

**MATER DOLOROSA CHURCH  
71 MAPLE STREET  
HOLYOKE, MA 01040**

**Served by the  
Conventual Franciscan Friars  
Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Assisi  
Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph**

**Mater Dolorosa School  
25 Maple Street  
Holyoke, MA 01040**

**Mater Dolorosa Cemetery  
Pittroff Avenue  
South Hadley, MA**

**Mass Schedule**

Daily - 8:00 am  
Saturday Vigil: 4:00 pm  
Sundays: 7:30 am, 9:00 am (Polish),  
10:30 am, and 5:00 pm  
Holydays: Vigil, 7:00 pm (Polish); 8:00 am  
and 7:00 pm

**Confession:** Weekday mornings 7:20 to 7:40 am;  
Saturday: 3:15 to 3:45 pm

**Sacrament of Baptism:** First Sunday of each month  
(except during Lent) at 12 Noon. Contact Parish Office  
to schedule Baptism and instruction.

**Sacrament of Anointing:** At the request of patient or  
family. Communal Anointing on the First Saturday of  
each month after Vigil Mass.

**Visits to the Sick:** At the request of the patient or the  
family.

**Sacrament of Marriage:** Contact Parish Office one  
year in advance for requirements for Sacramental Mar-  
riage. Pre-Cana attendance is required.

**Religious Education Program:** Elementary grades on  
Saturday mornings; High School on Monday evenings.

**RCIA:** Parish-based program for adults who wish to  
prepare for Baptism and/or Confirmation. Call Parish  
Office for information.



**Parish Pastoral Staff**

Fr. Alex B. Cymerman, OFM Conv., Pastor  
Fr. Stanley Sobiech, OFM Conv., Parochial Vicar  
Br. Steve Murphy, OFM Conv., Pastoral Assistant  
Sr. Corinne Gurka, FSSJ, Principal

**Office Staff**

Mrs. Theresa Szumski, Parish Secretary  
Mrs. Martha Jendrysik, Parish Secretary  
Mrs. Diane Zakrzewski, School Secretary

**Lay Leadership**

Mr. Mitchell Koziol, Finance Council Chair  
Mrs. Dorothy Skibel, Pastoral Council Chair  
Ms. Joann Wauczinski, Director of  
Religious Education  
Mrs. Bethany Healy, RCIA  
Mr. Mitchell Koziol, School Board Chair  
Mrs. Angie Mercado, CYO Director  
Mrs. Shirley Anop, Child Advocate

**Telephone Numbers**

Parish Office: 413-532-7889  
Parish Fax: 413-538-6754  
School Office: 413-532-2831  
School Cafeteria: 413-534-0191  
Parish Cemetery: 413-532-7889  
Religious Education: 413-532-7889  
Friary: 413-532-8272  
Jeff Chirgwin, Choir Director: 413-374-8434



### This Week's Feasts and Celebrations

**Monday, January 10. Weekday, First Week in Ordinary Time.** God the Most High (Ps) has spoken through his Son (1): "Reform your lives and believe in the good news (2).

**Tuesday, January 11. Weekday.** Jesus, though submitting to the laws of human existence (1), has authority (Ps) over sickness and death (2).

**Wednesday, January 12. Weekday.** Jesus is forever (Ps) our merciful high priest (1), healing those who are ill and afflicted (2).

**Thursday, January 13. Weekday; Memorial of St. Hilary, bishop, doctor of the Church.** Let our hearts not become hardened (1, Ps) so that the mercy of the Lord may heal and cure us (2). **Hilary of Poitiers**, d. 367; married and convert from paganism; leading opponent of the Arian heresy; most noted work: *De Trinitate*.

**Friday, January 14. Weekday.** Though we often imitate Israel's infidelity (1), we must never forget (Ps) the Lord's readiness to forgive our sins (2).

**Saturday, January 15. Saturday Mass of Our Lady.** Jesus came to call sinners, not the self-righteous (2). His word is refreshing (Ps), penetrating even to the heart (1).



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## The Baptism of the Lord

### January 9, 2011

A voice came from the heavens, saying,  
"This is my beloved Son,  
with whom I am well pleased."

*Matthew 3:17*

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### Scripture Readings for this Sunday

**1st Reading:** Isaiah speaks of the servant whom the Lord upholds; he shall bring forth justice to the nations (Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7).

**Responsorial Psalm:** The Lord will bless his people with peace (Psalm 29).

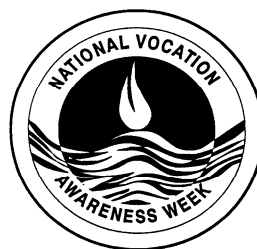
**2nd Reading:** Jesus was anointed by God with the Holy Spirit; he went out healing and doing good (Acts 10: 34-38).

**Gospel:** A voice comes from heaven proclaiming Jesus as the beloved Son, with whom God is well pleased (Matthew 3: 13-17).

