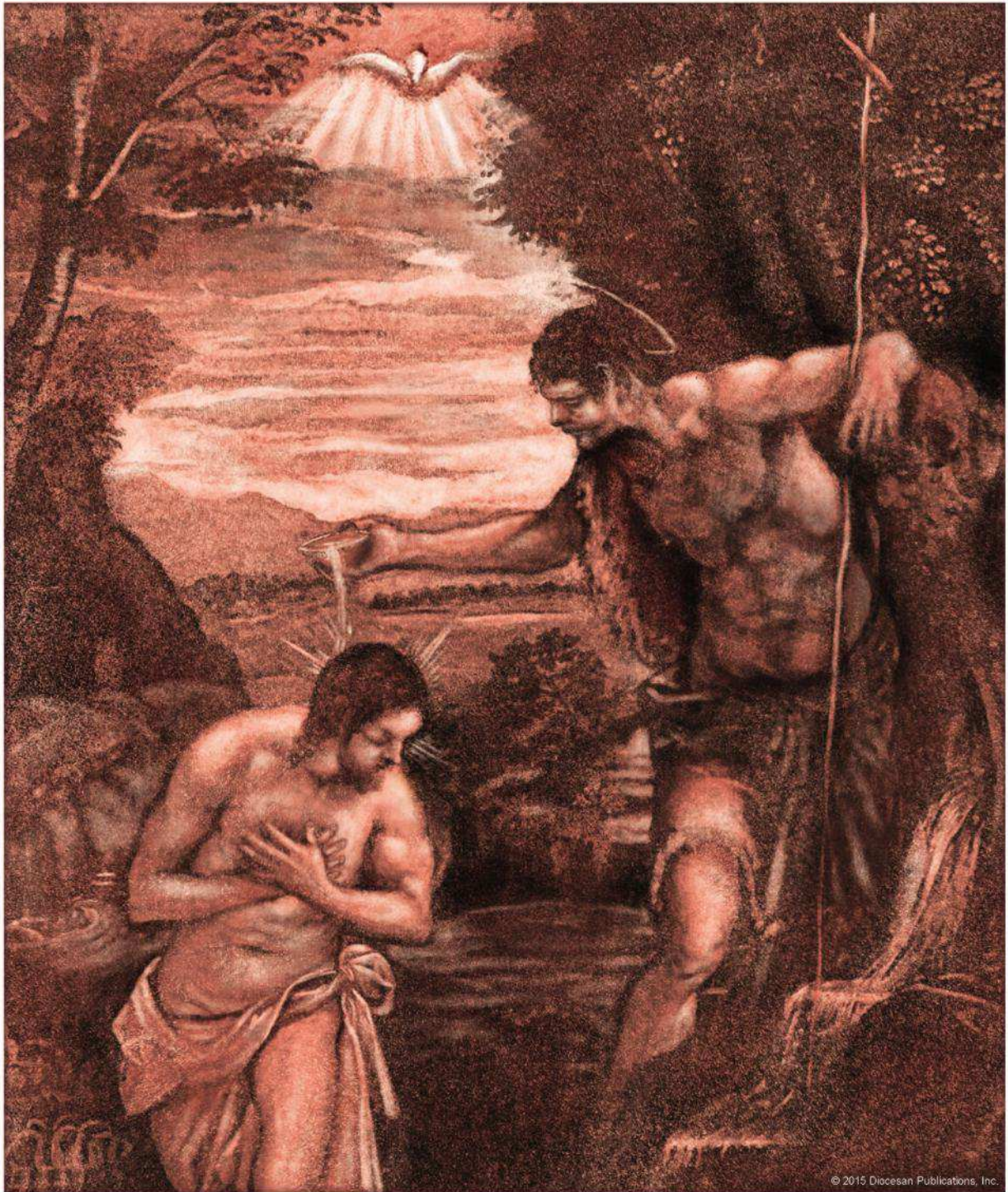


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Diocese of Peoria  
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stthomaspeoria.org

