

SAINT PETER ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Merchantville, NJ 08109 The Eucharistic Parish

St. Peter Catholic Community Served By:

Rev. Timothy E. Byerley, Ph.D., Pastor

Rev. Francis D. Kim, Parochial Vicar

Rev. John D. Wasilewski, Parochial Vicar

Deacon Michael F. Scott

Mr. Joseph Saffioti, School Principal

Kathy O'Callaghan, Assistant Principal

Stephanie Vostenak, Coordinator of Religious Education

Bobbie Bradley, Senior Ministry Director

Sr. Philomena Leahy, F.D.N.S.C., Ministry to the Sick & Homebound

Rectory:	43 West Maple Ave.	856-663-1373
Fax:		856-488-0647
Religious Ed. Department:	43 W. Maple Ave.	856-663-4490
Website:	www.saintpetermerchantville.com	
School:	51 W. Maple Ave.	856-665-5879
Website:	www.stpeterschool.org	
Advancement Director:		856-665-5879
Senior Apostolate:		856-662-7577

January 13, 2019

The Baptism of the Lord
"An Oasis of Faith"

A Program for Catholic Living

Mass Schedule

Saturday Evening	5:00 pm
Sunday	7:30, 9:00, 10:30 am & 7:00 pm
Weekdays	6:45 am & 9:00 am
Saturdays	9:00 am
Holy Days	watch the bulletin for schedules

Monday: Miraculous Medal Novena 7:30 pm- Rosary 7:05 pm
(except first Monday of the month which is a Mass of
Reconciliation at 7:00 pm)

**Recitation of the Rosary Monday through Saturday mornings after
9:00 am Mass**

**24 Hours Daily: Chapel of Perpetual Adoration of the Most Blessed
Sacrament. Sign up for a holy hour.**

Call 856-665-4833 or 856-662-4338 or 856-304-2261

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptisms are celebrated every Sunday at 12:15 pm. Parents are expected to attend a Pre-Jordan Baptism class. Please call the Rectory to register for a class so that we have adequate materials. Godparents and children are welcome to attend.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

In order to accommodate our own Parishioners, only Parishioners of St. Peter (Bride or Groom) will be able to be married in St. Peter Church. Couples planning to marry at St. Peter are expected to contact the priest to arrange a date and time first. Second, they must attend the Pre-Cana Conferences as mandated by the Bishop. The period of preparation for marriage is a minimum of six months to ensure completion of all arrangements before the wedding date. For Pre-Cana reservations call 663-1373. Only Parish Musicians are permitted for Wedding Masses. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

The priests may be called **AT ANY TIME** day or night for the Sacrament of the Sick. Furthermore, the priests will be happy to visit the Sick with Holy Communion upon request.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSIONS)

Saturday from 4:00-4:55 pm and 7:30-8:00 pm or contact one of the priests.

FUNERALS

The proper form of Church burial for a baptized Catholic is the Mass of Christian Burial, not a service at a funeral home. Viewings in the Church are not permitted. Funeral Masses are scheduled at 10:00 am. No eulogies in church, and only Parish Musicians are permitted for Funeral Masses, **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

ST. PETER SCHOOL

To register your children, please call the principal at 665-5879.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - 663-4490

Public School CCD Classes Kindergarten through 8th grade.

Tuesdays 5:30 pm St. Peter School (all grades).

MEMBERSHIP IN OUR PARISH FAMILY

Please register with the parish.

a. So we know who you are.

b. So if you ever need a letter, etc., you're on record.

c. So you can be on our mailing list.

d. Most importantly, so we can serve YOU!



Handicapped
Accessible

The Baptism of the Lord – January 13, 2019



New Year's Resolutions



What did you choose for your New Year's resolution this year? Did you resolve to go to the gym twice a week before work in 2019? That will last a couple of weeks. Did you resolve to give up carbs in 2019? That will dissipate in a couple of weeks. Did you resolve to be more patient with the kids in 2019? That will last two days. Did you resolve to finish every homework assignment on time and completely in 2019? Forget about it!

