

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

4 December 2016

Dear Parishioners,

He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

(Matthew 3:11)



In his Letter to the Romans, St. Paul writes, “We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life” (Romans 6:4).

In this verse, Paul is saying that at our baptism, we are “buried” with Jesus and then “raised” to a new life with him. He tells us that the outward signs of baptism—water, oil, light, a white robe—are intricately tied to the inward work of regeneration that God does in everyone at their baptism. Each of us becomes “dead to sin and living for God” (Romans 6:11).

In today’s Gospel passage, John the Baptist talks about baptism as well. Only here he is saying that Jesus has come to baptize us not with water, but “with the Holy Spirit and fire” (Matthew 3:11). So what’s the difference?

Water baptism washes us from original sin and brings us into a new relationship with God. Baptism “in the Spirit” is what happened to the apostles on Pentecost, when they were filled with the power and boldness of God. They were baptized—immersed or plunged—into the life of the Holy Spirit, who then worked his wonders in them and through them, just as he wants to do for us.

Scripture tells us that our God is a “consuming fire” (Exodus 24:17; Isaiah 33:14; Hebrews 12:29). This baptism by the Spirit and fire is God’s way of setting a fire in our hearts so that we will want to go out and share his love. It’s his way of making us more like Jesus, who wanted to please the Father in everything he said and did. It’s his way of building his Church—by empowering his people to do the works that Jesus did. What an honor to receive the Spirit this way!

“Holy Spirit, come and purify me.

Set my heart on fire so that I can be your witness today.”

Deacon Mark Race, Administrator

SAVE THE DATES

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2016

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
(*Holy Day of obligation*)

Masses at 8AM, and 9:30AM School Mass and 7PM.

Mass of Anointing

Our church community will celebrate the Sacrament of Anointing of Sick on **Friday, December 9, 2016 at 11AM** here at Transfiguration. A light luncheon will follow.

Advent-Christmas Penance Service

Tuesday, December 13, 2016 at 7:30 PM

at Transfiguration Church.

Stewardship Thought

“Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.” MATTHEW 3:10

Do you bear good fruit for Christ? Or, do you spend your time, talent and treasure constantly acquiring more toys, clutter and junk. Our time, our talent and our treasure are gifts that God has given us. What we do with them is our gift back to God. What gifts are you planning to give to the Lord during this upcoming Christmas season?

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Virgie Aguilar, LaVern Agnew, Brian Argusta, Joyce Barnett, Rose Ball, Percenia Beasley, Veronica Bearce, Fr. Emile Belletty, Sister Juliet Berber, Glenda Brown, Andrei Briggs, Vivian Burgess, Barbara Butler, Brownie Cain, Sister Cecilia Calva, Mary Captain, Alberto Casanova, Jeannie Chapron, Katherine Clark, Sister Ann Paul Clare, Agnes Cooper, Rita Cormire, Edward Cousin, Juanita Davis, Benjie Delille, Beverly Colvin-Dorsey, Jayden Dunn, Nigel Dunn, Betty Eason, Ferdinand Foye, Betty Flowers, Teresa Franklin, Stacy Franklin, Marian Fussey, Judy Felton-Gardner, Mavis Gibbs, Refugio Godinez, Nancy Goosby, Barbara Harris, Jacqueline Holman, Mattie Hilburn, Janie Jackson, Mary Jené, Aaron Jittu, Robert Jordan, Aaron Katz, Briana Katz, Irwin Lagarde, Jeanne LeBlanc, Barbara Lindsey, Connie Louie, Joe McZeal, Vylfred Manor, Sister Marianna, Dorothy Okoye, Martina Peters, Daisy Pratt, Wiley R. Pugh, Andrea Raggette, Michelle Raines, Basil Raymond, Dottie Rodriguez, Dana Semien, Dudley Semien, George Simon, Sr., Jeremiah Skyes, Darnell Stang, Michele Starks, Annie Starks, Alice Tenette, Leila Thomas, Stephanie Thompson, Emma Thornton, Iris Turner, Frank Vidrio, and Peggy Wright.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

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| Sunday | Is 11:1-10, Ps 72:1-17, Mt 3:1-12 |
| Monday | Is 35:1-10, Lk 5:17-26 |
| Tuesday | Is 40:1-11, Mt 18:12-14 |
| Wednesday | Is 40:25-31, Mt 11:28-30 |
| Thursday | Gn 3:9-20, Lk 1:26-38 |
| Friday | Is 48:17-19, Mt 11:16-19 |
| Saturday | Sir 48:1-11, Mt 17:9-13 |
| Sunday | Is 35:1-10, Ps 146:6-10, Mt 11:2-11 |

MASS INTENTIONS

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| Saturday 5:15 PM | December 3 Soul of Milton Keyes |
| Sunday 8:00 AM 10:00 AM 12:15 PM | December 4 Intention of all Parishioners Soul of Connie Farlice Soul of Angela Dupré |
| Tuesday 8:00 AM | December 6 Intention of Brianna Katz |
| Thursday 8:00 AM | December 8 Intention of Brianna Katz |
| Saturday 5:15 PM | December 10 Intention of Mary Jené |
| Sunday 8:00 AM 10:00 AM 12:15 PM | December 11 Soul of Lillian White Intention of all Parishioners Soul of Gloria Robottom |

WEEKLY OFFERING for NOVEMBER 27, 2016

\$5,704.00 Tithe and Offering
200.00 Building Fund
80.00 We Care"

Please remember your
**"Together in Mission" 2016
PLEDGE COMMITMENT**

Thanks to all!

NEXT WEEKEND – DECEMBER 11, 2016

Retirement fund for Religious Offering

Give thanks for religious...

Please give generously to next week's offering
for the Retirement Fund for Religious.

2017 Calendars are available in the church sacristy
for a donation of \$2. Thank you for your support.

Support Transfiguration School BAKED SALE



In the parish hall after all Mass this Sunday

Christmas Boutique Thank You...

Thank you to all parishioners who supported the Annual Christmas Boutique. You made this a very special fun-filled day. The committee would like to thank Ada Chukwuokeme, Julia Jimenez, Derek Madere, Stephanie Moore, Cynthia Richardson, Terrye Thomas, Rochelle Williams, Felecia and Sarah Johns, who decorated the hall so beautifully and festive. Special thanks to Jimmy Martin, and to "Santa".

~Blessings to all this Christmas from Vickie Race and Evelyn Payne

Thank you

The beautiful flowers on the altar this week were donated by **Cynthia Richardson** in memory of her beloved father **MILTON KEYS**. If you would like to donate flowers, please call the rectory for more details.

Bus Trip

Please join us for a fundraiser to **San Manuel Casino** on Saturday, January 7, 2016. Bus loads at 7:30AM and leaves Transfiguration Roxton Side at 8AM. \$23.00 per person... Proceeds benefit the Knights of Peter Claver Council #220. Please contact Helen Argusta at 323.295.9024.

Fingerprinting

All clergy, paid parish/school personnel and volunteers who work regularly in a supervisory role with children or youth must be fingerprinted. For more information, call us at: 213.637.7680.

"Singing Glory Be to Jesus"

You are invited to Transfiguration Choir Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 18th at 7:00 PM. The Choir and Musicians have added many new Christmas songs, both sacred and popular to our repertoire of music. Donations: \$15.00 for Adults and \$7.00 for Children and Youth. Reception in the hall will follow the concert.