# Baptism of the Lord





**FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

Reading I: Isaiah	55: 1-11
Reading II: 1 John	5: 1-9
Gospel: Mark	1:7-11

Why was Jesus baptized by John? It does not seem necessary for him to do so. But, in fact, it was an important beginning to his ministry. The mission of Jesus is that of a servant—to bring forth justice, to be merciful, to heal and to free those in darkness and bondage. That is the commitment of baptism. Jesus was giving the example of what baptism means, not only for himself, but for every follower of Jesus. Our mission through baptism to be a servant is the same challenge that Jesus faced, sometimes in the midst of much opposition. Not much has changed. What we need to understand as followers of Jesus is the real meaning and challenge of our own baptism—to have the same mission as Jesus so faithfully lived out.



Mass  
Intentions  
Of The Week

**Monday, January 12, 2015**

7:00am Thomas Fogerty/Family  
8:00am Bernadine Noel/Dale & Brenda Noel

**Tuesday, January 13, 2015**

7:00am Martha Jean Smith/Sis  
8:00am Marilyn Roedell/Mike & Joann Roedell & Family  
9:00am Anne Rullman/Tim & Diana O'Hanlon

**Wednesday, January 14, 2015**

7:00am Bill Nelson/Anita Nelson  
8:00am Mary Peters/Mike & Barb Chance

**Thursday, January 15, 2015**

7:00am The Hafner Family  
8:00am Suzanne Lynch/Gregory Folley  
9:00am Mary Wolgemuth/Larry & Kari Tangel

**Friday, January 16, 2015**

7:00am Nick Hardgrove/Laurie Cain  
8:00am Alice Eaton/Suzie Draher

**Saturday, January 17, 2015**

8:00am John Schermer/Dan & Angie Aeschliman  
5:00pm Toni Marie Siegle/Harriet Ottenweller

**Sunday, January 18, 2015**

6:30am Mary Louise Ing 3rd Anniv/Red, Roger,  
Ellen, Angela & Tim  
8:00am For the People  
9:30am Dale C Schafer/The Schafer Family  
11:00am Maurice & Cellie Klee/The Holzgrafe Family  
5:00pm Janie Dennhardt



**CONFIRMATION MEETING** for parents and confirmands in groups 1,2,3,4 Sunday, January 11 at 6:30 pm in the lower level of the church.

**SENIOR CITIZENS LUNCH** Monday, January 12 at noon at the 50's Diner in the Metro Center. All seniors of the parish are welcome.

**CONFIRMATION MEETING** for parents and confirmands in groups 5,6,7,8 Monday, January 12 at 7:00 pm in the lower level of the church.

**CENTERING PRAYER GROUP** Monday, January 12 at 7:00 pm

**ROSARY FOR PEACE** Tuesday, January 13 at 10:00 am in the chapel.

**BIBLE STUDY** Tuesday, January 13 at 12:30 pm in the parish office meeting room.

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY** Tuesday, January 13 at 7:00 pm in the parish office meeting room.

**PTO** Tuesday, January 13 at 7:00 pm in the school library.

**BIBLE STUDY** Wednesday, January 14 at 8:45 am in the parish office meeting room.

**CCD** Wednesday, January 14 at 6:15 pm in the school.

**RCIA** Wednesday, January 14 at 7:00pm in the school library.

**CHARISMATIC MASS** Thursday, January 15 at 7:00 pm.

**ST THOMAS SCHOOL CLOSED** Friday, January 16 and Monday, January 19.



Many thanks to the people who so beautifully decorated the church for the Christmas season. Special thanks to Mary Lou Bartley and Kathy McGee, who are chairs of the committee. We appreciate your work, and your ability to make the church such a prayerful and peaceful place to worship.

### ST. THOMAS FOOD PANTRY

Following is the suggested list of food items:

Spaghetti	Spaghetti Sauce	Rice
Canned Fruit	Pancake Mix	Syrup
Dry Beans	Cereal	Tuna
Soup	Crackers	Jelly
Beef Stew	Canned Vegetables	
Peanut Butter	Mac & Cheese	Instant Potatoes

We greatly appreciate your generosity..

