



MASSES FOR THE WEEK  
January 10—January 16  
EACH MASS IS OFFERED FOR  
THE INTENTIONS OF EVERYONE  
PRESENT AND FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- SATURDAY, JANUARY 10**  
4:00 p.m. Robert Bolin; Evi Bourgeois; Mirle Clement; Maselli Family; Marlene Morris; Barbara Rush  
5:30 p.m. Theresa M. Barry; Leona O'Dwyer
- SUNDAY, JANUARY 11**  
8:00 a.m. Members of St. Patrick's Church (Propopulo)  
9:30 a.m. Richard Aufrecht; Jane O. Chatelain; Abraham van Heel; Jayne Hennessey; Bob Keyes; Mr. & Mrs. Harold Kinler; Norma McClellan; Sara C. Romano; John H. Schroder, Jr.  
11:00 a.m. Sara C. Romano; Barbara Rush  
5:30 p.m. Leona O'Dwyer
- MONDAY, JANUARY 12**  
11:30 a.m. Purgatorial List  
12:00 p.m. Stephen Luccioni; Joseph A. Maselli III; Barbara Rush
- TUESDAY, JANUARY 13**  
11:30 a.m. Alice Cohen; Leona O'Dwyer  
12:00 p.m. Elisabeth Robert; Barbara Rush
- WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14**  
11:30 a.m. Purgatorial List  
12:00 p.m. Stephen Losee; Leona O'Dwyer
- THURSDAY, JANUARY 15**  
11:30 a.m. Jean Dominique; Dr. Alfred Ramirez, Jr.  
12:00 p.m. Loretta Doussan; Elisabeth Robert
- FRIDAY, JANUARY 16**  
11:30 a.m. Purgatorial List  
12:00 p.m. Loretta Doussan; Stephen Losee

**GREGORIAN LATIN MASS—Sunday at 9:30 a.m.**  
*Holy Family*  
**Solemn High Mass**—First Sunday of the month.  
**Benediction**—Third Sunday after the 9:30 a.m. Mass.

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AND BENEDICTION**

Every Sunday, 3:00pm—5:00pm

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH MORNING OF PRAYER/Cenacle of Our Loving Mother Prayer Group**  
Saturday, January 17, 2009; 9:00a.m.—11:00a.m.  
Eucharistic Adoration, Rosary, Confession, Novena and Holy Mass. All are invited.

**LATE NIGHT MASS FOR YOUNG ADULTS**

Saturday, January 24, 2009 at 9:00 P.M.  
St. Benilde Church, 1901 Division St., Metairie  
Reverend Patrick B. Wattigny, Celebrant  
The Cenacle Committee for Young Adults proudly invites all young adults, ages 18-35 to attend. Optional social networking and fellowship will follow. For more information: Vince Liberto: 504.250.9697.

**SOLEMINITY OF MARY—\$8,820**

**SUNDAY OFFERING—January 4, 2009**

First Collection \$ 15,746  
Second Collection\* \$ 1,747

\* Education fund

**MEET AND GREET—SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 2009**

Everyone is invited to enjoy fellowship with parishioners and friends of St. Patrick's, Saturday, January 10, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. in the rectory. Please bring your favorite hors d'oeuvres to share. For more information, please call the rectory at 525-4413.



The altar flowers for this weekend have been donated in memory of the Hoppe, O'Connor, Toups and Skinner Families.

**FAREWELL TO THE 1962 MOLLER PIPE ORGAN**

St. Patrick's organist, Joseph F. Hoppe, and lead tenor, Rene J. Toups will present a program of musical selections:

**Sunday, January 11, 2009 @ 3:00 P.M.—St. Patrick's Church**

This will be the farewell concert on the 1962 Moller Pipe Organ, as the following day, Monday, January 12, the Patrick J. Murphy & Associates Pipe Organ Company will begin the removal of the Moller in preparation for its refurbishment and expansion into a new instrument.

