

From the Heart of Fr. Jim
January 12, 2020
Baptism of our Lord

- Happy New Year! Many thanks to all the gifts and cards I received from you over Christmas and New Year's. I am so grateful for your thoughtfulness!
- Daily Mass will only be on Thursday and Friday at 8 AM. Adoration will follow 8 am Mass on Friday January 17th.
- Scripture Study will continue at I C Hall beginning at 6 PM on Thursday. It is on the Book of Revelation. All are welcome.
- SAVE THE DATE - On Saturday, March 7,2020, the next Work Day will be held at Clear Creek Abbey. Mark your calendars now and more information will be forthcoming The website is open for registrations at www.abbeyworkday.com.
- Next Sunday, January 19th, there will be a Spanish Mass at 2 PM at I C. El Domingo proximo, hay un Misa en Español a los dos en la tarde en Inmaculada Concepcion.
- Please pray for the priests of our diocese as we are gathering this week for Winter Education Days on Monday and Tuesday.
- If you would like a copy of your yearly donations for 2019, please sign the sheet in front of the Church.
- I will be asking families to take home the Vocation Crosses to pray for vocations. Instead of asking at the end of Mass for volunteers. I will individually ask a different family each week to take a cross home, and return it to Church the following week. This way, no one is embarrassed to come forward in the Church.
- Please remember a few things: When coming up for communion, please extend your hands out, one on top of the

other, if you wish to receive Communion in your hand. In addition, please respond with “AMEN” loud enough so the Minister can hear it prior to receiving the Body of Christ in your hand or on your tongue. Please do not take the host from the Priest or minister.

- Secondly, the Sanctuary of the Church is sacred space. This means that we all should treat this area with respect and sacred silence. Conversations should be kept to a minimum and unnecessary conversation should be moved to the vestibule or outside. This should start from the moment we enter church and continue until we step outside the Church. Let us all work to keep silence sacred in the Church in order to adore our Lord always.
- At the Our Father, remember that holding hands across the aisle is not permitted. The same at the Sign of Peace. Please give to those closest around you. We do not walk around the Church giving every one a sign of peace.
- Please continue to pray for all our homebound members and all our parishioners who are sick and suffering.
- Catholic Charities needs Jelly, tuna fish and personal hygiene products. Plastic bags are also needed.
- Remember that Baptisms, Presentations, Weddings and Quincineras need a minimum of 6 months before they can happen. Please contact Fr. Jim for more information before you schedule your date.
- The Sacrament of Reconciliation is always available ½ hour before Mass and from 3:30 – 4:30 in Church on Saturday’s and by appointment.

God Bless Each of you!

Fr. Jim

Reflections: **Virtue for January: Perfection**

Be ye perfect as your Heavenly Father is Perfect.

Matthew 5:48

From January 12th:

I wish I could persuade spiritual persons that the way of perfection does not consist in many devices, not in much cogitation, but in denying themselves completely and yielding themselves to suffer everything for love of Christ. And if there is failure in this exercise, all other methods of walking in the spiritual way are merely a beating about the bush, and profitless trifling, although a person should have a very high contemplation and communication with God **St. John of the Cross**.

Cassian wrote concerning the Abbot Paphnutius that the road by which he arrived at such great sanctity was that of constantly mortifying himself; and that in the same manner he extinguished in himself all vices, and perfected in himself all virtues.

Father Balthasar Alvarez practiced continual mortification and self-denial in all that nature desired, not only in great things but also in small; and by this he arrived at high perfection.

The Blessed Angela di Foligno, in ecstasy, saw the Lord bestowing marks of love upon some of his servants, but upon one, more, upon another less. Desiring to understand the cause of this difference, she advanced to inquire of Our Lord, who answered thus: "I invite all to Me, but all are not willing to come, because the way is interlaced with thorns. To all who come, I offer My bread to eat and My cup to drink. But My food is not pleasing to sense, and My cup is full of bitterness, so that all do not desire to satiate themselves with those labors which were My meat while I was in the world. But those who are most constant in bearing Me company, they are certainly My dearest and most favored ones." Wen

the Saint heard this, she was filled with so great a desire of suffering and denying herself in all ways that when many difficulties were afterwards placed in her way by her religious and by her own family, she experienced in them as great comfort as a worldling could have found in any plan made for his pleasure and advantage.

Jesus Always: Embracing joy in His Presence: January 12th:

Do Not Be Terrified or discouraged, for I am with you whenever you go. It's easy for My followers to feel frightened and pessimistic when the mainstream voices in this world speak so heavily against the. Looking at this life through godless, biased lenses will indeed pull you down. Christian Courage is the antidote to this poisonous input, and it is nourished by the knowledge that I am always with you.

It is crucial to remember that what you can see of reality is only a very small piece of the whole. When Elijah was deeply discouraged, he said he was the only one who had remained faithful. Yet there were thousands in Israel who had not bowed down to Baal. Elijah was blinded by his isolation and his discouragement. Similarly, Elijah's servant was terrified because he couldn't see what Elisha saw: horses and chariots of fire all around to protect them from enemy forces.

Beloved, not only am I with you, but I have unlimited resources to help you. So look beyond the way things appear, and take courage!

(helpful Scripture passages: Psalm Joshua" 1:9; Kings 19:14;2 Kings 6:17; Matthew 14:27

JANUARY 2020 CALENDAR

Jan 11th: 3:30 PM Confessions
 5 PM Mass

Jan 12th: 8:30 Confessions
9 AM Mass at I C
10:30 Religious Education
12 Noon Mass at St. Elizabeth
1 Pm Pot Luck at St. Elizabeth
No Scripture Study
5 PM Mass at St. Joseph
6 pm Pot Luck Dinner
No Scripture Study

Jan 14th: **No 8 am Mass in Chapel**

Jan 15th : **NO 12 Noon Mass in Chapel**

Jan 16th : 8 am Mass in Chapel
6 pm Scripture Study in Hall at I C

Jan 17th: 8 am Mass in Chapel
8:30 AM until 5 PM Adoration in Chapel

Jan 18th: 3:30 PM Confessions
5 PM Mass

Jan 19th: 8:30 Confessions
9 AM Mass at I C
10:30 Religious Education
12 Noon Mass at St. Elizabeth
1 Pm Pot Luck at St. Elizabeth
No Scripture Study
2 PM Spanish Mass at I C
5 PM Mass at St. Joseph
6 pm Scripture Study

Jan 21st: 8 am Mass in Chapel

Jan 22nd : 12 Noon Mass in Chapel

Jan 23rd: 8 am Mass in Chapel
6 pm Scripture Study in Hall at I C

Jan 24th: 8 am Mass in Chapel

Jan 25th: 3:30 PM Confessions
5 PM Mass

Five Keys to freedom from sexual sin:

1. Desire Change -with the help of God
2. Change your habits -be transparent
3. Get accountable: with confessor, with a recovery group
4. Prayer: with the help of Jesus, our Divine Healer: Trust in HIM
5. Learn more

Surrender Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I desire the desire to surrender my heart and my entire being to you, but I cannot do it, for I fear the abandonment of losing control of who I am. I ask that you take what little space I can open to you, use it and invade my heart, take it captive and protect it captive and protect it from all evil I beg for your help in my complete surrender to you. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Battle Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ; I cannot fight this battle any more. I am done. I hand you the dragon to slay. I hand you the lizard of lust to slay. I hand you the battle and walk away, it is yours. I'm done. I cannot do this anymore. It's not my battle anymore. Amen