

HOLY SPIRIT SYNODAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Celebrating 16 years of faith, welcome and service, because it is about relationships, not rules!

13 JANUARY 2019 – FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

OUR LITURGY

Today's Intention: For Our Parishioners, living and deceased

Prelude: "Healing River" #564

Welcome and "Good News" (Donna C.)

Gathering Song: "Here I Am, Lord" #671

Blessing of Water and Renewal of Baptismal Commitment

Gloria: Mass of Creation, Glory to God #138

Opening Prayer

Reading I: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 (Br. Will)

Psalm Response: Psalm 104 #975

Reading II: Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7 (Donna L.)

Gospel Acclamation: Mass of Creation #141

Holy Gospel: Luke 3:15-16, 21-22 (Deacon Jan)

Homily: (Fr. Lionel)

Intercessions: **R. Lord, renew us in Your light!** (Ralph L.)

Kiss of Peace

Preparation of Our Gifts: "When John Baptized" #390

Eucharistic Prayer: Mass of Creation, #146-149

Lord's Prayer: Mass of Creation, #150

Lamb of God Litany: Mass of Creation, #152

Eucharistic Ministers:

Mthr. Sharon, Deacon Jan; David B.

Communion Procession: "Child of Mercy" #368

Song of Praise: "Be Born in Us Today" (choir)

Prayer after Communion

Solemn Blessing

Sending Song:

"Songs of Thankfulness
and Praise" #383



THE ROAD TOGETHER

Ministry Team Meetings:

-**Head to Heart:** 1st Sunday

-**Stewardship:** 1st Sunday.

-**Finance:** 2nd Sunday.

-**Landscape:** 3rd Sunday.

-**Outreach:** 4th Sunday.

12 Step Meetings, parish center

-**SLAA:** Thursdays, 12-1pm

-**AA:** Thursdays, 7-8pm

Parish Council Meeting, This Thursday, January 17th, 7-9pm, conference room. *All are welcomed.*

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Monday, January 21st.

Diocese of Florida Annual Synod, Saturday, January 26th, 9am-4pm, parish center.

Italian-Style Potluck Dinner, Sunday, January 27th, following Mass.

Blessing of Throats in Honor of St. Blasé, Sunday, February 3rd

Blessing of All Couples in Honor of St. Valentine, Sunday, February 10th

Season of Lent Begins! Ash Wednesday, March 6th, Day of Fast and Abstinence. *Blessing of Ashes and Mass, 7pm*

St. Patrick Day, Sunday, March 17th Wear your "green" and bring share in an **Irish Potluck Dinner** together after Mass.

FROM WHERE I STAND...

Good morning,
dear Community and Friends!

When the Lord was baptized, a voice came from heaven saying "This is my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." There could hardly be a more important message than this identification of Jesus, could there?

But why did this important message come through a voice from heaven? A voice from heaven can be heard only by those who are *there then*. What about everybody else? Surely it is important for all human beings to know that Jesus is God's beloved Son.

And the same sort of puzzle arises from this morning's First Reading. It says that the Messiah will open the eyes of the blind, and the Gospels testify that Christ really did so. But he opened the eyes of only a few blind people, those blind people who were *there then*. What about all the other blind people, in other places, in other times? Why didn't Jesus just heal all blindness everywhere with one impersonal command: let all the blind people of the world be healed?

And so here is one thing we can learn from these Readings. In the voice from heaven, in the miracles of Christ, *God shows that he is committed to the good of particularity*. God does not send the news about the Messiah as an impersonal message directed impartially to all humankind. He identifies Jesus as his Son by a voice from heaven heard by particular people at a

particular time. Similarly, Christ does not issue an impersonal decree about nameless blind people taken as a group. Christ heals some particular blind people who happened to be at a particular place at the particular time when Christ was also there.

So you might feel that you are just an unnoticed member of your company or an invisible one of the many ordinary people in your town. But where the Lord is concerned, you stand out as the particular person you are. God does not deal with people as faceless members of a collective. He calls, and he heals one particular person at a time, as each individual comes to him.

But then you yourself—not your Church or your group, but *you*—need to come to the Lord, to face him, to know him, to love him, and to let him heal you. Come as yourself, as you are, *here* and *now*.

In celebration of today's Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, recall the date of your own Baptism, dig out the old family photos of your own Baptism, pray for your parents and Godparents, recall the Baptisms of your family members. Be grateful and respectful of the great gift of water in life and faith.

A blessed and restful Sunday
with all those whom you love,
In the love of Christ,
Bp. Steve

OUR CHEERFUL GIVING



In gratitude for our many blessings and gifts from God, we share our time, talent, and treasures with others throughout the week. On Sunday, January 6th, 54 people gathered as the Body of Christ and joyfully shared \$1,431.00 from their financial resources to support the mission and ministry of our parish community. Thank you!

"John answered them all, 'I baptize you with water; but he who is mightier than I is coming...he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit...' "
(Luke 3:16) The Catholic Catechism states that ***"Jesus' immersion in the water is a sign for all human beings of the need to die to themselves to do God's will."*** In other words, as baptized Catholics there is only one gift that we need to give to Jesus – the gift of ourselves. Surrender yourself to God, place your trust in Him and allow the Holy Spirit to work through you for the greater glory of God.