Do you want a New Year's resolution that is measurable, achievable, substantial, makes a difference and is pleasing to God? **Increase your weekly collection offering by 2–3 dollars, or even five dollars.** This is something doable, makes a huge difference and accrues to eternal life.

As you know, the cost of heat, light, air conditioning, materials, building and cleaning products, repairs, maintenance, insurance and salaries rise every year. If costs increase and income remains the same, this creates a troublesome imbalance. If we all offer an additional "latte" (the price of) to our parish each week, the collective effort will be amazing.

Make this your New Year's resolution and both you and your beloved parish will be blessed!

St. Peter, pray for us!

Fr. Tim Byerley
Pastor

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

"The origin and foundation of Christian Baptism is Jesus. Before starting his public ministry, Jesus submitted himself to the baptism given by John the Baptist. The waters did not purify him; he cleansed the waters. . . . Jesus did not need to be baptized because he was totally faithful to the will of his Father and free from sin. However, he wanted to show his solidarity with human beings in order to reconcile them to the Father. By commanding his disciples to baptize all nations, he established the means by which people would die to sin.

In Baptism, the Holy Spirit moves us to answer Christ's call to holiness. In Baptism, we are asked to walk by the light of Christ and to trust in his wisdom. We are invited to submit our hearts to Christ with ever deeper love."

~ United States Catholic Catechism for Adults,
pp. 184-185

Baptismal Prayer



Father in Heaven, when the Spirit came down upon Jesus at His Baptism in the Jordan, you revealed Him as your own Beloved Son. Keep me, your child, born of water and the Spirit, faithful to my calling.

May I, who share in your Life as your child through Baptism, follow in Christ's path of service to people.

Let me become one in his Sacrifice and hear his Word with faith. May I live as your child, following the example of Jesus.

~ Amen.



**Mass Celebrant Code: TB = Fr. Tim Byerley – FK = Fr. Francis Kim – JW = Fr. John Wasilewski – MS = Deacon Mike Scott*

Intentions:	Requested by:	*Mass Celebrant
Monday, January 14		
6:45 AM Frank Acker	St. Peter Senior Ministry	TB
9:00 AM Fr. Anthony Cataudo, O.P.	St. Peter Senior Ministry	JW
Tuesday, January 15		
6:45 AM Richard Tomko	Family	TB
9:00 AM John Surrette	Jeff Surrette	FK
Wednesday, January 16		
6:45 AM Fr. Anthony Cataudo	Mike & Barb Kwiatkowski	FK
9:00 AM Sergei Datsenko	DeRose Family	JW
Thursday, January 17		
6:45 AM Intentions of Ray Peterson	DeRose Family	TB
9:00 AM Intentions of Rogelio Lopez	His Sister	JW
Friday, January 18		
6:45 AM Terri Brunick	Mike & Barb Kwiatkowski	JW
9:00 AM Theresa Haight	Nicholls & Garaguso Families & Aunt June	FK
Saturday, January 19		
9:00 AM Mary Teel	Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Teel	TB
5:00 PM Dec. Mbrs. of the Schmidt Family	Joyce Schmidt	JW/MS
Sunday, January 20		
7:30 AM Josephine Iaconelli	Her Husband & Daughters	JW
9:00 AM Parishioners of St. Peter Parish		JW
10:30 AM Ernest A. Armstrong	St. Peter Adult Choir	FK/MS
Paul Eichfeld	Kathleen Curreri	FK/MS
Diane Campbell	Mr. & Mrs. William Attardi	FK/MS
Fr. Anthony Cataudo	Dick & Pat Bakley	FK/MS
Peter Lucenti	Leonard & Susan Lucenti	FK/MS
7:00 PM Dominic John DelGozzo	Christopher & Tiffani Rosenbleeth	FK

Sanctuary Lamp in the Church

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn for the
Holy Souls in Purgatory
the week of January 13 – January 19
requested by A Parishioner.



Sanctuary Lamp in the Convent Chapel

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn for the
Holy Souls in Purgatory
the week of January 13 – January 19
requested by A Parishioner.



Sanctuary Lamp in the Chapel

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn in Memory of
Arthur Szczykalski, Sr.
the week of January 13 – January 19
requested by his Wife, Carole.