### WEEKLY COLLECTION

	12/21/14	Fiscal YTD
Collections needed	\$ 24,000	\$ 624,000
Sunday Collections	\$ 18,524	\$ 511,095
Electronic Collections	\$ 3,632	\$ 94,432
Total Collected	\$ 22,156	\$ 605,527
Over/(Short)	\$ (1,844)	\$ (18,473)

We appreciate your generosity.

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## *Our Sympathy*

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED THIS WEEK:** Corinne Gray; Joan Fischer

### St. Mary's Kickapoo Men's Hamburger Fry

Sunday, February 8  
12:00 noon-5:00 pm  
\$13.00 at door

### Overcome the Obstacles Holding You Back

**Engaging the Struggles of Your Heart**, the second series of Walking Toward Eternity, is a challenging study that can open our eyes to obstacles in our Christian walk, obstacles such as fear, loneliness, envy and shame. Through prayer, reflection and guidance of the Holy Spirit, we can begin to engage these difficulties in a positive way as we continue our goal of union with Christ.

An 8 week study beginning February 5 will meet on Thursdays during the Lenten season from 7:00-9:00 pm in the lower level of the church. Sign up January 24/25 and January 31/Feb. 1. Call Deacon Mark Kelsch at 692-4908.



We are so grateful for your support in the Giving Tree gifts for the needy. We were able to give 86 families gifts, some of which had at least seven children. The Notre Dame students supplied the St. Vincent de Paul Society with 40 food baskets which were distributed with the gifts. There were many appreciative families—and especially children.

Thanks in particular goes to Cissy Carlson and Mary Cooper who spent many hours sorting and matching sizes, gifts, etc. to the needs of the families.

Thanks, also, to the St. Vincent de Paul Society for distributing both the gifts and the food.

May God bless all of you for your generosity and care.



# SAVE THE DATE

## SOCIAL JUSTICE WEEKEND

after all Masses

February 28/March 1

There will be an opportunity to learn about the various organizations in the parish which are dedicated to helping others in various need.



Sponsor of the Week



## Peoria Notre Dame Information Night

Thursday, January 15th  
6:30-7:30 pm in PND auditorium

*Come meet our principal, Mr. Randy Simmons, and learn about PND. Tours will be provided. This is a great opportunity for 8th graders and transfer students to see PND and ask questions before registration.*

### ***Class of 2019 Registration Information***

#### **Freshmen Registration Night #1**

Monday, February 2nd (Last name A-D)  
5:00-7:30 pm in PNF library

#### **Freshmen Registration Night #2**

Wednesday, February 4th (Last name E-J)  
5:00-7:30 pm PND library

#### **Freshmen Registration Night #3**

Tuesday, February 10th (Last name K-R)  
5:00-7:30 pm PND library

#### **Freshmen Registration Night #4**

Thursday, February 12th (Last name S-Z)  
5:00—7:30 pm PND library

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### **Boy's Basketball Jr. High Night**

Friday, February 13th  
7:00 pm in PNF gymnasium

FREE tickets, fames, and prizes for all 6-8th graders—come and meet your future classmates! Game supervision will not be provided.

## 2015-2016 Scholarships

**John Lancaster Spalding Scholarship Fund Grants:** Tuition assistance scholarship grants from the endowment fund established as a result of the Diocese of Peoria ROOTED IN FAITH Campaign and named in honor of Archbishop Spalding, the first Bishop of Peoria, will be available for the 2015 - 2016 school year for students enrolled in or intending to enroll in grades Kindergarten through 12 in any Catholic school located in the Diocese of Peoria whose families are members of a Catholic parish in the diocese. All grants will be based on financial need objectively assessed. Information about the grants and application materials may be obtained from any Catholic elementary or secondary school in the Diocese of Peoria or on the Diocesan website [www.cdop.org](http://www.cdop.org): Click on **EDUCATION**; then **OFFICE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**; then the Select list and click on to **SPALDING SCHOLARSHIPS**. Consult the detailed Protocols and Procedures for all requirements necessary to be eligible for an award. Parents are encouraged to apply online at: [online.factsmgt.com/aid](http://online.factsmgt.com/aid). Families of students currently receiving grants are reminded that all grants are for one year only, and anyone seeking to renew a grant for 2015 - 2016 must **reapply**. Deadline date for the completed application is **MARCH 15, 2015**. Notification of grant awards will be made by mid-April.

