

January 10, 2016

The Baptism of the Lord (year C)

From The Desk of Msgr. Corrigan:

I never thought I would look forward to winter but I welcome it this year. All my spring bulbs were beginning to sprout. Three irises produced flowers. All would have been destroyed if the winter was delayed much longer. Is this the warming of the earth caused by our carbon burning facilities? One scientist in Great Britain said that he has been warning people about this for the past twenty years but it was only when their daffodils started growing in November that they finally paid attention to him. Yes it is partially caused by El Nino, the jet stream that is naturally caused by the warming of the air over the Pacific Ocean. However the warming of the whole earth intensifies the extreme effects of El Nino (either too much or too little water).

Many thanks to our Hispanic Community who had a wonderful New Year's Eve party in the Parish Hall and raised \$4,100.00 for our parish.

Stained glass window #2a on the north side: although some think that this is St. Rita, our expert says that it is St. Catherine of Siena. She was a lay member of the Third Order of St. Dominic. She meditated upon the sacred Passion and Death of Jesus. This is reflected in her Dialogues and other writings. Traditional iconography for this saint are the crown of thorns over her veil and by the crucifix in her hands. She is reported to have had the stigmata. She was born in 1347 in Siena, Italy, the youngest of 25 children. She was very important historically, because through her writings, she convinced the Popes who had moved to Avignon in France, (called by some the "Avignon Captivity") to return to Rome. She died in 1380, was canonized in 1461, and made Patroness of Italy in 1939 and a Doctor of the church in 1970.



COLLECTION:

The collection for last Sunday, January 3, 2016 was \$4,695.00

The second collection this Sunday January 10, 2016 will be for *Catholic Communications/Catholic University of America*



Food Donation: Thank you for your generosity in our monthly food donation we were able to fill 16 bags of food for the needy in our community.



The Baptism of the Lord:

Today we stand on the threshold between two seasons of the Church year. We conclude our Christmas season celebration today, but we also mark the First Sunday of Ordinary time. Perhaps this symbolism is meant to remind us that we are called to look outward, that because of our Baptism it is not enough just to bask in the Christmas glow; we must bring Christ to the rest of the world. Let us pray today for the grace to do what God asks of us.

In the First Reading: God speaks about a special servant, this one will bring into the world the justice it so desperately needs.

Responsorial Psalm: "The Lord will bless his people with peace"

In the Second Reading: Paul reminds us of the grace of God bestowed in Baptism. By God's generous love, we enjoy a new life.

In the Gospel: After Jesus had been baptized and was praying, the heavens opened, the Holy Spirit descended upon him, and a voice from heaven proclaimed, "You are my beloved Son, with you I am well pleased."

Pope Francis:



That sincere dialogue among men and women of different faiths may produce the fruits of peace and justice.

Encyclical on the Environment: On June 18, 2015, the Vatican issued *Laudato Si', Praise Be to You*, Pope Francis's encyclical on caring for creation. The phrase "praised be" is taken from a famous creation canticle by St. Francis of Assisi as he thanked God for the beauty of creation. At the core of Pope Francis's message is the idea of "integral ecology", - that how we relate to one another, especially the poor, and how we relate to the environment are intimately connected. For more on the encyclical, go to the U.S. bishops' website: <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-actions/human-life-and-dignity/environment/index.cfm> or Google "US Catholic Conference of Bishops" and click on the encyclical and then "Resources on Environmental Stewardship".