Father's **Q**uick **Q**uote: “It is with the smallest
brushes that the Artist paints the best paintings.”
~ *St. Andre Bessette*

Adoration Chapel



What better way to start the New Year?

*Consider spending an hour with our
Eucharistic King.*

He is waiting for you!

All hours are available most especially:

Sundays ~ 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Tuesdays ~ 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Thursdays ~ 7:00 AM – 8:00 AM

Saturdays ~ 3:00 AM – 4:00 AM

Call Flora @ 665-4833 or Stacey @ 856-304-2261

or

Ben @ 662-4338 to schedule your hour.

Intercessory Rosary Group

Meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month

@ 3:00 PM in the Convent Chapel. *All are welcome!*

Parish Sick List

Please call the Rectory @ 856-663-1373 to add a loved one to the list. *You are kindly asked to inform the person that their name will appear in the Bulletin.*



Please pray for: Theresa Brown,
Maddox Carmona, Vincent Catania,
Ray Dick, Barbara DeFranco,
Rose Marie Finnegan, Louis Grosso,
Matthew Harrington, Maddie Harris,

Donna Hartman-Maglio, Tim Hesser, Bridget Hopkins,
Bill Hoover, Hailey Hunt, Joseph Jefferson,
Lori Kauffmann, Henry Kwasniewski, Irving Lamb, Jr.,
Joseph Lesniak, Rogelio Lopez, Pat Lyons,
Joseph Manghan, Jim Maryanski, Scott McDowell,
Mary Moran, Matthew Moran, Mary Narleski,
Marilyn Ott, Frank Pedano, John Petrowsky,
Bob Piekarski, Richard Saunders, James Shue,
Theresa Smurlo, Mark Stevens, Traci Tambussi,
Joe Teti, Alan Young.

May God heal them in mind, body and spirit!

Thank you for your prayers for our sick and shut-ins.

PLEASE call the Rectory @ 856-663-1373

when your loved one has recovered!

Weekly Readings

Sunday, January 13

The Baptism of the Lord - Feast

First: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11
Second: Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7
Gospel: Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

Monday, January 14

First: Hebrews 1:1-6
Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

Tuesday, January 15

First: Hebrews 2:5-12
Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

Wednesday, January 16

First: Hebrews 2:14-18
Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

Thursday, January 17

St. Anthony, Abbot

First: Hebrews 3:7-14
Gospel: Mark 1:40-45

Friday, January 18

First: Hebrews 4:1-5, 11
Gospel: Mark 2:1-12

Saturday, January 19

First: Hebrews 4:12-16
Gospel: Mark 2:13-17

Sunday, January 20

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

First: Isaiah 62:1-5
Second: 1 Corinthians 12:4-11
Gospel: John 2:1-11

Parish Weekly Offerings

First Collection for the weekend of

December 22 – 23 was **\$14,123.07.**

Second Collection was **\$2,396.11** for a total of
\$16,519.18.

Christmas Collection

Christmas Collection to date is **\$43,159.76.**

Christmas Flowers Collection was **\$3,154.00.**

First Collection for the weekend of

December 29 – 30 was **\$12,977.50.**

Second Collection was **\$2,169.87** for a total of
\$15,147.37.

First Collection for Feast of the Solemnity of

Mary, Mother of God was **\$4,382.00.**

Second Collection was **\$1,302.03** for a total of
\$5,684.03.

First Collection for the weekend of

January 5 – 6 was **\$12,579.35.**

Second Collection was **\$2,126.01** for a total of
\$14,705.36.

Thank you for building up God's Kingdom in our Parish!

Upcoming Baptismal Classes



Monday, January 21
Monday, February 18

Class begins at 8:00 PM in the Senior Center.

You may schedule the Baptismal date at the class.

Please call the Rectory @ 856-663-1373 to register for a class so that we have adequate materials. Godparents are welcome, if able to attend. Both parents are encouraged to attend the class and children are welcome.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL GODPARENTS

- ✓ They are Baptized Catholic having received the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- ✓ They are 16 years of age or older.
- ✓ If single, they are living a chaste life, that is, not "living together" with someone.
- ✓ If married, the marriage is recognized by the Catholic Church.
- ✓ They attend Holy Mass every weekend and Holy Days of Obligation.