Your conscientious and consistent support of this your community of faith is an act of faith and trust in God and with one another.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to:

George E. 1/18,
Br. Michael 1/18,
Angel A. 1/24, Corey S. 1/27;
Rosalia M. 1/28.

Happy Anniversary to:

Corey and Lee 1/15,
Stan and Jay 1/22;
George and Bob 1/24.

*May the brilliance of
the light of Christ
continue to shine brightly
in you, in your living
and in your loving!*



When the carols
have been stilled,
When the star-topped tree
is taken down,
When family and friends
are gone home,
When we are back
to our schedules
THE WORK OF
CHRISTMAS BEGINS!
To welcome the refugee,
To heal a broken planet,
To feed the hungry,
To build bridges of trust,
not walls of fear,
To share our gifts,
To seek justice and peace
for all people,
To bring Christ's light
to the world!



WHEN WE GATHER NEXT

Sunday, January 20th, 10:30am
2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 96:1-4, 7-10
I Corinthians 12:4-11
John 2:1-11

Altar Bread: *David B.*
Greeters: *Rich J. and Dan J.*
Councilor Welcome: *Michael H.*
Presider: *Fr. Sam*
Homilist: *Deacon Jan*
Acolyte: *Bob S.*
Lectors: *Walt B. (1), Wayne C. (2)*
Intercessions: *Natalie L.*
Eucharistic Ministers:
Deacon Jan, Mthr. Sharon; Fr. Lionel
Social Hall Service: *Last Names A-C*
E68HH Packing Team: *#3*

*Thank you for your faithful and loving
service at the altar of the Lord among
God's holy people. You bless us!*



OUR MISSION

Holy Spirit
Synodal Catholic Church
is a vibrant, fully inclusive,
Catholic community
committed to nurturing all
in their relationship
with God, self and others.
Because it's about
relationships, not rules!
All are *truly*
welcomed here in *this* place.



Prayer Request

- For the intentions of our parish and diocesan communities, for our holiness, growth and generous service.
- Dan J., *healing strength*
- Fr. Bill W., *dialysis and awaiting a kidney transplant*
- Ellen M., *strength and healing with thyroid concerns.*
- For the persecuted Christians of the Middle East.
- Wesley N., *kidney health*
- Those who are homeless, hungry, helpless, unemployed, underemployed, addicted, imprisoned and hopeless: *that they do not remain invisible to us.*
- For those discerning their life, ministry and future with our Diocese and Communion.
- Pam D., *good health & wellness*
- For grace and blessings upon our mission communities.
- Mark S., *good health and healing*
- Jim B., *strength & good health.*
- + The victims of gun violence, *eternal rest and delight in God's arms.*
- Mary B., *complete healing & strength*
- Dorothy B., *hip surgery healing*
- David S.'s daughter, *mental healing.*
- Joyce, *Deacon Jan's sister, comfort and strength in her journey.*
- Gregory, *Lana W.'s spouse, hospice*
- Sr. Linda, *healing strength & courage*
- Bp. Martin, *hernia surgery healing*

Lord, hear our prayer!





HOLY SPIRIT

SYNODAL CATHOLIC CHURCH
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Bishop Steven M. Rosczewski

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Fr. Samuel J. Babbish

Fr. Lionel J. Repasky, csd

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End 68 Hours of Hunger

These are some of the items **most needed** to help children and young people make it through the very long weekend without the government lunch program:

- Peanut butter
- Jelly, squeeze or plastic jar
- Canned pasta/soup/chili/stew
- Pop tarts
- Tuna or chicken, cans or packets
- Mac and cheese.

Today's Packing Team: Team #2.

www.end68hoursofhunger.org

[/find-your-community/](#)

[florida/mid-pinellas/](#)



As our El Niño Florida winter is proving to be much cooler and wetter than usual, thus our sisters and brothers who are experiencing homelessness are facing more challenges. Our ***Blessing Bags Project*** is in need of the following items:

- snack items: crackers, protein bars
- hand sanitizer
- men's boxer shorts
- sunscreen
- sunglasses
- lip balm
- small first aid kits (97¢ Walmart).

Consider helping our parish project of compassionate care: purchase some of these items, share this list with your family and friends as a suggestion for Christmas Season and New Year giving. Thank you for your generous heart and sharing for the sake of others.

Stewardship is Joy

Our Catholic faith brings us great joy. The joy of knowing that Christ is our savior. The joy of fellowship with each other. The joy of sharing the Eucharist.

Psalm 16:11 tells us:

You show me the path of life.

In your presence

there is fullness of joy;

In your right hand are

pleasures forevermore.

We all recognize joy when we light the pink candle each Advent, but we often forget that joy is an essential element of all stewardship. Stewardship is simply active discipleship – living what we believe with joy each day. As stewards, we live in joyful thankfulness and joyous anticipation, and that leads to joyful action. All that we are and all that we have are gifts from God. Accept those gifts with joy; care for them and share them with joy.

Stewardship is Joy.

