



January 11, 2026 The Baptism of the Lord

Pastor: Fr. Henry Smolenaars
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Tabitha Centre: 902-742-8960
Confession/Adoration Wednesday 7:00-8:00

MASS INTENTIONS – January 10th to 18th, 2026

St. Ambrose Co-Cathedral (Yarmouth):

Sat. 4 pm Anniv. Heidi Lyn Surette and Amos Surette
Sun. 9am Delby & Louise Saulnier
Sun. 11:15 am Parishioners
Tues. 6:30 pm Blaine and Ryan Anthony
Wed. 6:30 pm Bob Rodgerson
Thurs. 9 am Adele Doucette
Fri. 9 am Michael Pothier
Sat. 4 pm Parishioners
Sun. 9am Anniv. Pius and Cecilia Landry
Sun. 11:15 am Jerry MacKenzie

Our Lady of Lourdes (Melbourne):

Sun. 10 am January 11 Phyllis Doucette
Sun. 10 am January 18 Mass of Thanks Giving

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BRING UP THE GIFTS in the offertory procession at a weekend Mass (if you are a family member of the person the Mass is for) please see the greeters **at least 20 minutes before Mass begins.**

Please note: The weekday Mass will be cancelled in the event of a funeral Mass. The Mass intention scheduled for that day will be offered at a later date.

REFLECTION: **An Indelible Spiritual Mark** *Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. John tried to prevent him, saying, “I need*

to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?” Jesus said to him in reply, “Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he allowed him. John the Baptist was the last of the Old Testament prophets, entrusted with the mission to immediately prepare the way for the Messiah. Today’s feast marks a pivotal transition from the Old Law to the New. Prior to Jesus’ baptism, John’s mission was in full motion. With Jesus’ baptism, the mission of the Old Testament prophets is fulfilled, and the New Law of grace begins. Why did Jesus enter the waters of baptism? He was sinless and had no need of repentance. Yet, in His divine wisdom, Jesus chose to be baptized to sanctify the waters, opening the gateway of grace for all who would follow. By entering the waters of baptism, Jesus set a precedent. Every Christian who enters the waters of baptism meets our Lord there, sharing in His life of grace. As we reflect on Christ’s baptism today, we are invited to consider our own. Most of us were baptized as infants and have no memory of the event. Others came to baptism later in life, fully aware of the grace they were receiving. Regardless of when it occurred, baptism’s effects are profound and enduring. That singular moment of sanctification forever changed us, and its transformative power remains active within us. Through baptism, Jesus meets us under the waters. When baptism is performed by full immersion, it powerfully symbolizes the reality of this encounter. We enter the waters of repentance, as John offered, but we emerge united with Christ. Just as the Father’s voice declared at Jesus’ baptism, “You are my beloved Son...,” so too does the Father continually speak to us after our baptism, affirming our identity as His beloved children. The Holy Spirit descends upon us, and we are offered every gift of the Spirit, provided our hearts remain open. Baptism occurs only once in our lives and imprints on our souls an “indelible spiritual mark (character)” This mark configures us to Christ and signifies our permanent belonging to Him and His Church. It cannot be lost or removed, even by mortal sin. However, while this character endures forever, the state of sanctifying grace within our souls can be lost through mortal sin. In such cases, the grace of baptism is restored through the Sacrament of Reconciliation in which our souls are once again cleansed and brought back into full

communion with God. Marked as members of Christ’s Body, we are continually disposed to receive sanctifying grace through the other sacraments, as long as we remain in a state of grace. Baptism accomplishes this disposition, enabling us to participate fully in the life of grace that flows from Christ. As we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, reflect today on your own baptism. You are forever marked as a child of God. You encountered our Lord under the waters of baptism, were cleansed of all sin, and were filled with sanctifying grace. Though sin diminishes or even extinguishes that grace when it is mortal, the Sacrament of Reconciliation restores it, and the Eucharist and other sacraments increase it. Always return to your baptismal grace, seeking to live out your identity as God’s son or daughter, as this sacred mark intends. -My Catholic Life

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: Do not judge by appearance



nor by the opinions of others, for judgements of God are very different. -Bl. John Martin Moye

INCENSE BEING USED AT THE 11:15AM MASS: Our Catholic Church has a long-standing tradition of using incense. It is a powerful symbol, having its roots in Jewish temple worship. The rising smoke symbolizes the prayers of the faithful ascending to God, drawing from Old Testament imagery (Psalm 141:2) and the Book of Revelation. Incense purifies and sanctifies people and objects, marking them as holy. It signifies God's presence, recalling the cloud on Mount Sinai and the incense used in the Temple. The fragrant smoke reminds us of our heavenly home and the worship of angels and saints. Some of our older parishioners might remember it being often used in their youth. In some of our churches in the diocese, it is still used every weekend. As the Co-Cathedral, it would be nice to see this symbol being used here. Having said this, incense will be used on the last Sunday of every month at the 11:15 mass only. -Fr. Henry

CARE AND COMPANIONSHIP: Do you have some time to volunteer to visit seniors, as members of our Care and Companionship ministry? Residents are wonderful and kind folks who are appreciative of your time and effort. Playing cards, music, reading,

or just chatting all mean so much. Check us out. We're happy to assist you and offer ideas. Please come to our 'Care and Companionship' meeting January 15th 10:00am at the Parish Hall to discuss your thoughts and questions.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP: Grief is a difficult process. Grief doesn't go away, but we learn to grow around it, and expand our lives beyond it. Have you lost someone recently, or well in the past? It may help to share your experience, or perhaps just hear from others who may have insight into what you are going through. Stories are medicine. Join us at the Marian Hall 1:00 to 3:00 the afternoon of January 22nd to see if this group can help ease your suffering.

ENVELOPE USERS: Please remember to notify the office of any changes to your personal information. With a large number of people using envelopes, simply writing your information on the envelope often goes unnoticed. For those of you who haven't picked up your envelopes, please do so in the entrance of the church.

COFFEE SOCIALS: Will be held after all the masses the weekend of January 17th & 18th in the Jubilee room. Please join us for a cup.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS: Monthly Meeting: will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Tuesday, January 13th, all members invited. (Executive meeting 6:00 pm General meeting at 7:30) There will be **no 4th Degree meetings** in January or February 2026.



Our sympathy is extended to the family and friends of
Jean Edward Cottreau
Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him.