

Parish of Saint Leonard

Phone (902) 862-2255 ✦ Fax 862-7110

Email: pastoralcentre@parishofsaintleonard.com ✦ Parish Website: www.parishofsaintleonard.com

The Parish Church of Saint Leonard is located at 3180 Mount Carmel Avenue, New Waterford, Nova Scotia

Our Pastoral Centre is located at 5310 Union Highway, River Ryan, NS, B1H 1B2

OFFICE HOURS - MONDAY TO FRIDAY - 9:30 AM - 12 NOON AND 1:30 – 4:00 PM

Our mission: To be a visible sign of the Body of Christ in our welcome, witness and celebration of all that we are as People of God.

Volume 12, Number 187

Baptism of the Lord

January 10, 2021

Reading I: Isaiah 55.1-11

Reading II: 1 John 5.1-9

Gospel: Mark 1.7-11

We Remember... Our celebrations of Christian Burial ...

We pray for those who have died, especially... **Frank Cameron, Herb Gregory, Laurie MacAulay McDonald, Darrin Wayne Mackie, Bernie Lou Petrie, Shirley Watts, Eleanor Whalen, Sandra Odo, Darnell Heffernan, Doris McNeil.**

Our Sunday Gatherings for Eucharist

Saturday	4:00 PM
Sunday	9:00 AM
	11:00 AM



The limit remains at 50 people in our church because of the need for physical distancing and the design of our church. Please phone the parish office to register for Mass.

We Believe ... In the story of Jesus' baptism, we hear the report of a significant moment in Jesus' life. By accepting baptism from John the Baptist, Jesus shows himself to accept solidarity with sinners. In the voice from heaven and the descent of the Holy Spirit, we know that God received this offering from Jesus and found it pleasing. In the passages that follow in Mark's Gospel, we learn that Jesus' baptism marks the beginning of his public ministry.

Although many of us may have already taken down our Christmas decorations, liturgically speaking, the Christmas season hasn't ended yet; today is the last day. Holidays like Christmas are highlights of our year, moments of great grace. This grace renews us and prepares us for our return to the season of Ordinary Time, to the continuing work of discipleship.

Gather as a family and discuss your feelings about the ending of the Christmas season. How does it feel to take down the Christmas decorations? Many of us experience a letdown after the excitement of Christmas; others may feel relieved that life is returning to normal. Liturgically, we end the Christmas season today by reflecting on the importance of Jesus' baptism. Read together today's Gospel, Mark 1:7-11. Jesus' baptism prepared him for his public ministry. What will we take from this Christmas season to carry us forward into Ordinary Time, to renew and strengthen our life of Christian discipleship?

Resources to Stay Connected



Register for Mass

To comply with public health guidelines, the limit at the Parish of Saint Leonard still remains at 50 people per Mass. Please phone the parish office (902-862-2255) if you wish you attend. We require your information for contact tracing purposes.



Cleaners Needed

We are still in need of some people to help sanitize the church after the Masses. If you are able to volunteer to help clean the church please give us a call at the Pastoral Centre (902-862-2255).

Coordinator Needed

We are also looking for someone who can volunteer to take over the organization and coordination of the cleaning volunteers. If you think you are able to take this on, please call us at the Pastoral Centre for details: (902-862-2255)



Spaghetti & Meatball Take-Out Dinner February 13, 2021 (1-3PM)

The Parish of Saint Leonard will be having a Spaghetti & Meatball (+ dinner roll and dessert) take-out dinner on Saturday, February 13, 2021 at the Gaul Centre. We are only selling 200 tickets, which can be purchased at the Pastoral Centre (5310 Union Hwy) for \$12.50 a plate. Tickets are available until February 7, 2021. Dinners will be available for pick-up between 1:00-3:00PM on February 13, 2021 at the Gaul Centre.

Sunday Missals

We have a limited number of Sunday Missals for 2020-2021 available. They may be picked up at the Pastoral Centre in the mornings from 9:00 – 12:00 PM on weekdays. An offering of \$5.00 is suggested. Lectors who have not already received their Missal may pick one up at the Pastoral Centre.



