

## From Your Pastor

### Christmas Closure with Thanksgiving

The Christmas Season concludes today with the Church's celebration of the Lord's Baptism at the Jordan River by his cousin John. I hope these Christmas days have been days of grace for you and for your loved ones; and that among the blessings you have received is a greater sense of how much the Lord loves you. Jesus Christ came among us that we might have life and have it more abundantly (Jn 10:10).

As I look back over the past several weeks, I want to express my thanks to all of you for the so many ways in which you worked with God's grace this Christmas to make this such a beautiful and joyous season.

I am grateful to those of you who are involved in the many liturgical ministries that make our Sunday and weekday Masses the great moments of worship and prayer that they ought to be – to our altar servers and those who care for the church and for our sacred artifacts; to our sacristan and custodian; to our lectors and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion; to our ushers and musicians; to our Mass planners and Worship Commission; and to the Community of San Egidio for the special care they give our seniors.

I am grateful to those of you engaged in religious education who cooperate actively with parents in their God-given responsibility of passing on the faith to their children. I am grateful for the special way you helped our children learn more about the mystery of Christmas through their active participation in the School's Christmas Cantata, the variety of Christmas Pageants we celebrated at Mass, and the special activities you introduced in your classes.

I am grateful to those of you who made a special effort this Christmas to help the less fortunate around us – I thank those who coordinated and donated to our Giving Tree project which provided necessary gifts to

so many young mothers and children this year. I also thank our St. Vincent DePaul Society and its donors for the wonderful varieties of assistance they gave to the needy among us throughout the whole year, but particularly at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

I am grateful to the many groups associated with the parish that gather, especially at Christmastime, not only for camaraderie but to work and pray in our behalf – to the Catholic Daughters, the Legion of Mary, the Sodality, and Council #121 of the Knights of Columbus; to our many parish prayer groups; and to the devotees of Our Lady's Fatima Shrine.

I am grateful to the priests of the parish, to the members of the pastoral and finance councils, and to our parish staff for the great example they continue to be for me. Their unflagging generosity of spirit is an abiding confirmation for me of the wisdom of St. Paul's exhortation, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). In this vein, I am delighted to welcome Bishop John D'Arcy back to the parish this weekend. He has indeed been and is a very special gift to Brighton, to the Archdiocese of Boston, and to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend in Indiana. Welcome home, Bishop!

With his Baptism at the Jordan River, the quiet life that the Lord enjoyed with his parents and friends in Bethlehem, in Egypt and in Nazareth came to an end. It was necessary that this happen, because the Lord came into our midst not to be hidden among us but to be a light leading us out of darkness. "I am the way, and the truth, and the life" (Jn 14:6). As I give thanks to the Lord for the abundant gifts he continues to manifest in you, I pray that you and I may continue to give generously of what we have received. I am confident that, in God's grace, the light that brightens our lives can and will radiate well beyond us.



God bless each of you.

*Mrs. Fay*

## **BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

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**PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED** for those who are ill, for vocations to the Priesthood and to the Consecrated Life; for married couples and for families; for the safe return home of the men and women in our military services; and for the repose of the souls of Madeline G. Navin, Joseph Cicconi, John E. Murphy, Joseph R. Moscone, Tom Banks and the deceased members of our parish, our families and our benefactors.

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**A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO THE LEHMAN & REEN FUNERAL HOME** for the beautiful 2009 parish calendars in English and Spanish. Please offer a word of thanks to John and Dottie and to John and Maureen when you see them for their generous annual gift to the parish.

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**RESTORATION OF THE CHURCH DOORS** – With the completion of the work on the stone wall along Arlington Street, the next major project we are working on is the refurbishment of the doors of the church. The work has begun on the set of doors at the west end of the lower church on Arlington Street. This is the first of eight doorways to the church that will be restored over the next several weeks. The wood restoration will be done by Edward Morrissey Contracting in Brighton, which firm made the present doors. The iron restoration will be done by Auciello Iron Works in Hudson. I apologize for any inconvenience you may experience during these weeks of work. *Msgr. Fay*

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**THE ST. COLUMBKILLE PRAYER GROUP** will meet on Monday at 7:15 pm in the lower church. All are welcome to join.

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**HOLY COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND.** If you know someone in the parish who is elderly or infirm and not able to come to Mass, please give Patricia McShane a call at the rectory (617-782-5774) and we will arrange for them to have someone visit them regularly with Holy Communion.

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**RCIA:** Are you not Catholic, but thinking about becoming one? Or would you just like to learn more about our Faith? Please call Patricia at the rectory to let us know.

**HEALING MASS:** Fr. Agustin Anda will be celebrating a Mass of Healing on Thursday, January 29 at 7:00 pm in the upper church. All are welcome to attend.

