(McDermott Family)
Thanksgiving for Special Favor for Mary Tadda &
The Holy Souls in Purgatory (Don & Mary Tadda)

MONDAY, January 11

12:00 pm Intentions of Peggy Dwyer, her family & E.I.K.
Ellen Madziarczyk (Cathy Lahart & Family)

TUESDAY, January 12

12:00 pm Mary Helen Watson (Peggy Dwyer)

WEDNESDAY, January 13

St. Hilary, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

12:00 pm Kevin Smith (Mary Donahoe)

THURSDAY, January 14

12:00 pm Lynn Joda (Family)

FRIDAY, January 15

12:00 pm Lynn Joda (Family)

SATURDAY, January 16

8:00 am Marge Kloosterman (Altar Guild)

(Vigil Mass)

4:30 pm For the Parishioners

2021 MASS INTENTIONS

Until further notice, we are accepting Mass Intentions through June 30, 2021.

To quote St. Thomas Aquinas, "Of all prayers, the most meritorious, the most acceptable to God are prayers for the dead, because they imply all the works of charity, both corporal and spiritual."

St. Anselm reminds us that "a single Mass offered for oneself during life may be worth more than a thousand celebrated for the same intention after death." The Mass heals the living and the dead.

(<http://pwhs.ph/prayer-warriors-of-the-holy-souls/>)

The Mass intention book for the Year of Our Lord 2021 is available for your requests. Please call the Parish Office at 773-4444 to submit your intentions.

Catholic Charities: General Number 312-655-7000

Counseling Center 312-655-7725

Catholictherapists.com

<http://www.purityispossible.com/>

Project Rachel (post-abortion healing): 888-456-4673

Suicide Prevention: 800-273-8255

Aid for Women (crisis pregnancy): 312-621-1100

Courage and EnCourage Apostolates: (203) 803-1564

<http://www.couragerc.org/>

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL FOR THE SICK



Sandy Badke
Crispian Bofinger
Sarah Dalton
Diane & Jim Flaherty
Sandra Halper
Daniel Jiminez
Maria Jiminez

Rebecca Jiminez
Mike Lave
Rosemary McManus
Celeste Phifer
Tony Philbin
Dolores Pogor
Tricia Quasthoff

Walter Quasthoff
Len Reilly
Pat Sheehy
Phyllis Spizzirri
Spizzirri & Pietrzak Families
Mary Tadda
Ken Watterson

*Omnipotent and eternal God, the everlasting Salvation of those who believe,
hear us on behalf of Thy sick.*

Announcements

RESERVATIONS

Each week, we invite you to call the office to inform us when you are coming to Mass on Sunday.

SANITATION

We ask you to use hand sanitizer as you enter church and before Holy Communion. After Mass, we are grateful for the help of those willing to sanitize the pews. If you'd like to sign up to help, there is a signup sheet on the podium behind the last pew. As you depart, please leave the kneeler at your pew down to indicate which pews need cleaning. Again, please lower the kneeler down after Mass.

DONATIONS

There is a basket located near the middle of the church into which you may put your donations before you depart the church. We thank you for supporting St. Thomas More Parish with such generosity.

HOLY COMMUNION

When kneeling at the communion rail, families may kneel side by side, but there must be at least six feet maintained at the communion rail between individuals or between one family and another.

FOR ALL WHO SERVE IN THE MILITARY INCLUDING:



MSG Kevin Daley
Cpl. Brian Husum
AZ2 Marcellus J. Lane
PVT. Andy Oziemkiewicz
PFC. Luis Rosales
LCPL. Xavier Rosales

THANK YOU FOR OUR FREEDOM!

OUR FINANCES ~ *Your Gifts Matter*

SUNDAY COLLECTION

12/20/20	\$4,550.00
12/27/20	\$3,618.50
1/3/21	\$4,464.40
Christmas	\$13,988.21
Christmas Flowers	\$1,645.25
Solemnity of Mary	\$2,078.00
Debt Reduction	\$1,428.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH

The Pope has introduced the Year of Saint Joseph, to celebrate the 150 years of his Patronage over the Universal Church. Along with the papal apostolic letter, *Patris Corde* ("The Heart of the Father"), the Major Penitentiary introduced a set of new plenary indulgences, available until December 8, 2021. The details are the following:

Conditions for the plenary indulgence

The plenary indulgence is granted to the faithful under the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic Communion, and prayer for the Pope's intentions) to Christians who, with a spirit detached from any sin, participate in the Year of St. Joseph on these occasions and manners indicated by the Apostolic Penitentiary:

