

From Fr. John:

LIGHT

*“He (John the Baptist) was a burning and shining lamp, and for awhile you were content to rejoice in his light”
John 5:34*

A young adult asked me what he should do for his summer. Many of his peers were telling him to do a certain thing but he felt called in a different direction. Initially I had my bits of wisdom I felt I could offer him but then I felt like I was suppose to ask him to pray for two weeks and really seek what the Lord was calling him to do for the summer. I kind of felt like my answer was a cop out but, on the other hand, I constantly teach that the most important place to get the answers to our questions in life is first-hand from Jesus. Just because many, many people are telling us to do a certain thing doesn't mean Jesus is calling us to do that same thing. For example, just because the media continually invites our society to have recreational sex doesn't mean we should do that. We are Christians and we follow our leader, Jesus. Ultimately, we will stand alone in judgment before Jesus and will have to answer to Him. We want to make sure we have lived a life pleasing to Him.

Jesus is the Light of the World and any light we get, we get from him. At baptism, we are given the light of Christ. This light shines in the darkness of our sin and shows us how to live a holy life. It shines within and before us to show us the way Christ wants us to walk through life. When we are infants our parents at baptism commit to make sure this light is kept burning brightly. But as we grow older, we are to make sure that the light of Christ burns brightly. It becomes more and more our responsibility to live in the light as we age.

Today we are called to look at who we are getting our light from. Jesus is teaching the Jews that, while it is not a bad thing to live in the light that John the Baptist shares, He himself is the light we are to live in. You see, we are all carriers of the light like John the Baptist but we are not the light. Some have more light than others but all light is derived from Jesus. It follows logically that the first and foremost place we are to seek our light is from Jesus. We need to become practiced in Jesus lighting the way we should walk. I know of a woman who cancelled an appointment to talk about her problems with a priest because she found her answers through praying the rosary. Imagine that?

Who do you turn to first for the light to light the path of your journey? Do you turn to your spouse, priest/pastor/youth minister, best friend, mom or dad? Someone once shared with me that they do not need to go to a priest for reconciliation because their mom was their priest. I am sure their mom is a great and holy person but she is not Jesus, the savior of the world. Jesus is our priest in the confessional who saves us with his light. It is time we focused more on getting first hand information from the Light of the World.

Be in the Light,
Fr. John



Looking for a Christmas gift—Fr. John’s new book - “More of You Through Prayer” would be a perfect gift and can be purchased at the Parish Center for \$11.00. The Parish Center is opened Monday through Thursday from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 21, 2009

Communion Service

Tuesday, December 22, 2009

+Ann Ceciliani
(Kettie Gattman)

Wednesday, December 23, 2009

Jonathan Grandburg
(Mary Gigiliotti)

Thursday, December 24, 2009

4:00 PM--+Melvin Halseth
(Cecelia Halseth)

8:00 PM--+Victor Errico
(Mom & Dad)

12:00 MN--+Bill Robison
(Pat Robison)

Friday, December 25, 2009

8:30 AM--+Don Fromwiller.
(Mary Fromwiller)

10:30 AM--+Mike Rubich
(Patty Rubich)

Saturday, December 26, 2009

5:00 PM--+Kathy Alder
(John & Becky Fletcher)

Sunday, December 20, 2009

8:30 AM- People of the Parish
10:30 AM--+Lillian Gattman
(Ketty Gattman)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, December 20, 2009

9:00 AM-Faith Formation
9:00 AM-Bible Study

Monday, December 21, 2009

10:00 AM-Bible Study-SR
1:00 PM-Bible Study-SR

Tuesday, December 22, 2009

7:00 PM-Bible Study-Rm. 6
7:00 PM-Choir practice

Wednesday, December 23, 2009

NO RCIA

Thursday, December 24, 2009

Christmas Eve

4:00 PM-Children's Mass
8:00 PM-Candlelight Mass
11:15 PM-Caroling
12:00 MN-Midnight Mass

Friday, December 25, 2009

Christmas Day

9:00 AM-Mass

Saturday, December 26, 2009

8:00 AM-Red Cross Blood Drive
in Social Room

Care Ministry

E-Mail prayer chain – for those who would like to pray for others. We have a chain and if you would like to join just send a note to Sharron at relnsal1@msn.com. When she sends you a prayer request you just have to say a prayer for the person. It's simple and easy. Happy praying!

We have an older widow who is lonely and would love it if someone gave her calls on a regular basis to see how she is doing. If anyone is willing to do this please call me, Becky at 503-761-8710. If you are aware of anyone in the parish who could use calls also let me know.

Thank you from the Altar Guild

The Altar Guild would like to thank those who helped, donated and supported our Annual Christmas Craft/Bake Sale. We had a lot of fun putting this event together. We had the most successful sale we have ever had. All due to you! We are proud to announce that the Altar Guild voted to donate a large amount of profit to St. Vincent de Paul in our parish, There are so many needy people here. God will bless you all for your generosity.

Year End Giving

In order for donations to be credited to the 2009 tax year, they must be received in the Parish Center no later than Sunday, December 27th. Year end contribution statements will be mailed out the month of January. Thank you for your support.

Bulletin Articles: We will be putting out a bulletin for December 25th. All articles must be at the Parish Center by Monday, December 21st no later than 9:00 AM or email them to claws58@comcast.net.

WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS

Amount Needed: \$ 7,032.00

Amount Collected: 7,168.51

Over/Under: + 136.51



Christmas Mass Schedule

Thursday, December 24th

4:00 PM - Nativity Mass

8:00 PM - Candlelight Mass

11:15 PM - Caroling

12:00 Midnight - Midnight Mass

Friday, December 25th

9:00 AM - Mass

Coffee and Donuts: We are in need of volunteers to serve Coffee and Donuts after the 8:30 AM Masses in January. If you are able to help there will be a sign up book available in the Social Room after the Masses on December 20th.

Back to Prayer Night

There will be no BTPN this December because of Christmas and everyone preparing for the blessed day!

We will return on **February 25, 2010** with our beloved **Deacon Mike** as our speaker.

This will be a pot luck so mark your calendars and please bring something yummy to share! Have a glorious Christmas! See you in February!

Baptism Class for Infants will be held on January 23, 2010 in the Parish Center at 2:00 PM. Pre-registration is required for the class and Baptism. Baptisms will take place on Sunday, January 31, 2010 at 10:30 AM.