**LORD, TEACH ME TO PRAY**

*Lord, Teach Me To Pray* is offering a three part prayer series for women that will begin in mid-January. The series is based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola.

For information please call Marilyn Ducasse: 833-3470.

**ARCHBISHOP FULTON J. SHEEN MEMORIAL MASS**

ST. LOUIS CATHEDRAL

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2009 AT 5:00 P.M.

A Memorial Mass for the cause of canonization for Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen will be celebrated by Father Stanley Deptula, Executive Director of the Archbishop Fulton Sheen Foundation, with Father Andrew Apostoli, C.F.R., Vice Postulator for the Cause, as homilist.

Following the Mass a fundraising reception/dinner cruise will be held aboard the Natchez Riverboat. Guest tickets—\$100; Religious—\$50. Contact the Sheen Advisory Council member in New Orleans: Mr. Philip Bellini, 126 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, NOLA 70124 for ticket requests. Please include your name, address, telephone; email address, the number of tickets you are requesting, along with a check made payable to "The Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen Foundation." Please respond by February 4, 2009.

**COFFEE AND DOUGHNUTS**

In Reynolds Hall, after the Sunday morning Masses.

**PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL**

For the sick of our parish and those who have asked for our prayers especially: Tom Alexander; Tristan Anderton; Del Barry; Patricia Berrigan; Brett Bradley; Jack & Paula Coughlin; Rene Crane; Carol Daigle; Tom Darcy; Ralph DeBlanc; Raymond DeBlanc; Al Duroncelet; Mimi Finley; James A. Fitzmorris; John Fulcher; Bob Keyes; Joan Kimball; Joseph; Stephen Losee; Michael McCarthy; Buddy McInnis; Sally Ann Main; Father Richard John Neuhaus; Mary O'Brien; Lucille Ogden; Karen Paprocki; J.Van Provosty; Hugh Ramsey; Tom Roach; Elisabeth Robert; Adele Silva; Mary Silva; Joseph M. Sonne; Stephanie Summers; Salvador Trentacoste; Turkington Family; Alyssa Vingam

**SECURITY PROVIDED AT ALL EVENING SERVICES**

# THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

## TRUE GREATNESS IS TO MAKE ONESELF SMALL

The presence of John the Baptist accompanied us through the season of Advent and we meet him again on our liturgical and spiritual journey on the feast of the Baptism of Jesus. The figure of the Baptist is mysterious and captivating. He was the Precursor of Christ, not only two thousand years ago but in a sense also in our day. He is the friend of the Bridegroom. The voice, which makes us hear the Word which introduces us to the mystery of the redemption, who helps us to respond to the call to conversion, with humility and love. He helps us understand that the human person, every person in front of the Lord Jesus stands before the greatest mystery of our existence: the Mystery of the Man God!

We cannot stand before Jesus as if he were not what he is: God from God, true God from true God! Only a person who has a relationship of humility with the Lord is able to receive the faith which illuminates the mind and warms the heart. Atheism is the product of human pride which renders man unable to believe because he is closed to the truth, to humility.

Truth-humility cannot be separated! John the Baptist is the herald of truth because he is the herald of humility and vice versa. His words are fire which desires to burn any remnant of pride deposited in the hearts of his disciples, who are disarmed in front of the figure of Jesus, his apostolic success, his truly surprising manner of announcing the Kingdom of God: a Messiah whom they had imagined differently.

The Gospel speaks of this "crisis" of the disciples of the Baptist, which we might call "crisis of humility", because it touches this fundamental disposition of the human soul before the mystery of God who reveals himself in Jesus. The Gospel says: "so they went to John and said, 'Rabbi, the man who was with you on the far side of the Jordan, the man to whom you bore witness, is baptizing now, and everyone is going to him.' John replied: 'No one can have anything except what is given him from heaven. 'You yourselves can bear me out. I said, 'I am not the Christ; I am the one who has been sent to go in front of him.' ' It is the bridegroom who has the bride; and yet the bridegroom's friend, who stands there and listens to him, is filled with joy at the bridegroom's voice. This is the joy I feel, and it is complete. He must grow greater, I must grow less.'" (Jn 3, 26-31).