St. Vincent dePaul Society



We are in the process of making our January Food Boxes for Pantry Day. We are currently in need of cereal, peanut butter, jelly, macaroni and cheese,

pasta, pasta sauce, canned soup, brownie mix, canned pork and beans, tuna, canned fruit, boxed potatoes, cookies and coffee.

If you cannot buy food, you can place a monetary donation in our poor boxes around the church and we will purchase the food we need.

If you or someone you know needs assistance, do not hesitate to call our hotline at 856-904-7397.

Thank you for all your generosity to our Ministry!



WEDNESDAY EVENINGS!

Doors open at 5:30 PM.

BINGO starts at 7:00 PM.

Food available for purchase beginning at 5:30 PM.

NO admission allowed after 7:05 PM.

Admission is \$3 & includes cards for 7 regular games.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK:

BINGO at Saint Peter's

Thank you for supporting our Bingo!

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆
Service Dates for Bingo Teams

January 16 – Team C ~ January 23 – Team D

From the Rectory Staff:



IMPORTANT REMINDER

St. Peter Parish is very busy with scheduling the use of the Parish buildings. Please remember that no event or gathering should be **definitely** scheduled until your ministry's representative has contacted the Rectory Office to confirm your selected date is available.

DO NOT

assume that your date will be available!

Your cooperation and planning is greatly appreciated and will alleviate scheduling confusion.

Office hours at the Rectory are:

Monday – Friday

9:00 AM to Noon and 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

The phone number is 856-663-1373.

Thank you!



Consider helping your Parish by volunteering and have a great time knowing you are part of a team!

Please call Pat Leone at 856-397-5298.

We need help in all areas:

callers, sellers, verifiers and concessions.

Please consider giving one night per month to the Parish Bingo when we resume for the New Year.



Monday, January 14

Senior Exchange
Super Stretch with Rossana

Tuesday, January 15

Trivia with Rocky

Wednesday, January 16

Fit & Focused with Rossana
Intercessory Rosary led by the Legion of Mary

Thursday, January 17

Guest Speaker: John Billetdoux
(Senior Healthcare Advisor with
BGA Insurance Group)
Topic: Medicare

Friday, January 18

March for Life – Center Closed

The St. Peter Senior Ministry is co-hosting with
Partners for the Arts to bring you



An evening of live classical music!

Performers will be playing the music of Beethoven,
Chopin, Scriabin, Liszt, Puccini and more.

February 9, 2019

6:00 PM

St. Peter Senior Ministry Center
\$37.50 ticket includes wine and food

Tickets may be purchased
after the Sunday 10:30 Mass.

To learn more about Partners for the Arts Abroad,
please visit, www.partnersfortheartsabroad.org

**St. Peter's
Harbinger of Spring is here again!**



The Senior Ministry's Annual Flea Market!
Pastors' Hall

Saturday, March 2, 2019

8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

\$20.00 includes table

Come as buyer, vendor or both! Interesting items,
lots of good food and a great way to have fun. For
further info, please call Jo @ 856-667-5237.

Upcoming Youth Group Events



Newly Reactivated!

St. Peter's Youth Group

(High school age, only!)

Sunday, January 27, 2019

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

BOWLING



The Big Event Bowling Alley ~ Cherry Hill
\$10 per person includes pizza and soda!

Friday, February 8, 2019

6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

POT LUCK AND MOVIE NIGHT



There Be Dragons

(The Life of St. Josemaría Escrivá)

Sohler Residence

5 Clifton Avenue ~ Merchantville

Please bring a small "potluck" dish to share.

Beverages will be provided.



How can our parishes in South Jersey more fully preach the Gospel and inspire all people of faith to live as what Pope Francis calls “missionary disciples”? This is one of the questions at the heart of *Convocation of Catholic Leaders: The Joy of the Gospel in South Jersey*, which will gather more than 650 laypeople from all over South Jersey in March 2019 for four days of prayer, education, and community-building around the theme of missionary discipleship. As the Catholic Community in South Jersey prepares for this historic convocation, we invite everyone to spend some time reading and reflecting on Pope Francis’ apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (*The Joy of the Gospel*), which is the foundational document for the gathering. In the weeks leading up to the convocation, we will share a selection of quotations from the Holy Father’s beautiful, powerful exhortation.

