

ST. MARY'S CHURCH

MISSION STATEMENT

ST. MARY'S IS A CATHOLIC COMMUNITY ON A JOURNEY OF FAITH WHOSE PURPOSE IS TO WITNESS CHRIST'S PRESENCE IN THE WORLD

Come join us downstairs for coffee & donuts after Sunday's Mass.

From the Pastor:

Today, we end the Christmas season with the Baptism of the Lord. Interesting to see how the Holy Spirit places Christ's Baptism after His birth. Now, Christ did not need to be Baptized. He was God. And He wasn't baptized in His infancy, but actually right before He started His ministry. He was thirty years old when He was baptized. Three years before His death.

Why then was Christ baptized? It was fitting for Christ to be baptized, first, because as Saint Ambrose says, "Our Lord was baptized because He wished, not to be cleansed, but to cleanse the waters for all who would be Baptized afterwards." Second, as Saint Chrysostom says, "although Christ was not a sinner, yet did He take a sinful nature and "the likeness of sinful flesh." He was Baptizing His humanity for all people who would follow. He plunged the original sin of Adam in the water." Third, He wished to be Baptized as Saint Augustine says, "because He wished to do first what He commanded others to do. In other words, he encouraged others by His example."

Why is Baptism good for us? Because it gives us the grace of a new life with God. The day we were Baptized is the most important day of our lives. Just as parched land does not yield a crop if it does not get water, so too are we like dried sticks unless we receive the gentle and abundant grace from on high. Before we received Baptism we were outside the locked gates of Paradise, unable to bring forth the slightest supernatural fruit. Now, a life of goodness and the hope of Heaven are opened up to us.

Baptism is good for us because it cleanses us from original sin. We must rejoice in the cleansing of our souls from the stain of original sin, and of any other sin we may have committed before our Baptism. The Baptismal water operates in a real way, signifying what the use of natural water signifies—the cleansing and purification from every blemish or stain.

Baptism then becomes the door to grace and the rest of the Sacraments. Jesus said to Nicodemus: Truly I say to you that he who is not born again from on high cannot enter into the Kingdom of Heaven: what is born of the flesh is flesh but what is born of the Spirit is Spirit. We receive the Holy Spirit at Baptism along with faith, hope and love. Let us not wait too long after birth to baptize our children. Let us each use the grace given at Baptism to follow Our Lord to the end.

UNDERSTANDING THE MASS: THE ALTAR: Altar's Material: In keeping with the Church's traditional practice and the altar's symbolism, the table of a fixed altar is to be of stone and indeed of natural stone. In the Diocese of Baker, however, wood which is worthy, solid, and well-crafted may be used, provided that the altar is structurally immobile. The supports or base for upholding the table, however, may be made of any sort of material, provided it is worthy and solid.

POPE BENEDICT: The scene at Bethlehem shows harmony between all the elements of our created world and is a call to remember how we depend on each other, creation and God, says the archbishop of Westminster. In a pastoral letter for the Dec. 27 feast of the Holy Family, Archbishop Vincent Nichols reflected on the lessons to be drawn from the Nativity scene. "Look at it this way," he said. "This scene contains all the elements of our created world. The hay and straw of the stable represent the fruit of the cultivated earth. The ox, ass and the sheep are the animal kingdom. At the center is the person of Jesus. And, without ever romanticizing poverty, there is a certain harmony between all these elements. Each one has its place. And all serve the well-being of the weakest and most vulnerable person, the newborn child." The archbishop proposed that this reflection could "have a special resonance at a time when we are intensely conscious of the fragility of our world and the threats to its stability." "Today we have to find a balanced and sustainable relationship between ourselves and the natural world, and between all people who share this planet," he proposed. "Unless we do so, the chances of peace in our world are slim and the careless exploitation of our environment will continue." And, the London prelate affirmed, "These right relationships have to begin in our homes." Archbishop Nichols suggested that the crib "reminds us that we are really dependent on each other, on the created world and on God. Only when this dependence is acknowledged have we a hope of realigning ourselves and our way of living into something more appropriate to the needs of each other and of our environment." This realignment has practical effects at Christmas time, the prelate added: "Of course over Christmas we have been spending hard-earned income in order to express our love and thanks for each other. We must also have felt the pressures of advertising and expectation to spend more than we could afford. Yet, at the end of the day, in our family celebrations, what counts is sincerity rather than extravagance, sensitivity rather than excess. When this is understood, then we can probably live far more simply without any loss of enjoyment. Then we can be more attentive to how much we consume, to what we throw away, to what we have to give to the poor. "The crib, then, is a lesson in right living, in the regard we have for each other, in our support for the poor and in our care for the created world."

