

The Baptism of the Lord

January 11, 2026 — Year A



Sat. Jan 10	8:00AM †Gerard van Ruyven by Josef & Mary van Ruyven 4:00PM Michael Sammons by Ida Grant
Sun. Jan 11	9:00AM For the People
Mon. Jan 12	8:00AM †Frank Grimaldi by John & Teresa Morcone
Tue. Jan 13	6:30PM †Melanie van Kampen by the CWL
Wed. Jan 14	8:00AM †The Nevar family by Anita Nevar
Thu. Jan 15	8:00AM †The Buri family by Carmen Buri
Fri. Jan 16	8:00AM †The Tavano family by Mary Pietrelli
Sat. Jan 17	8:00AM †Jerry Bazinet by Roland & Mona Breton 4:00PM For the People
Sun. Jan 18	9:00AM †Enrico Mascio by Elvira Mascio

YOUTH RETREAT

St. Michael's Parish (310 Central Avenue, Fort Erie) will be having a Youth Retreat led by NET Ministries for students between Grades Eight and Twelve on Saturday, January 24 from 10:00 AM until 6:00 PM. There is no cost. For more information or to register call 905-871-0692 or go to stmichaelfe.com.

WORLD MARRIAGE DAY

Bishop Bergie will be celebrating a Mass of Thanksgiving at the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Alexandria (3 Lyman Street, Saint Catharines) on World Marriage Day (Sunday, February 8, 2026) starting at 3:00 PM. The Mass will honour all married couples but especially those celebrating significant anniversaries. No registration is required. A reception will follow the Mass.. Everyone is welcome.

CONFESSION

The Sacrament of Confession is offered from 8:00 until 9:00 PM at St. Denis Parish (230 Lake Street, St. Catharines) every Monday to Friday and St. Andrew the Apostle Parish (4 St. Andrews Ave., Welland) every Tuesday.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Adults and youth interested in having Youth Ministry at St. Therese of Lisieux Parish are invited to a meeting to be held in the Parish Hall on Sunday, January 18 from 10:00 until 11:30 AM. Everyone is welcome.

LAKESHORE MASS

Mass is offered at Lakeshore Catholic High School each Wednesday during the School Year starting at 7:30 AM. On Wednesday, January 21 Fr. Basque will be celebrating the Mass so the Parish Mass will be at 8:30 AM.

SERRA CLUB FUNDRAISER

The Serra Club of St. Catharine's is hosting a Murder Mystery Fundraiser at Club Roma (125 Van Sickle Road, Saint Catharines) entitled "Murder at the Ritz" on Saturday, April 25 starting at 5:30 PM. The event will include a four course meal, signature drinks and dancing. Tickets are \$75 per person if purchased before January 6 (a \$10 savings). A Charleston Dance Lesson will be offered from 4:30 until 5:30 for an additional charge of \$10. Prize for best dressed couple. Tickets are available at events@serrastc.ca.

2026 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

Parishioners are asked to use the 2026 Offertory Envelopes that have been assigned to you. Do not use envelopes from previous years because this will prevent us from providing donors with the proper Income Tax Receipt. Unclaimed envelope boxes can be picked up at the back of the Church. If you do not have Offertory Envelopes and wish to start using them register at the Parish Office and a box will be issued to you. If you do not use Offertory Envelopes frequently you can print your name, address and phone number on a Visitors Envelope or a plain white envelope and an Income Tax Receipt will be issued to you.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will take place this year from Sunday, January 18 until Sunday, January 25. Catholics are encouraged to pray for unity with other Christians and to look for ways we can work together with local faith communities to build God's Kingdom on earth.

OFFICE HOURS

The secretary will be away from the office on Thursday, January 15, 2026

SAINT CARLO ACUTIS CHALLENGE

Students in Grades Five to Twelve are invited to take part in the St. Carlo Acutis Challenge. It is a chance to use your talents to create a video, app, song, dance, poem, essay, fashion project or social media campaign, to highlight an aspect of your faith about which you are passionate. The top prize for Secondary students is \$1000 while the top prize for Elementary students is \$500 For information visit bit.ly/Saint-Challenge or contact us at: evangelization@saintcd.com.