- The plenary indulgence is granted to those who will meditate for at least 30 minutes on the Lord's Prayer, or take part in a Spiritual Retreat of at least one day that includes a meditation on St. Joseph. "St. Joseph, an authentic man of faith, invites us", the decree reads, "to rediscover our filial relationship with the Father, to renew fidelity to prayer, to listen and correspond with profound discernment to God's will."
- The indulgence can also be obtained by those who, following St. Joseph's example, will perform a spiritual or corporal work of mercy. St. Joseph "encourages us to rediscover the value of silence, prudence and loyalty in carrying out our duties," the decree notes.
- The recitation of the Holy Rosary in families and among engaged couples is another way of obtaining indulgences, in order that "all Christian families may be stimulated to recreate the same atmosphere of intimate communion, love and prayer that was in the Holy Family."
- Everyone who entrusts their daily activity to the protection of St. Joseph, and every faithful who invokes the intercession of St. Joseph so that those seeking work can find dignifying work can also obtain the plenary indulgence. On 1 May 1955, Pope Pius XII instituted the feast of St. Joseph "with the intent that the dignity of work be recognized by all, and that it inspires social life and laws, based on the fair distribution of rights and duties."
- The plenary indulgence is also granted to the faithful who will recite the Litany to St. Joseph (for the Latin tradition), or the *Akathistos* to St. Joseph (for the Byzantine tradition), or any other prayer to St. Joseph proper to the other liturgical traditions, for the persecuted Church *ad intra* and *ad extra*, and for the relief of all Christians suffering all forms of persecution. Because, the decree notes, "the flight of the Holy Family to Egypt shows us that God is there where man is in danger, where man suffers, where he runs away, where he experiences rejection and abandonment."

A universal saint

- In addition to these, the Apostolic Penitentiary grants a plenary indulgence to the faithful who will recite any legitimately approved prayer or act of piety in honor of St. Joseph, for example, "To you, O blessed Joseph" especially on "19 March, on 1 May, the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, on St. Joseph's Sunday (according to the Byzantine tradition) on the 19th of each month and every Wednesday, a day dedicated to the memory of the saint according to the Latin tradition."
- The decree recalls the universality of St. Joseph's patronage of the Church, noting that St. Teresa of Ávila recognized him as "a protector for all the circumstances of life". Pope St. John Paul II also said that St. Joseph has "a renewed relevance for the Church of our time, in relation to the new Christian millennium."

For the sick

- Amid the ongoing Covid-19 health crisis, the gift of the plenary indulgence is also extended to the sick, the elderly, the dying and all those who for legitimate reasons are unable to leave their homes.
- They too can obtain the plenary indulgences if they are detached from any sin and have the intention of fulfilling, as soon as possible, the three usual conditions and recite an act of piety in honor of St. Joseph, offering to God the pains and hardships of their lives. [Translation: Vatican News]



PRACTICAL GUIDE TO HOLINESS

Blessed Frances Xavier Seelos

1. Go to Mass with deepest devotion.
2. Spend a half hour to reflect upon your main failing & make resolutions to avoid it.
3. Do daily spiritual reading for at least 15 minutes, if a half hour is not possible.
4. Say the rosary every day.
5. Also daily, if at all possible, visit the Blessed Sacrament; toward evening, meditate on the Passion of Christ for a half hour.
6. Conclude the day with evening prayer & an examination of conscience over all the faults & sins of the day.
7. Every month make a review of the month in confession.
8. Choose a special patron every month & imitate that patron in some special virtue.
9. Precede every great feast with a novena that is nine days of devotion.
10. Try to begin & end every activity with a Hail Mary.

"Go home and prepare to die." That's what Mary Ellen Heibel's doctors at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington told her May 11, 2004, after they discovered that the cancer that had attacked Heibel's esophagus in 2003 and then a lymph node later that year had spread throughout her body. Given about six months, the longtime parishioner of St. Mary in Annapolis underwent a new form of chemotherapy at The Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore as a palliative treatment to extend her life. But doctors warned it would only postpone the inevitable.

