

## *Greetings.*

I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming.

(Luke 3:16)



If you've ever spent a lot of time in a mostly flat area, the sensation of driving up a steep hill and suddenly not being able to see the road ahead of you can be frightening – at least until you realize that there is more road after the hill crests! After a while, you get used to that feeling, but the sense of nervousness or excitement at the top never quite goes away.

This sensation can help us look at today's Gospel reading. When John the Baptist gave the people a road map for how they should act, it must have felt like a dead end to some of them. They wanted to follow his preaching, but they knew it would be hard to change their behaviors – and in some instances, their jobs – in order to live out the justice he had proclaimed.

It must have also felt like a dead end when John told the crowd that he wasn't the Messiah. You can imagine some wondering if they had been following the wrong person all along!

But John helped them see the magnificence of the road ahead by telling them that the Messiah was indeed coming – and that John, as great a prophet as he was, wasn't even fit to loosen the thong of his sandals.

Sometimes the road ahead looks a lot like a dead end. Other times we may feel too exhausted to make it over the next hill. But at each juncture, the Lord is there to tell us that a pleasant downhill lies ahead. And not only that, but he reminds us that Jesus is the "one mightier" than John the Baptist (Luke 3:16). He doesn't just cheer us on; he empowers us with his Spirit. He who is in you is strong and mighty. Ask him to give you heavenly strength.

"Lord, strengthen me when the road gets hilly. Help me to stay on the path, look past the dead ends, and see the glorious road ahead."

~Deacon Mark Race, Administrator

## Christmas Schedule

### Advent-Christmas Penance Service

Thursday, December 15 at 7:30 PM  
at St. Bernadette Church

### CHRISTMAS MASSES

Children's Mass – Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 PM  
Midnight Mass – Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup>  
(Christmas Carols at 11:30 PM)

### CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM

### NEW YEARS MASS SCHEDULE

*The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God*  
Friday, January 1, 2016 at 10:00 AM

### For your enjoyment we are happy to announce: THE SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM

### ADULT CHOIR CONCERT

Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM

## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

### "Baby Jesus, Watch over Us!"

Join Transfiguration's Adult Choir and Mr. Oscar Pratt, Director for their Annual Christmas Concert on **Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 7PM**. Enjoy an evening full of Christmas and Sacred Songs that help keep the spirit of Christ in Christmas. Bring the entire family. Donation: \$15 for Adults and \$7 for Children and Youth.

### St. Vincent dePaul Bundle Sunday

On **Sunday, December 20** our Parish is having a Bundle Sunday for the Society of St. Vincent dePaul Thrift Stores. Please bring your usable clothing and usable household items on this day. Their truck will be at our church parking lot. Please help in their endless efforts to assist the needy. They are in great need of furniture and large appliances. Call them for pick-up of any heavy items at 323.224.6280 or 800/97-HELP-1.

### Thank you

The beautiful flowers on the altar this week were donated by *Mabel Walton* in memory of her beloved son **ROBERT EVANS**. If you would like to donate flowers, please call the rectory for more details.

### Line Dancing Christmas Holiday Vacation

We will break for the Christmas holiday on Wednesday, December 23 and 30. We will return on Wednesday, January 6, 2016.

### NO COFFEE AND DONUTS

on

*Sunday, December 20, 2015*

**HALL CLOSED ON THAT DAY...**

## DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

<b>Sunday</b>	Zep 3:14-18a, Is 12:2-6, Lk 3:10-18
<b>Monday</b>	Nm 24:2-17a, Mt 21:23-27
<b>Tuesday</b>	Zep 3:1-13, Mt 21:28-32
<b>Wednesday</b>	Is 45:6b-25, Lk 7:18b-23
<b>Thursday</b>	Gn 49:2-10, Mt 1:1-17
<b>Friday</b>	Jer 23:5-8, Mt 1:18-25
<b>Saturday</b>	Jgs 13:2-25a, Lk 1:5-25
<b>Sunday</b>	Mi 5:1-4a, Ps 80:2-19, Lk 1:39-45

## MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>December 12</b>
5:15 PM	Intention of all Parishioners
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>December 13</b>
8:00 AM	Soul of Tom Franklin
10:00 AM	Soul of Robert Evans
12:15 PM	Soul of Gloria Robottom
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>December 19</b>
5:15 PM	Soul of Roxelina Richard
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>December 20</b>
8:00 AM	Intention of all Parishioners
10:00 AM	Souls of Preston, Rosa, and Dante Thompson
12:15 PM	Intention of Mary Jené



## WEEKLY OFFERING

December 6, 2015

\$9,792.49 Tithe and Offering  
120.00 Building Fund  
12.00 "We Care"

The **school collection** for the month of **November** was \$1,815.12. Thank you for your support.

