

Bulletin # 102656

**Our Lady of Fatima
2010 12th Avenue
Altoona, PA 16601**

814-942-0371

Attn: Carol Smith

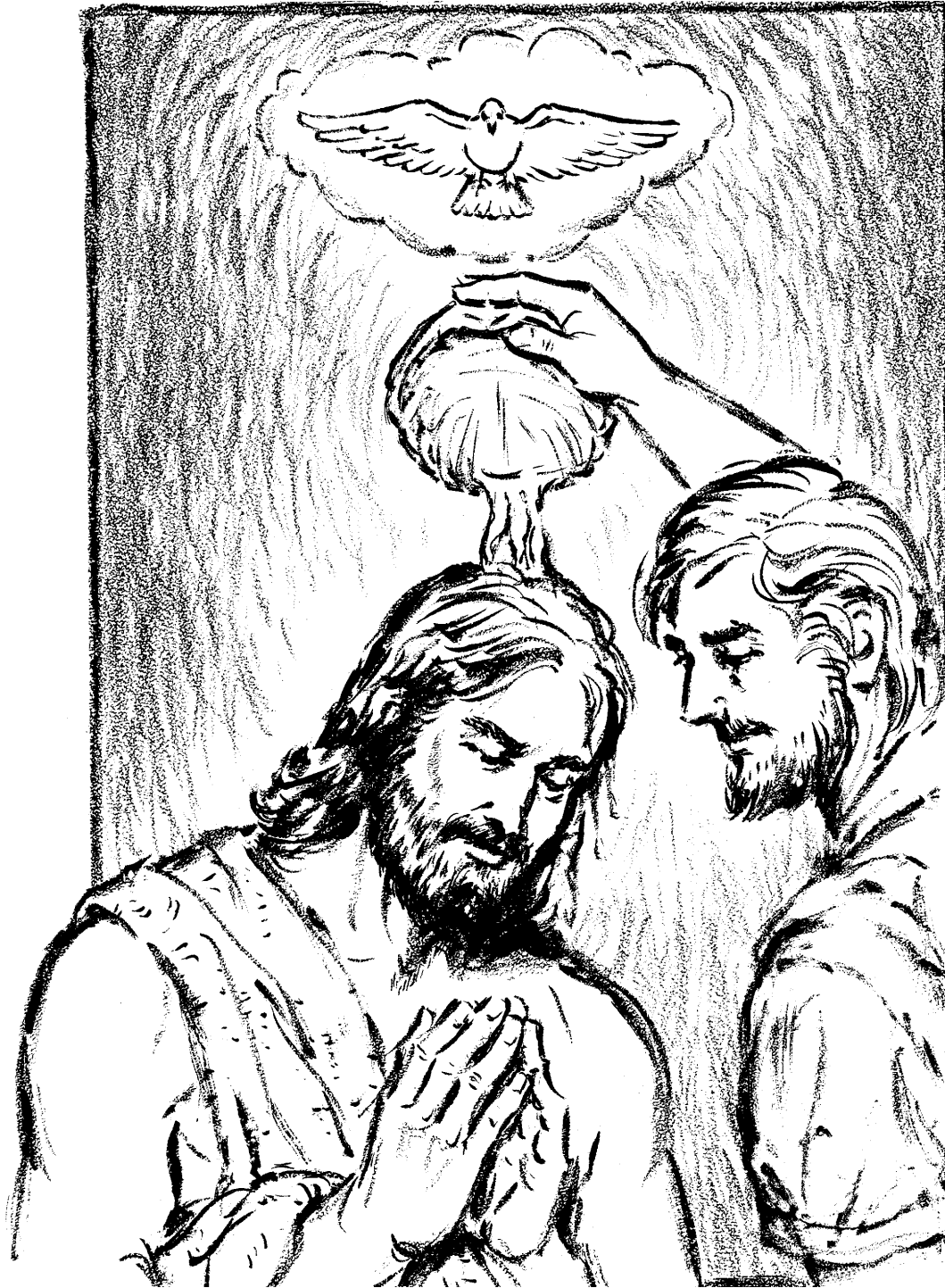
MESSAGES:

Baptism of the Lord

January 10-11, 2009

Fatima Mirror

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It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

The Baptism of Jesus

from the Catechism of the Catholic Church

535 Jesus' public life begins with his baptism by John in the Jordan. John preaches "a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins". A crowd of sinners - tax collectors and soldiers, Pharisees and Sadducees, and prostitutes- come to be baptized by him. "Then Jesus appears." The Baptist hesitates, but Jesus insists and receives baptism. Then the Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove, comes upon Jesus and a voice from heaven proclaims, "This is my beloved Son." This is the manifestation ("Epiphany") of Jesus as Messiah of Israel and Son of God.