At the suggestion of a Pittsburgh priest, Heibel began praying a novena in 2005 to Blessed Francis X. Seelos. Born in 1819 in Bavaria, Blessed Seelos came to the United States in 1843 to minister to German-speaking immigrants. Ordained at St. James parish in Baltimore in 1844, Blessed Seelos ministered in Pittsburgh before being assigned pastor of St. Alphonsus in Baltimore in 1854. Seelos was also pastor of St. Mary in Annapolis. During the Civil War, Blessed Seelos relocated his seminarians to Annapolis in 1862 and again became pastor of St. Mary. He visited President Abraham Lincoln in an effort to exempt seminarians from the draft. Because only priests could be exempt, Blessed Seelos arranged for Archbishop Francis Patrick Kenrick to ordain all 20 seminarians. Blessed Seelos worked in Detroit in 1865 and then was reassigned to New Orleans a year later, where he ministered for 13 months before dying at age 48 after ministering to victims of the yellow fever outbreak.

One week after she began the novena at her parish, Heibel's cancer disappeared. Gone were tumors in both lungs, her liver, back and sternum. When Dr. Michael Gibson, her doctor at Hopkins, called with the news, Heibel couldn't believe it. "I was just so excited. I called everyone," the 71-year-old mother of four remembered. "I never thought in a million years this would happen." Told by her doctors that the unexplained healing could not be the result of her chemotherapy, Heibel is convinced that Blessed Seelos interceded on her behalf. "I know this had to be a miracle," she said. Archdiocesan officials are now investigating whether Heibel might just be right. Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien opened an archdiocesan inquiry into the alleged healing with a May 19 Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Baltimore. The archbishop also appointed a group to investigate the case and listen to testimony from Heibel, Dr. Gibson and other witnesses. The commission's findings will be sent to Father Antonio Marrazzo, Redemptorist postulator general in Rome, who will then take them to the Vatican's Congregation of the Causes of Saints. If the healing is deemed miraculous, Blessed Seelos could be canonized a saint.

"I think people were shocked when I was dying practically and came back to life so fast," said Heibel, who retired last year as a self-employed antiques appraiser. Heibel said her strong faith is what's sustained her through numerous health challenges in her life – including a kidney transplant, poor hearing and a bout with septic shock. "Every time I got sick, my faith increased," she said. Heibel noted that other parishioners and other believers around the country have reported miracles through the intercession of Blessed Seelos. "I don't know why they picked me out of the whole bunch to use," she said with a laugh. "So many people have been helped by Blessed Seelos."

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY IN THE YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH

Fr. Scott Haynes



In the 1962 *Missale Romanum* today, we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. The Blessed Virgin and St. Joseph teach us how to trust in the providence of God. Just as the actions of one couple, Adam and Eve, had hellish consequences for the human race at the beginning of the Old Testament, so too the actions of another couple, Mary and Joseph, had heavenly consequences for mankind at beginning of the New Testament. Every time you say "no" or "yes" to sin you are affecting many others. What consequences our actions can have on thousands and millions of others.

Marriage and virginity are two signs of the love of God for us and we see both of these united in the first couple of the New Testament, Mary and Joseph. Joseph is a model of chastity for men just as Our Lady is the prime example of chaste living for all women. The chastity of Joseph and Mary is a challenge to our times when the sanctity of marriage and fidelity to one's spouse for life are no longer respected. Although Joseph was not the biological father of Jesus, he was a true father to Jesus. When Jesus was found in the temple, Mary said to Jesus, "Your father and I have been looking for you." (Luke 2:48). We can imagine the love and affection between Joseph and Jesus, and between Joseph and Mary. We can imagine Joseph's pain at the poor circumstances of Jesus' birth. We can imagine the pain that he must have suffered when Simeon told Mary that Jesus would be a sign that would be opposed and that a sword would pierce Mary's soul (Luke 2:34-35). We can imagine the pain Joseph suffered when he had to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt for safety to preserve their lives. What gave Joseph the strength to endure all the trials his vocation brought him? It was obviously his life of prayer that gave him the strength to be obedient to God's call to him. He was a just man, a man of honor as the Gospel today tells us (Matt. 1:19).

In this Year of St. Joseph, we should consider how he, as the head of the Holy Family, wants to intercede for us. In the early 1980's a woman visited the Convent of the Religious of St. Joseph at Bessillon in France where Joseph had appeared. She was expecting her fourth child and was very ill. The doctors told her the only way she could survive was to have an abortion. They even told her it was her duty since she already had three children to mind. She went to a priest who told her to go to Mass for nine consecutive days at St. Joseph's Convent in Bessillon. The child was born at full term with no defects and she has given birth to another two boys since then. The celebration today of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, reminds and challenges us to value our family life, hidden from the world – even hidden in the womb. Today, more than ever, with the Christian family under attack, let us renew our love for our families and let us follow Mary and Joseph, for they lead us to the Temple – they lead us to Jesus Christ. Amen.