### THIS IS MY BELOVED SON

**T**his Sunday's celebration of the Baptism of the Lord closes the Christmas season. In the scriptures we see one more epiphany, or manifestation, of the Spirit of God in Jesus—but this time it is as an adult, rather than as a child. Jesus' baptism also serves as the inauguration of his prophetic mission and the messianic age.

Today's reading from Isaiah describes God's chosen Messiah, upon whom God's spirit rests. In the Acts of the Apostles Peter says that "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power" (Acts 10:38). Finally, in the proclamation from Matthew's Gospel Jesus' baptism in water goes almost unnoticed. The crucial moment comes when the Spirit of God comes upon Jesus and a voice from heaven echoes the words of Isaiah: "**This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased**" (Matthew 3:17).



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**Mass Intentions**



**Saturday, January 8**

4:00 +Christine Sefcik—mother

**Sunday, January 9**

7:30 Intentions of All Parishioners  
 9:00 Intentions of Mater Dolorosa Rosary Society  
 10:30 +Jane T. Galat—Don & Deb Bozek  
 5:00 +Helen Czelusniak—M.D. Rosary Society

**Monday, January 10**

8:00 +Karolina & Zofia Lichwala—family  
 SF Christmas Wishes to Diane Skrzyniarz—parents

**Tuesday, January 11**

8:00 +Jean Kibit—Val Kasprzynski  
 SF Christmas Wishes to Ian LaFond—M/M Skrzyniarz

**Wednesday, January 12**

8:00 +Maria Zieja—Mary Cymerman

**Thursday, January 13**

8:00 +JoanneFrodyma Corrivaux—Mickey & Leo Murawski

**Friday, January 14**

8:00 +Frank Cymerman—Cymerman family

**Saturday, January 15**

8:00 +Joseph Danielewicz—Cymerman Family  
 4:00 +Stella Prych—Richter Family

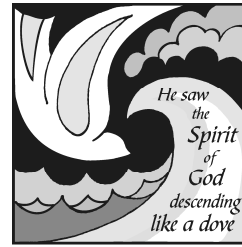
**Sunday, January 16**

7:30 +Maria Tabak—Erika Ejsmont  
 9:00 Intentions of All Parishioners  
 10:30 +Jane Skypeck—family  
 5:00 +Frank C. Skrzyniarz—son & family

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At both Mater Dolorosa and Holy Cross Parishes, our office staffs are accepting Mass intentions up to the end of June. Until there is some resolution to the merging and moving of our parishes, we don't want to accept Mass stipends that we may not be able to satisfy according to the wishes of our donors. We anticipate expect some resolution to this shortly. As soon as we do, we will coordinate and announce our Mass schedules. Until then, **there still are openings in the Mass Book**; all Mass offerings remain at \$10.; and the Senior Friars in Chicopee are still willing and able to celebrate Masses for Mater Dolorosa on specified dates. We announce those Masses in our Parish Bulletin and at our daily Masses. We are very appreciative of our Mass-intention benefactors. God bless you all!

**From the Pastor's Desk, The Baptism of the Lord**



**What Child Is This—What Is This ... Man**

**W**hat a marvelous event the baptism of Jesus must have been, even if many were oblivious to the magnitude of the moment!

John was baptizing multitudes who heard him say that God's promised Messiah was about to appear. He had to! The times were *hungry* for Him.

Just as today, people were hungry for something good in their world; they wanted peace; they wanted justice; they wanted some assurance that the messiness of life was not an *unending* punishment from God and that there was a light at the end of their tunnel.

We just celebrated the beautiful feast of Christmas, but what a mess our world has been. California is sliding into the Pacific; snow in places that never saw it; people blown out of their ski lifts; thousands camping out at airports because their planes couldn't fly; the streets of New York City (Buffalo, and Boston, too) clogged like bad arteries; Atlanta is colder than Iceland... ! Like in the old song, "*The weather outside is frightful.*" My Mom in Buffalo took down the "*Let It Snow*" embroidery from her apartment door. I sent it from our recent Vendors' Fair; but as the snow fell, *and fell*, she feared that her senior neighbors would attack her with their walkers!

Those aren't our only problems—certainly not even the worst. So, people are looking for relief; for some kind of salvation. Dare I say, we are looking for a SAVIOR!

People always have and will seek a Savior. It's in our nature. The problem is that our world provides too many temptations, temporary fixes which may seem salvific. But salvation is not distraction, and never a quick fix!

The coming of the Messiah meant that God did not abandon His people. God wanted dearly to be involved in their affairs, and He sent His Son to guide them—us—on our faith journey which all too often is loaded with obstacles from snow to sin. And so, on that day, Jesus stepped into the water. John hesitated because he was unworthy to tie His sandal strap, but Jesus said, *do it*. And John did!

[Pastor's Desk continued on next page]

*[Pastor's Desk, continued]*

Suddenly a voice was heard from above: **“This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased.”** The ancients often heard voices “from above,” but there was something authoritative and distinctive in this one. John knew; Jesus knew. God spoke: *If you have listened to anyone, LISTEN TO HIM!* A similar proclamation would encourage a few chosen apostles years later on a Mount of Transfiguration. This was just the beginning.

