



January 11, 2026

The Baptism Of The Lord

Sunday	1/11	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	The Resolution of Family Problems Mass at St John's Ann Theroux
Tuesday	1/13	8:15 AM	Mass at St John's Betty Schmit
Wednesday	1/14	8:15 AM 9:00 AM	Mass at St John's Stephen Buch Holy Communion Outside of Mass / Faith Formation to follow
Thursday	1/15	8:15 AM	Mass at St John's Open
Friday	1/16	8:15 AM	Bill Matuszak and Ryan Socha Love, Family
Saturday	1/17	4:00 PM	Mass at St John's Alice Nackers
Sunday	1/18	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	In Memory of Barb Sponenburg From Chris & Sandy Mass at St John's Gerald & Gladys Schaumberg

**RE & St Sebastian Feast Day
Breakfast after Mass**

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

When Jesus Wades In

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Usually, when God comes to us, we aren't ready.

We think we are. Like John the Baptist, we stand in our waters of baptism, certain of our mission. We know how it's going to go. We know what's going to be asked of us. We're sure of it.

Christ wades into the waters. And he screws up all our plans.

To be clear, I don't think John the Baptist lacks faith when he balks at the idea of baptizing Jesus. I think it is, in fact, a testament to his humility. But whatever motivated John's actions, he is — if even for a brief moment — hesitating to do the will of God. Just a few chapters after this in the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus will acknowledge that John is the greatest person "born of women" — with the caveat that even he is not perfect enough for the Kingdom of Heaven.

Not yet.

Jesus didn't give John an explanation as the two stood in the River Jordan. He merely said, "Allow it for now." John could have resisted further, demanding to understand why. He could have grown suspicious at the simplicity of Jesus' answer, at the strangeness of this request. He could have clung desperately to his version of How Things Are Supposed To Be, and in doing so, fostered doubt in his heart. He could have even stormed off, confused and angry.

He did none of these things, because John is, as Jesus says, the greatest born of women.

When the Holy Spirit descends and the voice of God declares, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," he is referring, of course, to Jesus. But I think He would say the same of John the Baptist — and of all those who welcome Jesus into the waters, ready to do as he bids.

GOSPEL MEDITATION

The Baptism of the Lord Matthew 3:13-17

— Father John Muir

Apple ran a commercial not long ago called "Behind the Mac – Greatness." It shows artists and creators, such as Kendrick Lamar, Billie Eilish, and Lady Gaga, working behind their MacBooks. The narration says, "There's a certain kind of person who doesn't wait for greatness. They make it." It's a compelling message. There's beauty in using our gifts with passion and purpose. But there lies a hidden weight in that idea: If you are what you make, what happens when you can't anymore? When the project fails, the passion fades, or the spotlight moves on, where is greatness then?

Today's Gospel offers a differing vision of greatness. Jesus steps into the Jordan River. He hasn't preached, healed, or performed a single miracle. Then the heavens open, and the Father speaks: **"You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."** It's not a reward for success. It's not earned. Before he does anything "great," Jesus receives the greatness of his identity from the Father.

And so do you. At your baptism, God said the same thing over you: "You are my beloved." That is your true identity, not constructed or earned but received. When we see ourselves and others this way, everything changes for the better. We discover a greatness that can never be taken away.

This week, reflect on your baptism: look up the date, thank God for it, pray for those baptized with you, or visit the church where it happened. Let your identity be rooted there.

Jesus shares the plight of us sinners; he descends into the river, and into the wounded history of humanity.