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**VOLUNTEERS:** All volunteers, Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, CCD teachers, visitors to the sick and elderly and anyone who may have the potential for contact with children need to fill out a CORI form available at the rectory. A government issue ID must be presented with the completed form. Some people have already done this. If you have not please do so as soon as possible. You may call Patricia McShane for further information on this matter.

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**THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY** will meet on Tuesday, January 13 at 7:00 pm in the rectory. The members would like to thank all those who have been donating through the boxes located at the doors of the church.

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**WE WELCOME** into our community of faith Aaron Santillan, Miguel Angel Ramos, Sebastian Hickos, Alexis Josué Berganza, Daniel James McLaughlin and Wright Joseph Shinzawa who were baptized at our church. We extend congratulations to their families

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**CONGRATULATIONS** to Kevin Keller and Barbara Jacobs who were married in our church recently. May God bless their union.

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### ***PARISH GIVING***

**Parish Offertory (Dec. 20 – 21): \$3,017**

**Retired Religious (Dec. 20 – 21): \$2,210**

**Clergy Benefit Trust (Dec. 24 – 25): \$9,201**

**Parish Offertory (Dec. 27 – 28): \$5,046**

**Mary, Mother of God (Jan. 1): \$1,735**

**Latin Mass (Jan. 2): \$145**

**Parish Offertory (Jan. 3 – 4): \$5,346**

**Parish Grand Annual (to Date): \$60,755**

Donors: 290    Goal: \$60,000

***Thank You for Your Generosity***

*JANUARY 11, 2009*

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**From a Sermon by  
St. Gregory Nazianzen  
(died c. 389)**

*The Baptism of Christ*

Christ is bathed in light; let us also be bathed in light. Christ is baptized; let us also go down with him, and rise with him.

John is baptizing when Jesus draws near. Perhaps he comes to sanctify his baptizer; certainly he comes to bury sinful humanity in the waters. He comes to sanctify the Jordan for our sake and in readiness for us; he who is spirit and flesh comes to begin a new creation through the Spirit and water.

The Baptist protests; Jesus insists. Then John says: I ought to be baptized by you. He is the lamp in the presence of the sun, the voice in the presence of the Word, the friend in the presence of the Bridegroom, the greatest of all born of woman in the presence of the firstborn of all creation, the one who leapt in his mother's womb in the presence of him who was adored in the womb, the forerunner and future forerunner in the presence of him who has already come and is to come again. I ought to be baptized by you: we should also add, "and for you," for John is to be baptized in blood, washed clean like Peter, not only by the washing of his feet.

Jesus rises from the waters; the world rises with him. The heavens like Paradise with its flaming sword, closed by Adam for himself and his descendants, are rent open. The Spirit comes to him as to an equal, bearing witness to his Godhead. A voice bears witness to him from heaven, his place of origin. The Spirit descends in bodily form like the dove that so long ago announced the ending of the flood and so gives honor to the body that is one with God.

Today let us do honor to Christ's baptism and celebrate this feast in holiness. Be cleansed entirely and continue to be cleansed. Nothing gives such pleasure to God as the conversion and salvation of men, for whom his every word and every revelation exist. He wants you to become a living force for all mankind, lights shining in the world. You are to be radiant lights as you stand beside Christ, the great light, bathed in the glory of him who is the light of heaven. You are to enjoy more and more the pure and dazzling light of the Trinity, as now

***JANUARY 11, 2009***

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you have received – though not in its fullness – a ray of its splendor, proceeding from the one God, in Christ Jesus our Lord, to whom be glory and power for ever and ever. Amen.

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***Prayer for Marriage***

Heavenly Father,  
through the intercession of the Holy Family,

Help us treasure the gift of marriage  
that reflects the love of Christ for the Church,  
where the self-giving love of husband and wife  
unites them more perfectly  
and cooperates in your plan  
for new life created in your image.

Help us support men and women  
in their vocation of marriage,  
especially in difficult times  
when they join their sufferings to the Cross.

Help us uphold the institution of marriage in our society  
as the place where love is nurtured and family life begins.

Help us acknowledge that our future depends on this love  
and on your providential care for us. Amen.

*Please pray daily for the vocation of marriage.*

Nihil Obstat: Reverend Mark O'Connell, J.C.D.  
Imprimatur: Sean Cardinal O'Malley, OFM, Cap  
Archbishop of Boston  
May 15, 2007

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**UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS**

**Thursday January 29 – 7:00 pm**

Mass of Healing

*JANUARY 11, 2009*

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**ANY TEXT OR GRAPHICS ENTERED ON THIS PAGE**  
**WILL NOT APPEAR IN THE PRINTED BULLETIN**

CHURCH NAME: **Saint Columbkille**

CHURCH CITY: **Brighton**

ROUTING CODE: **W**

RUN NUMBER: **15**

FILENAME: **03-0479.07b09**

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EDITOR/ CONTACT: **Patricia**

**CURRENT FORMAT: WNS Format -- 6th Column is copy**

**Comments:**

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