

CHURCH of the RESURRECTION NEWS

Nr. 2 (3582) January 12th, 2025

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD - C



Today we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. In today's Gospel, as in the other Gospel accounts of Jesus' baptism, we hear John the Baptist address the confusion of the people who thought that John might be the Messiah. In response, John contrasts the baptism that he performs with the Baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John the Baptist says that he has baptized with water, but that someone will come and baptize with the Holy Spirit.

The type of baptism that John performed was not yet a Christian Baptism; it was a preparation for Christian Baptism through which sins are forgiven and the gift of the Holy Spirit is received.

The baptism of Jesus is reported in each of the three Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Clearly, it was an event of great significance for Jesus and for the early Christian community. The Evangelists Mark and Luke report the story from Jesus' perspective; the voice from heaven is addressed to Jesus. Compare this to Matthew's Gospel in which the voice from heaven speaks to everyone. In Luke, however, the Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus during his time of prayer after his baptism. Through his Gospel, Luke will show Jesus to be a person of prayer who withdraws regularly from the crowds and his disciples to pray to his Father.

The baptism of Jesus is considered a manifestation of God in Jesus, another "epiphany." On this, the last day of the Christmas season, our Gospel reveals to us Jesus' relation to God: the son of Mary and Joseph is also God's own Son. In Luke's Gospel, all three members of the Trinity are manifested here: God the Father in the voice, the Holy Spirit descending, and Jesus the Son. At the beginning of his Gospel, Luke is communicating to us important information about the identity of Jesus. In the verses that follow, Luke lists the genealogy of Jesus, tracing Jesus' ancestry back to the first person, Adam, who is also identified as the son of God. We, the children of Adam and Eve, are again made children of God through Baptism. (loyolapress.com)

"Lord Jesus, fill me with your Holy Spirit and with the fire of your love and goodness. May I always find joy and delight in seeking to please you in doing your will just as you have delighted in the joy of pleasing your Father and doing his will." (dailyscriptures.net) †R.R.

O bless the Lord, o my soul.

SUNDAY MASS INTENTIONS ARE FOR:

9 a.m. †Agnieta (40th anniv.) and Leonas (25th anniv.) Pilipavicius (family)

11 a.m. for living and deceased parishioners

for the defenders of January 13th

for peace in the world

for living and deceased friends

(JMC)

†Dr.Edvardas Puodziukas (3rd anniv.) and Sally Pennock (2nd anniv.) (family)

†Rokas Dobrovolskis

(grandmother)

†Alfonsas and Grazina Sudeikis

(E.Sudeikis)

†Ilona Janeliunas-Smalenskas

(V.Puzeris)

†Monsignor Jonas Staskevicius

(R.J.Kuliesius)

†Genovaite Lietuvininkas-Naras

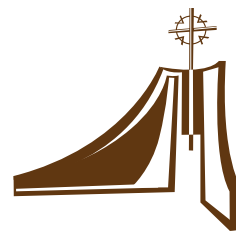
(A.K.Ambrozaitis)

†Ramute Gumuliauskiene (3rd anniv.)

(daughter)

†Romas Bazarauskas (3rd anniv.)

(son Gintas and family)



2025

January 12

Lithuanian food day

February 9

Sports club "AUSRA" Mass

February 23

Pancakes day

March 2

St. Casimir Fair

March 5

Ash Wednesday

March (date TBD)

Lenten Retreat

April 13

Lithuanian food day

April 17-20

Holy week

April 20

Easter

April 26

"Volunges sparnais..."

concert

April 27

Parish Annual Meeting

May 2-3

Spring Rummage Sale

May 4

First Communion

June 7

Run for Hope

June (date TBD)

Confirmation

June 22

St.John's day

Camp Kretinga

July 6-19 (En.)

July 20 - August 2 (Lith.)