Prayer for the 2019 Convocation of Catholic Leaders: Joy of the Gospel in South Jersey

O Holy Spirit, you who first enkindled in our hearts the joy of the Gospel, renew that same joy in those who will gather to attend the Convocation of Catholic Leaders: Joy of the Gospel in South Jersey.

Continue to enflame the hearts of our bishop, priests, and their parish delegations; all clergy, religious, and speakers; all who make this event possible.

Move us to welcome the word of life in the depths of our hearts and respond to the call of missionary discipleship.

O Holy Spirit; transform our hearts and enable us to enter into the perfect communion that you share with the Father and the Son.

Mary Immaculate, who first received the Gospel, pray for us. **Amen.**

First Penance Information



First Penance Retreat

January 19

9:45 – 11:30 in Pastors’ Hall

First Penance Practices

January 29, 30 & 31

5:30 – 6:30 pm in Church

First Penance Service

February 2,

10:30 am in Church

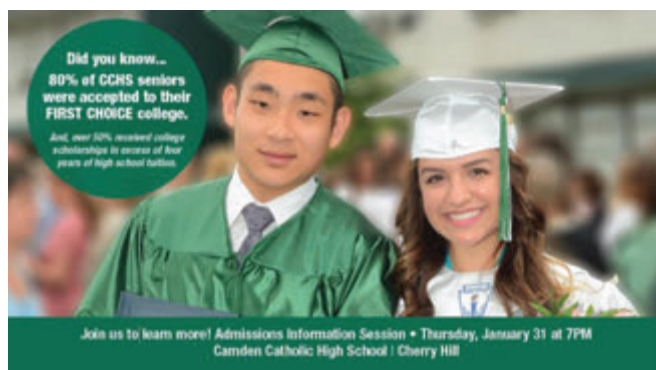
(Snow Date: February 9)

Camden Catholic High School Admissions Information Session

Thursday, January 31 at 7 pm

Whether you are an 8th grader still making your decision about high school, or a 6th or 7th grader planning for your future, please join us to learn more about the admissions process, curriculum, arts and athletics at Camden Catholic High School. This is a general information session in which you will have the opportunity to meet our students, faculty and administration, tour our campus, and have your questions answered. RSVP at

www.camdencatholic.org/admissionsevents or
call 856-663-2247 ext. 136.



Service Schedule

Extraordinary Ministers for January 19 – 20

5:00 PM	K. Burns, B. Kwiatkowski, F. Sass, F. Sinatra
7:30 AM	C. Leone, P. Leone, N. Perry, M. Ralbusky
9:00 AM	T. Fisher, K. Fisher, A. Lipenta, D. Montes
10:30 AM	C. Aghaji, K. Bailey, S. Joseph, M. Kenney, M. Pascale
7:00 PM	M. DiPiero, C. McCoy, M. Melia

Lectors for January 19 – 20

5:00 PM	D. Zwick & C. Zia-Sass
7:30 AM	T. Presenza & C. Engime
9:00 AM	J. Chevere & K. O'Callaghan
10:30 AM	W. Hartman & C. Petrowsky
7:00 PM	O. Rivera

Altar Servers for January 19 – 20

5:00 PM	John Paul Dunphy, Oliver Goldwasser, Anthony Marinelli, Giovanni Marinelli
7:30 AM	Margaret Frombach, Peter Frombach, Salvatore Leone, Sonny Leone
9:00 AM	Bella Francesconi, Giolina Francesconi, Maria Montes, Sebastian Montes
10:30 AM	Anthony Schiavo, Justin Schiavo, Nicholas Schiavo, Shane Wood-Embry
7:00 PM	Christopher Basso, Raymond Basso, Cole McLaughlin, Christian Stefanski, Julian Stefanski

Altar Servers for the Week of January 21

Monday – Tuesday – Wednesday

9:00 AM	Grace Decker & Sebastian DeFeo
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Miraculous Medal Novena - 7:00 PM

Anthony Marinelli & Gio Marinelli

Thursday – Friday – Saturday

9:00 AM	Gabe Fowler & Ronan Fowler
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Upcoming Offering at the Collegium Center for Faith and Culture

Friday, January 25 ~ 7:00 PM

Fr. John Picinic

“Morality: Rooted in Nature, Self,
with Others and God”

Our focus will be on the first few
Chapters of Genesis.