These are among the strongest words and most moving testimony with regard to the identity of Christ, his priceless greatness compared with our littleness.

The fact that this warning was addressed by the Baptist to his disciples who were prepared to welcome the Messiah makes us realize the insidious nature of the temptation to enter into "crisis of humility": refusing to recognize that "everything is grace", that God's gifts do not belong to us, that "No one can have anything except what is given him from heaven"...

How often the disciple thinks he is the teacher; the servant, the master. John the Baptist knew well that the original sin was pride, a desire to possess the gifts of God separating them from their origin and identity as gifts, starting with freedom! How dangerous it is for the believer to forget the nothing he is and everything that God is. That original temptation is ever ready to arise in our soul. How good it is for us to say now and then, "you alone Lord are everything!" Right at the beginning of the spiritual journey of Catherine of Siena, the Lord said: "do you know daughter, who you are and who I am? If you know these two things, you will be happy. You are not, and I am who is. If

you hold this knowledge in your soul the enemy will not be able to mislead you, you will be safe from all his threats; you will never accept to do anything contrary to my commandments and you will have no difficulty in obtaining abundant grace, truth and light" (Raimondo da Capua, *La vita di S. Caterina da Siena*, I, X, 92, ed. Cantagalli).

Although with different words, John the Baptist offered his disciples the same teaching: "He must grow greater, I must grow less"; in order to make way for the Everything He is, we who are nothing must forget ourselves. This is the extraordinary dynamic of the conversion announced by the Baptist and repeated by Jesus: lose oneself in order to find God, become little in order to be great, be the least in order to become the first in the Kingdom of Heaven!

The path of humility teaches us to see God's gifts in ourselves and in others, a sign of the goodness He pours into the hearts of his creatures. Those who follow the example of Jesus, Mary, Joseph and John the Baptist, will be open to joyous testimony of God's gifts and remove from their soul all trace of jealousy and rivalry, envy and ambition, because they will understand that the only true greatness lies in allowing to grow in their soul not self, but the only True Great One. God! And of this, Mary is the greatest example.

*Monsignor Luciano Alimandi  
Agenzia Fides*

*Monsignor Alimandi is secretary to Cardinal Darío Castrillón Hoyos, President of the Pontifical Commission Ecclesia Dei, charged with oversight of the Vatican's relations with the religious communities and laity committed to the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite.*

## ROSARY RESURGENCE

Praying the Rosary was widely ridiculed by self-described "Catholic progressives" in the years immediately following the Second Vatican Council.

According to such critics, the Rosary was an outdated and meaningless relic of an earlier age of Catholic faith.

People who prayed the Rosary regularly always knew that such criticism was completely wrong-headed, and the post-conciliar popes confirmed the Rosary's central place in a healthy Catholic prayer life.

According to data gleaned from Google searches, lay Catholics around the globe appear to agree.

In a post, the St. Robert Bellarmine's Blog reported that the "Google Adwords Analytic Tool estimates over 1.5 million monthly web searches include the term Rosary."

Comments St. Robert Bellarmine's Blog about the Google Rosary rush, "This trend shocks many as the 1960s witnessed a strong push to be a more 'modern Church' and saw this antiquated devotion as 'past its prime.'"

The blog entry notes that the biggest number of "Rosary" searches occurs in October, the month the Church dedicates in a special way to promoting the Rosary. It also lists the seven most popular rosaries, in terms of Google searches.

"While contemplating your New Year Resolutions, how about making one that will improve your spiritual life while building up the Body of Christ," advises the Catholic blog. "Pray the Rosary daily."

*Tom McFeely  
National Catholic Register*