## Retirement fund for Religious Collection

**Aging religious need your help.**

In the United States today, there are more than 33,000 senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. These religious worked tirelessly in Catholic Schools, hospitals, and agencies, usually for little to no pay. As a result, many religious communities lack adequate savings for retirement and eldercare. Your gift to today's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide medications, nursing care, and more. Please be generous.

## Sunday and Christmas TV Mass

FOR THE HOMEBOUND

KDOC Channel 56 at 9:00 AM

Is someone you love unable to join us at church during this holy time of Advent and Christmas? For the faithful at home or in healthcare settings, the Heart of the Nation TV Mass brings spiritual comfort and the blessings of joyful hope in the coming of our newborn Savior. Mass is also online at <http://www.HeartoftheNation.org>. For those who can get to church, the TV or online liturgy does not fulfill the Sunday or Christmas Mass obligation.

## Men, Mark your Calendars

Transfiguration Annual Retreat for men will be held at Mater Dolorosa Retreat Center on the weekend of January 22, 23, and 24 2016. Join your fellow parishioners for this weekend of spiritual enrichment and growth. The Passionist retreat team offer inspirational talks on the theme, as well as time for quiet prayer, Mass, Confession and Stations of the Cross. You may arrive as early as 3:00 PM. Friday. Our retreat opens at 6:15 PM with a buffet supper and closes Sunday after lunch about 1:00 PM. **A \$50.00 non-refundable deposit is required to reserve your weekend Retreat, this is reserved for you.**

This year's Retreat theme: **"No Greater Love"**

For more information or to make your reservation please call Greg Warner your parish retreat Captain at 323.974.7405 or 310.538.2214 or Maurice Simon at 323.296.1501.

## Did you Know?

### Shop Safely this Christmas

If you let your kids go to the mall by themselves to buy Christmas presents, you should talk to them about potential dangers they need to guard against. Christmas is the busiest time of year for commercial retail, which means that malls and shopping centers will be more crowded, and younger kids and teens who are alone may be a target for kidnappers and other dangers. Talk to your children about being aware of their surroundings, and where to go for help. Be in contact with them while they're shopping, and have a check-in place and time set if you're splitting up. For more information please visit: <http://safety.more4kids.info/186/shopping-with-kids/>.

**2016 Calendars** are available in the church sacristy for a donation of \$2. Thank you for your support.

## PRAY FOR THE SICK



*Hold my hand in weakness Lord God, you are my strength. Hold my hand in my weakness and teach my heart to fly. With you, there's nothing to fear, nothing to worry about. Hold me tight in your embrace, so that I can be stronger than the challenges in my life. Amen.*



Virgie Aguilar, LaVern Agnew, Brian Argusta, Joyce Barnett, Rose Ball, Veronica Bearce, Fr. Emile Belletty, Sister Juliet Berber, Daniel Boone, Glenda Brown, Andrei Briggs, Vivian Burgess, Barbara Butler, Brownie Cain, Sister Cecilia Calva, Mary Captain, Alberto Casanova, Harry Charles, Katherine Clark, Agnes Cooper, Rita Cormire, Edward Cousin, Beverly Colvin-Dorsey, Nigel Dunn, Connie Farlice, Dwight Fauria, Ferdinand Foye, Betty Flowers, Teresa Franklin, Stacy Franklin, Marian Fussey, Sister Mary Michaeline Gahwolf, Judy Felton-Gardner, Mavis Gibbs, Refugio Godinez, Nancy Goosby, Mary Hall, Barbara Harris, Jacqueline Holman, Mattie Hilburn, Janie Jackson, Dr. Michael Martini, Mary Jené, Aaron Jittu, Joan Johnson, Robert Jordan, Briana Katz, Leah Kelley, Walita Keyes, Irwin Lagarde, Jeanne LeBlanc, Barbara Lindsey, Connie Louie, Joe McZeal, Vyldred Manor, Sister Marianna, Dorothy Okoye, Martina Peters, Daisy Pratt, Wiley R. Pugh, Andrea Raggette, Michelle Raines, Emma Rausch, Dottie Rodriguez, Dana Semien, Dudley Semien, Reanna Semien, George Simon, Sr., Jeremiah Skyes, Lionel Smith, Sr., Darnell Stang, Barbara Starks, Michele Starks, Annie Starks, Wilbur Starks, Alice Tenette, Leila Thomas, Stephanie Thompson, Emma Thornton, Iris Turner, Patricia Williams, Peggy Wright and Ralph Wright.