~ Pope Francis

DAY/TIME	LECTORS	DISTRIBTORS	SERVERS	USHERS
Sunday 8:00 AM January 18	Dan Rynish	Don Eisenreich	Jackson Banker Paden Melchert Parker Nagel	Dick Stedl Jacob Vanden Heuvel

St. Sebastian Monthly Stewardship and Expense Report 2026 Fiscal Year		
Ordinary Revenue	November	Year to Date
Parish Support	\$ 4,811	\$ 32,560
Offerings and Other Unrestricted Income	834	3,590
Total Revenue	\$ 5,645	\$ 36,149
Ordinary Expenses		
Worship, Music, non-Religious Ed Catechesis	\$ 52	\$ 1,929
Personnel Expenses and Salaries	4,943	27,922
Purchased Services and Supplies	932	5,015
Utilities	579	2,593
Building and Grounds	215	3,738
General and Office Expenses	566	2,736
Diocesan Assessments	640	4,338
Other Expenses	22	2,199
Parish Donations	-	-
Total Expenses	\$ 7,949	\$ 50,468
Revenue Net of Expense	\$ (2,304)	\$ (14,319)



St. John Evangelist Homeless Shelter
This Thursday, January 15th is the Homeless Shelter Meal. The door on the north side of St. John's School will be open Wednesday, January 14th from 6am to 5pm and Thursday, January 15th from 6am to Noon to drop off your donations of food. Your help is greatly appreciated!



Please keep in your prayers the family of Kenneth Melotte who recently passed away. As we pray for his soul, may he rest in peace in the loving arms of Our Savior.

Perpetual Monthly Giving Calendar
Seymour Food Pantry
St Vincent de Paul to collect & deliver.
Featured items for January:

Canned Veggies, Bagged Brown Rice, Dried Beans

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: What is the name for the formal letters in the New Testament sent to people and Christian communities?

Answer: Epistles.

Blessing for Baptismal Grace

Dear God, Through Baptism, You called and claimed us as Your own, chosen and loved. Pour Your blessing upon us as we remember our Baptism. Plant Your identity in our hearts. Help us to live as Your beloved. Amen.

Live The Liturgy - Inspiration of the Week

John could not believe that Jesus would seek baptism from him, a lowly mortal man. But our God is a humble God. He does not fear our weakness. He extends his hand, saying, "It is fitting." So take his hand. Begin the work he has set out for you.

Virtues, Explained! Joy

Joy is the experience of achieving what we most desire—and what we most desire is love. God made us in love and for love, and so, in the same way that a flower seeks the sunlight, our souls seek the warmth of true, selfless love.

INCOME FOR WEEK:

Church Support	\$ 1980.00
Loose Collection	\$ 145.98
Votives	\$ 12.50
Mass Intentions	\$ 60.00
Building & Maintenance	\$ 155.00
Homeless Shelter Meal Donation	\$ 20.00
Parish Hall Rental (1/10/26)	\$ 35.00

DISBURSEMENTS FOR WEEK:

MMC- Multi Media	\$ 20.00
AON Risk Insurance	\$ 830.26
St John's Cost Share	\$ 4807.51
Liturgical Publications (Website)	\$ 999.00
Dcn Rich (Mileage Reimbursement)	\$ 87.50
Homeless Shelter Meal Donation	\$ 20.00
Community 2000 (Christmas Loose Coll)	\$ 379.02
Parish Hall Cleaning Fee Reimbursement	\$ 75.00
WeShare CC Fees	\$ 32.93

The January Bulletin is Sponsored in Memory of the Living & Deceased Members of the De Ruyter & Van Asten Families



From Sherry & Family

Ministry of the Sick: Please notify the parish office if a member of your family is confined to their home or is hospitalized. Also, please inform the hospital of your affiliation with your parish.

Baptisms: Please call the parish office two months in advance.

Marriage: Please call St. John's parish office eight months in advance.

Funeral Arrangements: Please call St. John's parish office.

Anointing of the Sick and Dying: Please call St. John's parish office.

Fr. Sengole Dass
St. John Parish Office - 833-6140

DC. Richard Matuszak
833-2294 or 609-5292

St Sebastian Parish Office - 833-2558
Current Hours: Mon & Thurs 8:00 – 4:00
Wed: 8:30 - Noon, Closed: Tues & Fri