BULLETIN BOARDS

Parish groups are welcome to put up posters promoting their activities and upcoming events. However, all posters must be approved by the Pastor. If you wish to post one please bring it to Fr. Basque at the Parish Office.

SCHOOL MASS

Mass will be celebrated at St. Therese of Lisieux School in the gym on Thursday, January 22 starting at 11:30 AM. Parishioners are welcome.

CLERGY DEVELOPMENT DAY

A Clergy Development Day will be held at St. Alfred's Parish on Tuesday January 27, starting at 10:00 AM. Among the topics discussed will be the new Diocesan Pastoral Plan and Marriage updates.

MARRIAGE TRIBUNAL

If you are considering remarriage in the Catholic Church or hoping to enter a Marriage with someone who was previously married speak to a Priest or contact the St. Catharine's Marriage Tribunal Office at 905-687-8817.

ANNUAL BENEFIT GALA

The Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education will be holding its annual Benefit Gala to support students in need and providing scholarships, at Club Roma (125 Van Sickle Road, St. Catharines) on Thursday, March 5.

NORTHLAND POINT MASS

Mass will be offered Northland Pointe Residence (2 Fielden Avenue) on Thursday, January 15 starting at 10:00 AM. Parishioners are welcome.

PARISH LEADERSHIP DAY

A Parish Leadership Day will be held on Saturday, March 7 starting at 10:00 AM. Among the topics discussed will be the new Diocesan Pastoral Plan and Stewardship. More information will follow.

LEGACY DONATIONS

When you and your family are making arrangements for your Will consider making St. Therese of Lisieux Parish one of your beneficiaries. When making Funeral arrangements consider directing donations to our Parish. Your generosity is greatly needed and appreciated.. All donations will be recorded and income tax receipts will be issued at the end of the year.

PULPIT PRESENTATIONS

Parish or Diocesan organizations are welcome to make brief presentations to the Parish about their activities or upcoming events. The presentations should be no more than three to five minutes long. Those wishing to do so should contact Fr. Basque at least two weeks prior to the desired date.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE: CHRIST'S BAPTISM

Christ's Baptism by John the Baptist in the Jordan River was likely an actual historical event. It is recorded in three Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) and references to it are made in other ancient sources. The versions in Mark and Luke stress the exterior signs associated with the Baptism: the opening of the heavens; the descent of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove; and the voice from heaven identifying Jesus as God's Son. Matthew's story adds the interior dimension of why the event occurred in the first place. John's Baptism was one of repentance, which stressed moral purity and conversion. As God's Son, Christ had no reason to repent. John recognized the superior status of Jesus and so resisted the request. Christ responded by noting this action was part of God's plan fulfilling all righteousness. Scholars have debated the meaning of this phrase.. Some argue, before his ministry began, Jesus was adopting the way of life associated with John's Baptism; the call to bear good fruit. Others contend Christ's Baptism showed his solidarity with sinners or with John's call to repentance and the immanent arrival of God's Kingdom. These explanations are linked to one of the effects of the Sacrament of Baptism: union with Jesus and his Church. Everyone is a sinner saved from permanent separation from God (caused by sin) through Christ's intervention. At Baptism, a sinner is joined to the death of Jesus which is how the damage caused by sin was overcome. The individual is also linked to the eternal life associated with his resurrection which points toward the final coming of God's Kingdom. As a result, the baptized are called to bear good fruit: to live as people who are conscious of their sinfulness and strive to overcome it but are not held hostage to it. They are also called to live as people of hope: who see Christ's final coming as something which one welcomes. In addition, Baptism makes them part of a community which shares this understanding of life and, although imperfectly, tries to make it present in our world, which desperately needs to experience it.

WEEKLY COLLECTION

January 1	Sunday Offering	\$ 1,337.00
	January 1	\$ 1,265.00

E-transfer: celineincarmel@gmail.com