

**Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,**

“One who is coming after me is mightier than I, I am not worthy to untie the thongs of His sandals.” This is one of the most humbling words of St. John the Baptist about Jesus Christ. This is one of the most powerful testimonies of St. John the Baptist about Jesus. Normally, one who is coming after or behind is the disciple or a servant; but today, St. John the Baptist introduces Jesus as the most powerful. Today, we are all given the same responsibility as St. John the Baptist in the Gospel, but how many of us are humble enough accept and proclaim Jesus through our lives like St. John the Baptist? If we sincerely examine our lives, we can find; instead of being challenged by the life of Jesus, we challenge the life of Jesus in this world through our unworthy way of life. Yes, the creature challenges the creator-what a tragedy!

Today, we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. With this celebration we wind up the Christmas season and enter into the ordinary season of our liturgical year. As we enter into the ordinary season, Jesus would like to come with us, and travel with us by being one among us by accepting the sacrament of Baptism from St. John the Baptist.

St. John the Baptist preached the Baptism of repentance and baptized many people with water. As Christians, our Baptism also is closely linked to the idea of forgiveness of sin. But, one might wonder why at all Jesus, who has no sin, needs to be baptized and asking for forgiveness. The answer to this question is well explained in St. Paul’s letter to Philippians 2:6-8 “*Though he was in the form of God, he did not count equality with God something to be grasped at. Rather, he emptied himself and took the form of a slave, being born in the likeness of men; and found human in appearance; he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross*”. Yes, by being baptized by St. John the Baptist, Jesus tries to identify Himself with each one of us, to strengthen our relationship with His Father in Heaven, which is possible only by humbling ourselves to becoming a servant.

Even though, Jesus was baptized by St. John the Baptist by water, the completion of the sacrament of Baptism is seen only in Jesus with the descending of the Holy Spirit, and thereby we see the very purpose of the coming of the Holy Spirit is well expressed in the voice that came from heaven: “*You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.*” These words from heaven indicate that everyone who receives and acts upon the spirit of the Lord is called beloved and through which God will be well pleased. Our Baptism is not different than the Baptism Jesus received, but do we live like the beloved of God and

please Him through our lives? If this purpose of Baptism is not fulfilled in our lives, what does it benefit us by receiving the sacrament of Baptism except the fact that we are called mere Christians without any quality?

“*You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased,*” is the welcome note from heaven to Jesus and Jesus accepted the invitation by being obedient to the will of His Father in Heaven until death-death on a cross. Jesus became a servant of the will of God through His humility and meekness. It is the same attitude Jesus calls us to have in our lives too, “*learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart.*” (Mt. 11:29). Yes, my dear friends, the sacrament of Baptism, and all other sacraments, call each one of us to be obedient to the will of God, and be a servant of God in this world, like St. John the Baptist, to prepare the people to welcome the Mighty One who is to come, rather than just being part of a big crowd called Christians. Dear friends, as we continue to celebrate this Holy Eucharist, let us ask for the grace of God to remain always the beloved of the Lord, by being obedient to His will always. **God Bless.**

**Finance Committee Meeting**  
St. Sebastian - January 11th at 6:00pm  
St. Charles - January 13th at 6:00pm

**All Hands on Deck**  
Both churches will be packing away the Christmas decorations after mass. We kindly ask for your help with this task.

*We must restore hope to young people, help the old, be open to the future, spread love. Be poor among the poor. We need to include the excluded and preach peace.*  
*-Pope Francis*

**No Mass**  
Father will be away for Convocation at St. Meinard from January 17th - 20th. During this time there will be no daily mass.