WEEKLY BIBLE VERSES TO MEMORIZE: Col 2:11-12 In him, too, you have been circumcised with a circumcision not wrought by hand, but through putting off the body of the flesh, a circumcision which is of Christ. For you were buried together with him in Baptism, and in him also rose again through faith in the working of God who raised him from the dead.

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD JANUARY 10, 2010

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Monday, Jan. 11 (Weekday 1)

7:00 pm Mass Karen Early/Georgia Herbes

6:00 pm-12:00 am Adoration

Tuesday, Jan. 12 (Weekday 1)

7:00 am Mass †Art Lucia/Peggy & Warren Wagenseil

7:00 pm RCIA

7:00 pm Knights of Columbus

12:01 am-12:00 am Adoration

Wednesday, Jan. 13 Saint Hilary, bishop and doctor

5:15 pm Confession

6:00 pm Mass †Richard Smith/Mary Harris

6:30 pm RE & Adult Classes

12:01 am-12:00 am Adoration

Thursday, Jan. 14 (Weekday 1)

7:00 am Mass Justin & Heather & Family/Kemp

1:30 pm CDA

12:01am-12:00 am Adoration

Friday, Jan. 15 (Weekday 1)

5:45 am Men's Bible Study

7:00 am Mass For all Priest/Knights of Columbus

12:01 am-10:00 am Adoration

Saturday, Jan. 16 (Weekday 1)

8:00 am Special Intention/Fr. Clemens

3:30 pm Confession

4:30 pm Rosary

5:00 pm †Twila Schell/Eva Carey

Sunday, Jan. 17 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00-9:00 am Holy Hour

9:15 am Confessions

9:30 am Rosary

10:00 am Mass †Roy Borganva/Mary Pat McCarton

11:30 am Mass (Sp) For the Parish

THANK YOU: Fr. Clemens would like to Thank everyone for their gifts and help in the liturgies and church project this past Christmas season.

ADORATION: We are looking for a person to spend one hour with our Lord at 3 am on Friday, 8 pm on Wednesday, 1 am on Thursday, and 4 am Tuesday. *"For where two or three are gathered together for my sake, there am I in the midst of them."* Call Karla at 276-3615.

ST. MARY'S ON-LINE:The website is stmaryspendleton.org

BOOK OF THE MONTH: In *The Biblical Basis for Purgatory*, author and apologist John Salza offers the definitive scriptural explanation of this distinctively Catholic doctrine. Building on the teachings of Christ and St. Paul, he shows how the existence of a place of temporal punishment after death is not only a logical extension of what we know about the reality of sin and God's justice, but is also a supreme expression of God's love and mercy. Jesus taught us about it, and for centuries the Church has faithfully defined and defended it. It is purgatory: that place of purifying penance where souls saved by Christ are made perfect and acceptable to spend life eternal in heaven.

PRO-LIFE: There will be a Pro-Life Mass and rosary on Friday January 22, 2010 at the Powell Butte Retreat Center. The rosary will begin at 6:30 PM with Mass starting at 7:00 PM. Refreshment and fellowship after the Mass. Fr. Robert Greiner will be the celebrant.

We ask you to remember in your Masses and Prayers Twila Schell who passed away last week. "May eternal Rest Be Granted to Her O'Lord, And Perpetual Light Shine Upon Her."

Altar Servers for January 16-17

Jan. 16 5:00 pm Logan & Garrett Thorne & Quinn Doherty
Jan. 17 10:00 am Braden & Jacob Sprenger

We Would Like To Welcome You To Our Parish Family

If you are new to the Parish, please fill out your name and address below. We would love to add you to our Parish Family. Please visit us at the Parish Office or mail this form to us or place it in the collection basket.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

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