October 24-25

Fall Rummage Sale

November 8

Annual Dinner

December (date TBD)

Advent Retreat

December 14

Christmas Concert

December 25

Christmas

Cantors of the Masses:

9 AM - Gintas Pabedinskas and Spencer Gallop

11 AM - choir "Volunge"

organist - Ilona Beres

The week's Holy Masses

MONDAY (January 13): 7 p.m. in thanksgiving (Pereira family);

TUESDAY (January 14): for living and deceased parishioners;

WEDNESDAY (January 15): 7 p.m. request grace of health for Arvydas (JMC);

THURSDAY (January 16): 7 p.m. request grace of health (NN); †Algis Vaisnoras (family);

FRIDAY (January 17): 7 p.m. in thanksgiving (GJ);

SATURDAY (January 18): 9 a.m. †Karolina Kubilius (Cuplinskas family);

SUNDAY (January 19): 9 a.m. †Jadvyga (25th anniv.) and Vilius (20th anniv.) Ruslys (N.Ruslys); 11 a.m. for living and deceased parishioners; †Eugenijus Cuplinskas (family); †Ona Anskis (Stanevicius family); †Ona and Stasys Nomeika (daughter); †Janina (1st anniv.), Emilija, Antanas and Petras (sister); †Antanas and Algimantas Šivokas (family); †Vytautas Petrulis (R.E.Stravinskas); †Karolina Kubilius (4 weeks) (Kubilius family); †Marija and Bronius Karasiejus (R.J.Karasiejus); for Zavis' deceased family members (G.Gaizutis).

"Capital Fund" - \$ 518,428

THANK YOU...

"For it is in giving that we receive".

Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

Sunday (01.05) & "Vilnius Manor"

Collections

37 envelopes - \$ 1,216

No envelopes - \$ 102

Direct deposit - \$ 2,835

THANK you for your generosity...



We wish success to Fr. Raimundas Bukauskas, OFM, who is going to Lithuania on January 12th, to participate in the Provincial Chapter of St. Casimir's Lithuanian Province of the Order of Friars Minor. This will take place at the Kretinga Friary House, from January 14-17, 2025. As is done every three years, a new Provincial leadership is to be elected, offices within the order appointed, and other significant decisions made. God bless Fr. Raimundas and all the brothers!

TODAY, January 12th, we invite you to visit the parish cafeteria to enjoy Lithuanian food.

There will also be coffee and sweets after

the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Holy Mass.

We invite you and look forward to seeing you!



"Our memory is alive, because it's a witness" January 13th - Defenders of Freedom Day!

Freedom – a person's first and truthful, and a whole nation's, source of good fortune and welfare. Many wars, disagreements, arguments arose and still arise because of desires to limit or even eliminate freedom. One of the greatest punishments to an individual is the loss of freedom because by losing freedom, you may say that they also lose their powers, their voice, their "I." The loss of freedom is the loss of the ability to grow and develop. Slavery not only demeans a nation's reputation, but weakens its will and spirit. The Lithuanian nation's freedom has been paid with the lives of the noblest of Lithuania's youth. Today, we bow our heads to them and in admiration of their actions, declare to the whole world: we will never be subjugated and we will defend our Nation's freedom with all of our might.

The Lithuanian nation's true resolve and dedication were shown during the events of January 13th, 1991. They required many sacrifices: about 700 persons were injured, 14 lost their lives. The latter were **Loreta Asanavičiūtė, Virginijus Druskis, Darius Gerbutavičius, Rolandas Jankauskas, Rimantas Juknevičius, Alvydas Kanapinskas, Algimantas Petras Kavoliukas, Vidas Maciulevičius, Titas Masiulis, Alvydas Matulka, Apolinaras Juozas Povilaitis, Ignas Šimulionis, Vytautas Vaitkus, Vytautas Koncevičius.**

Let us remember them in our prayers...

Our parish "Labdara" committee **CONTINUES The FOOD DRIVE** in aid of the needy in Toronto and **INVITES ALL to participate.**

NON-PERISHABLE Food may be brought and left in the box provided, at the parish door.

Thank you in advance for your kind donations.

‘Being a Christian means learning to be human again’

Three companions of Pope Benedict – Cardinal Kurt Koch, Professor Ralph Weimann, and Archbishop Georg Gänswein – reflect on the two-year anniversary of his death.