536 The baptism of Jesus is on his part the acceptance and inauguration of his mission as God's suffering Servant. He allows himself to be numbered among sinners; he is already "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world". Already he is anticipating the "baptism" of his bloody death. Already he is coming to "fulfill all righteousness", that is, he is submitting himself entirely to his Father's will: out of love he consents to this baptism of death for the remission of our sins. The Father's voice responds to the Son's acceptance, proclaiming his entire delight in his Son. The Spirit whom Jesus possessed in fullness from his conception comes to "rest on him". Jesus will be the source of the Spirit for all mankind. At his baptism "the heavens were opened" - the heavens that Adam's sin had closed - and the waters were sanctified by the descent of Jesus and the Spirit, a prelude to the new creation.

537 Through Baptism the Christian is sacramentally assimilated to Jesus, who in his own baptism anticipates his death and resurrection. The Christian must enter into this mystery of humble self-abasement and repentance, go down into the water with Jesus in order to rise with him, be reborn of water and the Spirit so as to become the Father's beloved son in the Son and "walk in newness of life"

Let us be buried with Christ by Baptism to rise with him; let us go down with him to be raised with him; and let us rise with him to be glorified with him.

Everything that happened to Christ lets us know that, after the bath of water, the Holy Spirit swoops down upon us from high heaven and that, adopted by the Father's voice, we become sons of God.

MONEY MATTERS**Epiphany (January 4)**

297 people Celebrated Liturgy at O.L.F. contributing \$ 2,131.27 of which \$ 285.00 accounted for "loose".

Envelopes In Circulation 236 # Used 111 # Unused 125

IRS

has determined that annual documentable (i.e. offertory envelopes) free will cumulative contributions to the church exceeding \$249.99 must be authenticated by way of a Tax Statement issued to the member. Only those documented donations given with no expectation or promise of a tangible material product being returned can be considered deductible. For instance, monies given for purchase of candles or Mass cards, any of our Fundraising products, non-parochial collections, clerical (or Sacramental) services, personal gifts, and legal (licensed) small games of chance CAN NOT be considered tax deductible donations to the church. A good rule of thumb is this: If it's not in the appropriate and properly numbered envelope coming from the box you get every December, the donation will not be recorded and credited to your account from which your annual Tax Statement is calculated. So, unless you want that endorsed million dollar lotto check to remain anonymous, put it in your weekly offertory envelope.

OLF

will comply with the IRS regulations by mailing out the 2008 computerized Tax Statements to individual parishioners who conform to the qualifications surrounding the \$249.99 figure discussed above.

JDZ

calls your attention to an easily noticed but rarely mentioned fact. Even occasional readers of the Fatima Mirror's Money Matters page regularly see that on a week to week basis less than half of the envelopes in circulation are being returned. Maybe 10 out of the (on average) 123 people not using them have "issues" with envelopes and just make their offering out of pocket. That would mean that very close to one half of the registered parishioners (plus a few generous non parishioners) are responsible for keeping Our Lady of Fatima afloat, financially. These folks are practicing the virtues of Stewardship in heroic proportions. Making the passing-on of the Faith at the local level a major priority, especially on a "fixed income," is, indeed, the work of a truly "Practicing Catholic."

MASS INTENTIONS FOR January 12-18, 2009

Monday	1/12	08:00 AM	Theresa Bruno, M/M Paul Cassarly	<i>Weekday</i>
Tuesday	1/13	08:00 AM	Grace Hebler, M/M Stan Krish & Family	<i>Hilary, bishop and doctor</i>
Wednesday	1/14	08:00 AM	Raymond McCall, M/M Charles Hennigan	<i>Weekday</i>
Thursday	1/15	08:00 AM	Wally Jorkasky, Joe & Anne Jaronieski	<i>Weekday</i>
Friday	1/16	08:00 AM	Walter Bieniek, Rosemary Weidmann	<i>Weekday</i>
Saturday	1/17	04:30 PM	Joseph Boslet, Dave & Debbie Francis	<i>Anthony, abbot</i>
Sunday	1/18	09:00 AM	Liv/Dec members of Our Lady of Fatima Parish	<i>Second Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>
Sunday	1/18	11:00 AM	Robert Elvy, Wife Sophia & Children	<i>Second Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>