Please call if you need help starting the process. (688-3446)



# WELCOME

## *New Parishioners*

- Raymond Miller
- Josh and Michelle Michele
- Christine Maliwanag
- Jason and Betsy Hofer and Family
- Jaybee Genobisa
- Thomas and Jennifer Admire
- Alfredo and Vissia Jubac
- William Osten
- Roger and Patty Wolfe
- Steven Vaughn
- Kelli Barisch
- Leo and JoAnna Basilico Family
- Cora Polley Family
- Patrick Shannon
- Travis and Joanna Gardner Family
- Charles and Mary Ann Randle
- Sarah L. Albright
- Gloria Murphy
- John and Laura Parkinson
- Rigoberto and Maria Diaz
- Ryan and Kristen Horihan Family
- Alan and Judy Campbell
- Gene and Rebecca Doubleday Family
- Tony and Bonnie Fearis
- Matthew and Jennifer Leustek Family
- Joseph and Jennifer Morgan Family
- Timothy and Meghan Woelfel Family
- Emily Eckstein
- Mary McCoy and Kimberly Story
- Gregory and Diane Flebbe
- Rommel Salcedo
- Joshua and Melinda Dobereiner
- Angel Hernandez and Susan Flores
- Chris and Alicia Kochanowicz Family
- Alan and Betsy Barhorst
- Mathew and Jacqueline Pendergrass Family
- Victoria Mathers
- Adam and Jamie Jelinek
- George Hopkins
- Susan McCarthy
- Ben and Cathy Russell Family



- Sydney Hofer, daughter of Jason & Elizabeth  
Ingram Schmidt, son of Jason & Kelly  
Bennett Callahan, son of Tim & Renae  
Lucy Milam, daughter of Cole & Carlie  
Daniel Elger, son of Anthony & Nicole  
Austin Kepple, son of John and Karen  
Blake Whitten, son of Greg & Elizabeth  
Mackinzie Gray, daughter of Michael & Melissa  
Johanna Campbell, daughter of Jeff & Amy  
Adele James, daughter of Jamie & Natalie  
Madison Conti, daughter of Brandon & Devon  
Sophia Slevin, daughter of Daniel & Jody  
Grace Houser, daughter of Joshua & Paige  
Daniel McBride, son of Brenton & Magdalena  
Hudson Chan, son of Matthew & Erin  
Donald Genzel, son of Joseph & Katy  
Henry Gardner, son of Travis & Joanna  
Margaret Assman, daughter of Clint & Kelly  
Jay Highfill, son of John & Cristine  
Francine Scherer, daughter of James & Erin  
Emma Hein, daughter of Bruce & Amy  
Liam Lakdawala, son of Jeffrey & Caitlin  
Giana Fontana, daughter of Joseph & Michelle  
Sylvia Frank, daughter of Brian & Kay  
Charles Goett, son of Dennis & Erica  
Bernice Lawson-Avla, daughter of Justin & Yvonne  
Olivia Whitten, daughter of Doug & Kim  
Leah Woelfel, daughter of Timothy & Meghan  
Lucas Huett, son of Rick & Jennifer  
Lindsey Huett, daughter of Rick & Jennifer  
Harper Jancich, daughter of Luke & Michelle  
Vincent Haselkorn, son of Keegan & Jody  
Jonathan Krumholz, son of Richard & Vanessa  
Calli Daniels, daughter Jason & Jennifer  
Briggs Waldschmidt, son of Derek & Stephanie  
Evelyn Kerr, daughter of James & Kimberly  
Sophia Darche, daughter of Fred & Mallory



## Fruitful Searching Wandering My Way Toward God

By Matt Emersom

I know a Jesuit whose father worked at the same company for 56 years. A friend and mentor just retired after 35 years at the same company, and my father has only recently begun to decelerate after practicing orthopedic surgery for almost 40 years.