Speaking to Vatican News after the solemn Mass he had celebrated for the anniversary of Pope Benedict’s death, Cardinal Kurt Koch said that the late Pope was “a very humble person who approached others and listened to what they had to say”.



“He was a very kind person”, said the Swiss Cardinal, who is the head of the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity. “If you looked into his eyes, you could see that there was a lot of inner light there. It was always very important to him that being a Christian was based on being human. The two went together for him. Being a Christian means learning to be human again. And he was an excellent example of this.”

The quest for God

Pope Benedict himself once said that he was aware that he would not have a long pontificate, that he would not be able to initiate any major projects; that his concern, his mission, was to bring faith back to the centre of the Church. That’s according to the Swiss cardinal, who was appointed President of the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity by Pope Benedict XVI in 2010.

“For him, the question of God was central. The centrality of the question of God was the inner core of his entire work – not just any God, a supreme being in heaven, but the God who is not mute but speaks, who spoke to his people Israel and above all showed his face in Jesus of Nazareth, in Jesus Christ. The centrality of the question of God and Christocentricity: that is the inner core [of Pope Benedict’s work] that will certainly remain.”

Christian hope

In view of the 2025 Jubilee of Hope, which got underway on Christmas Eve, Cardinal Koch mentioned *Spe salvi*, the encyclical that Benedict dedicated to the topic of Christian hope.

“It is a wonderful text”, he said, “which shows us that only a person who does not take himself too seriously can have hope. [Benedict] himself once put it like this: ‘If we took ourselves more lightly, we could fly like angels and birds’. But sometimes we take ourselves so seriously that we are often stuck on earth. We can only have hope if we orientate our lives towards God. And that is why [Benedict] shows us what the inner meaning of the Holy Year is. This becomes visible with the door, the *Porta*, the symbol of Jesus Christ. Only through him can we reach holiness, and I hope that this Holy Year will enable people to find the holiness they promised in their baptism.”

A Christian and a Father

Prof Ralph Weimann, a member of the Ratzinger *Schülerkreis*, also told Vatican News how much Benedict influenced him as a person and as a priest:

“For me, Pope Benedict was first and foremost a Christian. That’s so easy to say, but it’s not always true. A Christian is someone who has put on Jesus Christ. And that’s what Pope Benedict, Joseph Ratzinger, stood for. He followed Christ with his truth and bore witness to it. And that has left a deep impression on my heart and I am very grateful to him for that. He was like a father to me, but above all a Christian. A Christian with us, a father to us.”

Georg Gänswein: In Rome in spirit

Benedict’s long-time private secretary, Archbishop Georg Gänswein, was unfortunately unable to attend this year’s memorial service in Rome. Since this summer, he has been Apostolic Nuncio for the Baltic States, based in Vilnius. However, his thoughts were in Rome on this New Year’s Eve.

“This is the second year that I’ve spent Christmas without Pope Benedict,” Gänswein told Vatican News. “The further away I am geographically from home, from Rome, the greater my inner closeness grows. Of course I feel sadness. But I also feel an inner hope and gratitude for all the time I was able to spend with him and by his side. In this respect, Christmas this year has been very different to other years. But it is still Christmas, and I know that Benedict’s help has been given to me.”

He also recalled Benedict’s encyclical on Christian hope, which has a very special significance in this Holy Year:

‘*Spe salvi* is an encyclical that directs human hope primarily towards God. And it is ultimately God himself who establishes this hope. In him is the foundation and the goal of this hope. For me, the encyclical, and therefore hope, has often become an anchor in my own life, an anchor, but also the goal of my life. Hope helps me to get through difficulties and hardship, to look ahead to the goal of my life, to the hope that is founded in God.’”

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Q: What is the name of the parish?

A: Resurrection; (indicating to whom the donation is addressed) or on the parish site www.prisikelimas.ca/give.

Through banks - RCU and Parama by direct deposit.

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Writing Cheques payable to **Franciscan Fathers** in the **MEMO:** Capital Fund, Renovation fund, by bequest, Monastery, Soup kitchen, Camp "Kretinga", Oncology centre Klaipeda, Franciscan Fathers projects in Lithuania.



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