*Thanks to everyone for your generous contributions to Our Churches during this unfortunate time. God Bless*

**Financial Report – January 2, 2021**  
**St. Sebastian- Amount Needed: \$2,883.56 weekly**

Regular Collection	\$ 4,988.05 + 2,104.49
Christmas Offering	\$ 25.00
Emergency Fund	\$ 365.00
Special Collections	\$ 285.00

**Financial Report – January 2, 2021**  
**St. Charles - Amount Needed: \$1,058.22 weekly**

Regular Collection	\$ 890.00 - 168.22
Christmas Offering	\$ 100.00
Emergency Fund	\$ 20.00
Special Collections	\$ 20.00

**Mass Schedule**  
**January 9 – January 16**

**Sunday – The Baptism of The Lord**  
-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian  
*Joshua Calhoun*  
-10:30am - Mass at St. Charles  
*Robert Allen Head*

**Monday – First Week in Ordinary Time**  
-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian  
*Thomas & Janice Hobbs*

**Tuesday – First Week in Ordinary Time**  
-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian  
*Janice Clayton Smith*

**Wednesday- First Week in Ordinary Time**  
-6:00pm - Mass at St. Sebastian  
*Tichenor - Leachman Families*  
-6:30pm – *Faith Formation*

**Thursday – First Week in Ordinary Time**  
-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian  
*V J Steele III*  
-5:30pm – Mass at St. Charles  
*Bill & Jacinta Garinger*

**Friday – First Week in Ordinary Time**  
-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian  
*James Lamar*

**Saturday – First Week in Ordinary Time**  
-3:00pm - Confession  
-4:00pm - Mass at St. Sebastian  
*Bill & Jacinta Garinger*

**Sunday – Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian  
*Brenda Payne*  
-10:30am - Mass at St. Charles  
*Tichenor - Leachman Families*

**Ministry Schedule**  
**January 15, 2022**

St. Sebastian Lector: Paula Tichenor

**January 16, 2022**  
St. Sebastian Euch. Min: Neil Scott  
Lectors: Josh Searcy & Laurine Sexton

Money Counters: Mike Dant & Mike Hayden  
St. Charles Euch. Min: Sherry Logsdon  
Lectors: George Rhodes & Christina Hudson  
Money Counters: Rondy Humphrey & Mark Logsdon

**CDC Recommendations for Covid-19 Pandemic**

- All Vaccinated and Unvaccinated over the age of two are strongly recommended to wear a facemask properly.
- If you are feeling ill or concerned about exposure to the virus, be encouraged to remain home.
- Gathering spaces to be cleaned and sanitized regularly.
- Continue with proper hand washing and/or sanitizing.
- No social gatherings or meetings are permitted in the church buildings.
- Eucharistic Ministers should be masked and sanitize their hands after receiving the Eucharist.
- Please continue to be diligent.

**Mark Your Calendars Please!**

St. Charles - January 9th After the mass  
- February 13th After the mass

St. Sebastian - January 16th at 5:00pm  
- February 20th at 5:00pm

Parishioners from each parish are kindly requested to attend the meeting scheduled for each parish without fail. Thank you

**Circle of Grace**

On January 12th Faith Formation will have a Circle of Grace class for Safe Environment training. Parents may choose to opt their child out of the class, however all teachers are required to attend.

**St. Charles - Happy Birthday**



Robert Baggett - January 10

**St. Sebastian - Happy Birthday**



James Ferguson - January 8  
Madison Wilson - January 13  
Sandra Anderson - January 14  
Andrew Crabtree - January 14

**Please Pray for our Military**

MMN1 Andrew Logsdon, SSgt. James (J.P.) Dye, John Randall Zaremba, Major Jack Kaina, Major Bradley Summers, Lance Corporal Marine Joseph Ryan Hunter, Lt. Col. Michael Rezebek. A.B. Phillip Wilson, Specialist 4 Chaz McKay, Sgt. Adam Dickey, and Corpsman Aly Franklin.

**Prayer List for Members of our Community**

Melanie Mayes, Jason Evans, Lisa Jackson, Ethan Settle, Jimmy Clayton, Pat Calhoun, Sonny Renfrow, Kimberly Nowak, Todd Tichenor, Kimberly Stiles, Louis & Alice Weise, Callie Hayden, Tom Schutte, Evelyn Drury, Bill Abney, Debbie Dunn, Ben Dunn, Tommy England, Louis Dant, Becky Cheatham, Lisa Vaught, Lance Green, Neil Hayden, Serena Cooper and Jeff Husk.