We hope you can join us for this informative evening, as well as great fellowship! Refreshments served. All events are free and handicapped accessible. Doors open at 6:00 PM. You are free to enjoy our lending library while waiting for event to start.

Collegium Center for Faith and Culture
301 White Horse Pike ~ Haddon Heights, NJ 08035
www.thecollegiumcenter.org

Pilgrimage to the HOLY LAND

with Fr. Timothy Byerley and Brenda Quinn
from the Collegium Center for Faith and Culture

11 Days
June 19-29, 2019

Register by October 5, 2018 and receive a \$100 discount!





WHAT'S THE COST?

Land and Air
\$4095.00

Land Only
\$2995.00

Single Supplement
\$795.00

Deposit due March 8, 2019
Final payment due April 19, 2019
Register by October 5, 2018 and receive a \$100 discount

Highlights of Trip

Caná, Mt. Tabor, Nazareth

Sea of Galilee, Mt. of Beatitudes, Capernaum and Tabgha, Basilica of the Annunciation for the Candlelight Procession

Peter's Primacy, Samaria, Jacob's Well, Jerusalem

Bethlehem, Shepherds' Field, Sharing the Bread Dinner

Jericho, Dead Sea, Baptismal Site of Jesus

Mt. of Olives, Mt. Zion

Via Dolorosa, Old City, Wailing Wall, Bethany

Eln Karem

For more information, please contact:
Select International Tours
 800-842-4842 kristine@select-intl.com
Selectinternationaltours.com
 or stop by the Rectory for the full brochure!

!!! Take Note !!!



Please be reminded that germs are often spread by shaking hands. During this upcoming flu season, at the Sign of Peace, you may simply opt to say to those around you, “Peace be with you” without shaking hands.

May God bless you and keep you healthy!

Readings for The Baptism of the Lord – January 13, 2019

Reading I – Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service is at an end, her guilt is expiated; indeed, she has received from the hand of the LORD double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: In the desert prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low; the rugged land shall be made a plain, the rough country, a broad valley. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

Go up on to a high mountain, Zion, herald of glad tidings; cry out at the top of your voice, Jerusalem, herald of good news! Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah: Here is your God! Here comes with power the Lord GOD, who rules by a strong arm; here is his reward with him, his recompense before him. Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom, and leading the ewes with care.

Responsorial Psalm – Psalm 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30

***R.* O bless the Lord, my soul.**

O LORD, my God, you are great indeed! You are clothed with majesty and glory, robed in light as with a cloak. You have spread out the heavens like a tent-cloth.

***R.* O bless the Lord, my soul.**

You have constructed your palace upon the waters. You make the clouds your chariot; you travel on the wings of the wind. You make the winds your messengers, and flaming fire your ministers.

***R.* O bless the Lord, my soul.**

How manifold are your works, O LORD! In wisdom you have wrought them all - the earth is full of your creatures; the sea also, great and wide, in which are schools without number of living things both small and great.

***R.* O bless the Lord, my soul.**

They look to you to give them food in due time. When you give it to them, they gather it; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

***R.* O bless the Lord, my soul.**

If you take away their breath, they perish and return to the dust. When you send forth your spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.

***R.* O bless the Lord, my soul.**

Reading II – Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7

Beloved:

The grace of God has appeared, saving all and training us to reject godless ways and worldly desires and to live temperately, justly, and devoutly in this age, as we await the blessed hope, the appearance of the glory of our great God and savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to deliver us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for himself a people as his own, eager to do what is good.

When the kindness and generous love of God our savior appeared, not because of any righteous deeds we had done but because of his mercy, He saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he richly poured out on us through Jesus Christ our savior, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life.

Gospel – Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

The people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. John answered them all, saying, “I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”

After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”



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