

# BAPTISM OF THE LORD

JANUARY 12, 2025



## THIS WEEKEND'S READINGS

**First Reading** – Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7

**Second Reading** – Acts 10:34-38

**Gospel** – Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

**Focus:** *God seeks out the sinner and loves us unconditionally.*

Today's feast is another "epiphany" – a revelation of who Jesus is. By submitting himself to John's baptism, a baptism of repentance, Jesus, who is sinless, draws near to sinners and joins himself with them. The voice of the Father saying, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased" consoles us because we who are joined to Christ in baptism are made beloved children of the Father. These truths reveal God's goodness and his unconditional love for us.

### Liturgy of the Word:

In today's first reading, the prophet Isaiah declares that God's servant will be a light for the nations and will bring forth justice for all.

Peter, in the second reading, declares that God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit and power.

In the Gospel, John announces one mightier than himself is coming and baptizes Jesus. When Jesus is baptized, the Holy Spirit descends upon him.



## MASS INTENTIONS

**5 p.m.:** The Cannone Family, Annemarie Willard and Dolores Vitani

**10 a.m.:** Richard Laurenzi, Deacon John and Maria Gaspar

## HELP US HELP THE HOMELESS

Once again, our Youth Ministry will be collecting and packing items for homeless men and women to take with them as they leave the Middletown Warming Station.

Bags will be assembled on

**Friday, January 24.** The Warming Station requests that they all contain the same items; please do not deviate from the list as the goal is to fill 100 bags with the following:

<b>Small hand sanitizers</b>	<b>Small bottles of water</b>
<b>Snacks without peanuts</b>	<b>Gloves</b>
<b>Packets of tissues</b>	<b>Socks</b>
<b>Lip balms</b>	<b>Hats</b>
<b>Hand warmers</b>	<b>Toothbrushes</b>
<b>Travel-size toothpaste</b>	

A collection box can be found in the hall.



## SPREAD THE WARMTH

The **Greater Middletown Interfaith Council's Warming Station** at 8-10 Mulberry Street has begun its 17<sup>th</sup> year of providing a safe space for homeless men and women each night through the winter months.

Clients receive a hot meal upon their arrival. If you can assist with food, visit the website [TakeThemAMeal.com](http://TakeThemAMeal.com) (type in "The Warming Station" for recipient's last name, and the password is "Meal"). There you will find details and a sign-up schedule. In particular, comfort foods such as hearty soups, stews and casseroles – enough to generously feed 30 – are requested.

Volunteers – either for two-hour shifts or overnight – are also needed. Volunteers must first attend an ahoulong training session. Training has been scheduled for 7 p.m. on January 13<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. For more information, contact Marilyn at 845-346-6110 or [midduce@hvc.rr.com](mailto:midduce@hvc.rr.com)

Donations are also welcome. Checks should be made payable to GMIC, with "Warming Station" noted in the memo line and mailed to: Middletown Warming Station, P.O. Box 609, Middletown 10940.



## TREASURER'S REPORT

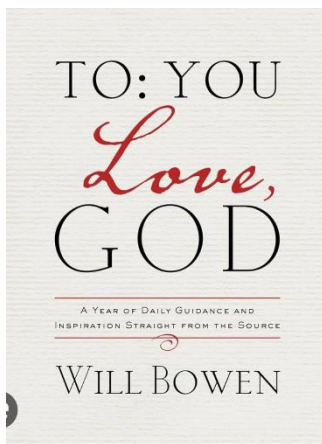
Regular Sunday Collection

**December 30 – January 5: \$ 8,245.13**

Envelopes: \$ 3,868.00 – Online: \$ 4,377.15

**Additional Christmas: \$ 365.00**

*THANK YOU!*



## AWAKENING

To: You

You have an epiphany. You break through to a new level of understanding.

You awaken to a new realization.

Then you forget.

You spiral back to where you once were.

You fall asleep once again.

Don't fret.

The soul awakened to a new level must return once again to that level.

Be gentle and loving with yourself when you seem to be having a setback.

A setback is an opportunity to remember where you no longer wish to be, thereby defining the new, higher level to your emotional home.

This is the process of your soul's awakening.

This is the process of life.

Love,  
God

## A NOTE OF APPRECIATION

Dear Fr. Sean:

I am writing to thank you and the people of St. Paul's Church for your generous gift of \$6,059.00 to the Carmelite Missions. Your contribution will provide valuable help to our Missions throughout the world.

May God bless you in all you do. Please be assured of my prayers.

Sincerely,  
Fr. Timothy Ennis, O.Carm.  
Carmelite Mission Procurator

## SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

**AFFORDABLE FINDS**  
Family Consignment

**845-421-7833**  
65 Main St., PO Box 1085  
Pine Bush, NY 12566

**Tue-Sat 9-5 | Sun 11-3**

facebook.com/affordablefindsfamilyconsignment



## TAKE THE BUS TO THE ARK

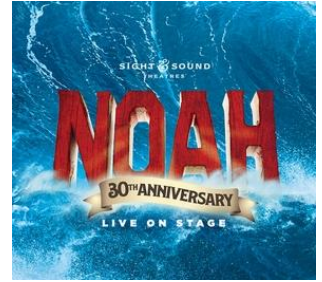
The National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel is sponsoring a mid-week, two-day bus trip from **April 23-25** to Lancaster, PA.

Along with a tour of the Amish Country, the highlight is preferred seating at the live performance of "Noah" at the Sight & sound Theater.

Returning for one season only, this landmark production takes the audience on board one of the world's best-known voyages as live animals fill the stage and aisles.

The cost is \$589 per person, double occupancy (\$728 single), and includes bus transportation, hotel, breakfast and dinner daily, taxes, meal gratuities and show tickets.

Call Carol Bezak, the Shrine director, for reservations at 845-343-1879, Ext. 22.



## FOLLOW-UP AFF MEETING SET

The Adult Faith Formation Committee will meet after the 10 a.m. Mass on **Sunday, January 19**, in Deacon John Hall to continue discussions regarding upcoming programs for the parish. Everyone is invited.

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The Parish Council serves in an advisory capacity to Fr. Sean. Its next meeting begins at 7 p.m. this **Tuesday, January 14**, via Zoom.

All parishioners are welcome; contact the office for the Zoom link. If there is a specific item you'd like to discuss, let the office know so the matter can be placed on the agenda.

Meeting minutes can be found on our website.

## AARP'S TAX-AIDE

Thanksgiving. Christmas. New Year's. Taxes. And that taxing time is upon us.

But once again, free tax-preparation assistance is available through **AARP Foundation Tax-Aide**. For an appointment, call 2-1-1 (the United Way's Help Line) beginning this Thursday, January 16, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

## MASS ATTENDANCE

**Christmas Eve**

5 p.m. – 168

8 p.m. – 80

**Christmas Day**

10 a.m. – 90

**December 29**

5 p.m. – 99

10 a.m. – 149

**January 5**

5 p.m. – 85

10 a.m. – 123