I am 32. After graduating from college at 22, in St. Louis, Mo., I taught at a high school in Phoenix, Ariz., attended law school in South Bend, Ind., practiced law back in Phoenix and returned to teaching high school—in Palm Desert, Calif. My travels have spanned three Jesuit institutions, two law firms, one federal prosecutor's office and four states.

During the past decade, I spent hundreds of hours on U.S. interstates gazing into deserts and farmland, hoping for my own burning bush. I saw mostly cows. And as I made my way through this cattle-encountering, debt-amassing quest, I started to wonder: Was I afraid to commit? Would my career search last a lifetime? Was I part of a generation too privileged to appreciate a good job?

And more than anything: Why was it so hard? Why couldn't I just figure it out?

Four years ago, as I approached 30, I finally settled into a role that gave me the fulfillment and the focus I had been seeking. I now divide my time between writing, teaching and speaking, a synthesis of responsibilities that enables me to feed many interests, make a living and, most important, feel confident that I am following God. Now, when I look back on my 20s, I'm not embarrassed that I bounced around, but grateful.

With a few years to reflect, I know my moving around was not aimless. My restlessness grew from something good, from spiritual hunger. I wanted to commit to a career that reflected what God wanted of me. Ambition or ego occasionally obscured that desire, but it always resurfaced—on a late-night drive back from the office; during the silence of a Saturday morning; in the calm before Mass. In other words, my roaming derived from an authentic, inquisitive spirit. I was restless for the right reasons.

My 20s demonstrated that success is a mixed blessing. Achievement is not contentment. What to friends and family should be uncomplicated reasons for happiness can possess the character of crystal: alluring but brittle. Not long after graduating from law school, I worked as an associate at a large law firm. The job earned me respect and good money, and I was mentored by talented, caring colleagues. But as I imagined making partner, as I imagined buying a house, investing, marrying—completing the milestones that, in our culture, constitute “settling down”—I grew restive and melancholy. I began to ask the question the rich young man directs to Jesus: “What do I still lack?”

As I tried to reconcile inner tensions, I realized I would have to submit to a period of instability and uncertainty, a prolonged period of not knowing. For that I was unprepared. For years I had a plan; I could always see the next rung. As an adult, the path was supposed to be similarly clear: choose a career, begin a family and head for retirement.

But in my mid-20s, in the midst of a spiritual crisis, I realized that pursuing these goals on the typical timeline leaves little room for the trial and error, the flexibility and freedom that discipleship requires. Growth in the spiritual life, I discovered, cannot be scheduled. I could have settled as a teacher at 23 or a lawyer at 27, but I would have missed out on experiences and encounters that became essential in my search for God.

I met lawyers whose vestments of prestige hid long-festered despair. I sat with the poor at legal aid clinics, finding they needed legal advice far less than they needed to be looked in the eye. I have watched students wrestle with God's existence and then speak of a hope for faith. I have counseled students on everything from Christ to college essays to the rules of evidence. Most joyfully, most wonderfully, my searching over the past 10 years led me to the woman with whom I will spend my life, to my fiancée. (We met—how's this for God's wink?—at a fundraiser called the “Jesuit Companions' Dinner.”)

Finally, I learned that in the effort to live as a disciple, it is not so much about finding a particular career, a particular place or a particular combination of roles, as it is about finding a particular attitude that endures no matter where we are or what we do. It is an attitude of trust, a willingness to let God refashion our preferences in the refinery of God's will. It is the desire to offer our lives, not as a demand to be met, but as a constantly unfolding eighth day of creation.

Let there be light.

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**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

Baptism class is held for all parents before the baptism of their child.  
 Please contact Sr. Rachel to schedule the class.  
 Next Baptisms: January 25at 11:00 am Mass.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

Saturdays: 4:00-4:45 pm & 7:00-8:00 pm  
 or by appointment with a priest  
 Confessions are held in the confessionals in the  
 daily Mass Chapel

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