Liturgy Meeting

Thursday - February 4, 2021 – 1:00 PM

A Prayer for Peace This Year

Father, I know that you are all-powerful, that you are Sovereign, and that nothing is too difficult for you. Yet today, I still struggle with worry and fear, still carrying the same burdens leftover from yesterday. It's hard to shake it off even though I'm desperate to leave it fully in your hands. Please lift all the things that are weighing me down, right off shoulders and heavy heart, and give me the peace that only you can provide. I know that you care for whatever concerns me, and your ears are open to my prayers. I know that you understand my struggles, and you see right where I am, even on the days I feel that no one notices. Guard my heart and mind in you today, as I meditate on your words and truth. Amen

Sunday, 10 January 2021 : Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (Homily and Scripture Reflections)

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, this Sunday marks the last day of the liturgical season of Christmas as beginning tomorrow we will begin the Ordinary Time that will last up to the day before Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent. And today as mentioned, we recall the extraordinary occasion of the Lord's baptism at the Jordan by St. John the Baptist, marking the beginning of His ministry in this world.

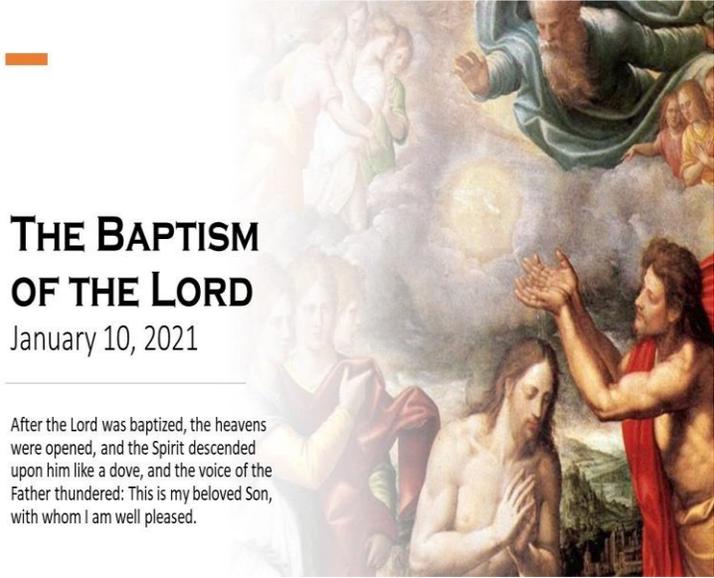
On this day, we remember that moment when the Lord came to the River Jordan, asking St. John the Baptist to do what he was supposed to do, in baptising Him so that by passing through the water of baptism, He may come to share in our baptism and show unto us the depths of God's amazing love for each and every one of us. Through the Lord's baptism, all of us are brought closer to experience the fullness of the truth about God's love.

We celebrate this Feast of the Baptism of the Lord just right after the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord because traditionally together with the events of the Epiphany, as well as the Wedding at Cana, the Lord manifested and revealed Himself, His nature and the purpose of His coming into this world to all of us plainly, revealed before all of us that we may come to know of the infinite love of God.

The Lord at His Baptism was revealed by the Father Himself to be His Son, as the heavens were opened and the Lord's voice was heard, 'This is My Son, My Beloved, My favour rests on Him'. And a dove came down on the Lord, descending on Him from the Father, the symbol of the descent of the Holy Spirit. And therefore, at that very moment, the Lord did not just reveal His Son to be the Saviour of all, but also His nature as a God in the Holy Trinity of Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.

Let us all therefore commit ourselves from now on, brothers and sisters in Christ, to be fully dedicated to the Lord at all times, and to do whatever we can with the time and the opportunities given to us. Let us all contribute to the good works of the Church, and be faithful and genuine witnesses of Christ through our lives, and through how we touch the lives of others positively, at all times. May God bless us always, now and forevermore.

Amen.



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

January 10, 2021

After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.



*From the
Pastor*

Dear friends:

A heart-felt thank you is extended to all those who bring life to our faith community: parishioners of Saint Leonard, our many volunteers, committee members, those involved in parish ministers, and parish staff. Your dedication, sacrifices and hard work is a reflection of Christ in your lives. Thank you for welcoming me, and for the kindness and generosity shown to me.

In this New Year, let us impact the world with good, recognizing the needs of others and doing our part to be people of prayer, faith, compassion and service. May the hope that we find in the baby Jesus guide us and may our hearts be filled with joy and peace.

Blessings to you,
Father Peter.