Jesus began His mission, and John would decrease as Jesus increased. Jesus was ready for a desert experience where He would wrestle with unique temptations and put the devil on notice once and for all that he was conquered. Still quite powerful, but conquered.

A few years ago, Pope John Paul II added new *mysteries* to the Rosary. The traditional mysteries focused on the birth, death, and glory of Jesus, but *we needed something to guide us on our faith journey.* We needed enlightenment from Jesus’ life and mission. And so the pope offered the “Luminous Mysteries,” the very first of which is the Baptism of Jesus. This mystery is important for followers of Christ, because we need to know *what Jesus is.* The voice at His Baptism tells emphatically that Jesus is God’s Son; a Divine Presence in a distracted world. Like the prophets of old, He is to be heard and respected, but He is more than just a prophet. Where the prophets struggled to find the right words that came from God, Jesus was God’s very Word. When Jesus speaks there is no need for footnotes, explanation, or clarifications. When He speaks, we STOP, LOOK, and LISTEN.

Our recognition of Jesus as the Son of God is our first epiphany: a manifestation of God entering our world. The more we listen, the more we see how God works in us and our history. When we are successful, our successes are to be directed to God and His mission. When we hurt and fail, well, we have to offer it up, and seek God’s help to rise again and try once more.

Our faith journey is like the streets of Holyoke. All of them lead somewhere. But we have to know *where* we want to go, and *what streets lead there.* Then we *choose* those streets to the exclusion of others—and *move!* It all starts with acknowledging that Jesus Christ is God’s beloved Son, in whom the Father is well pleased; and the Father will be well-pleased as we listen to Him.

Lent is late this year, and so we have a lot of Ordinary Time between now and then to listen and get acquainted with God’s Beloved Son. Even though our streets have snow and other obstacles, God’s Son will clear the way for our faith journey. Are you ready to walk? Good! Let’s move it, baby!

**God bless....**

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**SUNDAY OFFERING**

December 12th Offertory Collection: \$4,776.00  
 December 19th Offertory Collection: \$5,405.00  
 Christmas Collection: \$8,785.00  
 December 26th Offertory Collection: \$5,133.00  
 Building Fund (for December): \$1,962.00  
 Fuel & Utilities (for December): \$874.00  
 Religious Retirement (for December): \$995.00

A very heart-felt **Thank you** to our parishioners and visitors for the generous December collections. This is a very expensive time for all of you, especially with families, and yet your generosity shows the dedication of our people. Although the number of envelope users remained in the 350’s, there were **429 parishioners using envelopes on Christmas.** **WOW!** We also had Christmas Flower Memorials (which just about cover our Christmas flower and decorating bills); the School’s Annual Appeal, and so many other causes to support. Once again, *Thank you and God bless you!*

**Thank you to Building Fund Donors**

*In memory of* +**Maria Zieja:** The Powell Family \$150.; Linda Gwozdz \$10.; Barbara & Walter Pilecki \$20.; Aldona Cebulak \$10.; Marina & Aleksander Arhipov \$50.; Adolfine Nowak & Christine Nader \$10.; Micgiel Family \$20., M/M Al Duczynski \$20.; Mary Cymerman \$20.; Zofia & Stanislaw Lewandowski \$20.; Zofia Zyla \$20.; Walter & Zina Kosko \$10.; Stanislaw & Dionizy Bielech \$10.; Paula Fic \$10. +**John M. Marciniak, Sr.** John & Joanna Gusky \$50.; John Marciniak, Jr. & Susan Marciniak (son & daughter) \$1,000. +**Christine McCullough:** Kevin Mahoney Family \$50.; William & Ann Marie Woods \$50.; David M. Mol \$50.; Frank & Jennie Mol \$25.; Edward & Barbara Mol \$20.; Belt Technologies, Inc \$50. +**Jean Kibit:** Ronald Kibit \$100.; Robert Kibit \$100.; Aaron Kibit \$50.; Phyllis Kaczynski \$100.; Sally Balicki \$10.; Estelle Lucy \$50.; Wm Gonski & family \$50.; Freida Bojarski \$50.; Sophie Kowalczyk \$25.; Helen Allen \$20.; Josephine Sulenski \$10.; Richard Czerwec \$10.; Josephine & Carl Nartowicz \$10.

Gifts to the **Mater Dolorosa School Fund** *in memory of* +**Mitchell E. Szady:** Stanley F. & Helen P. Zajchowski \$20.; Elaine Wagner \$50. Gift of Stanley Wojcik, \$20.

These are the collections and memorials we did not acknowledge earlier due to the Bulletin schedule; there are a few more gifts we will print in the future.

**God bless all our Benefactors!**

**The Linking and Merging of Parishes**

At the invitation of Dottie Skibel and Gerryann Rodgers, Parish Council chairpersons of Mater Dolorosa and Holy Cross parishes, a meeting was called on December 10th, attended by both Parish and Finance Council members, to share ideas on how we can better serve our parish communities. Emphasis was on the spiritual growth of both communities (and the other parishes of the Holyoke deanery). Both pastors, as well as Frs. Francis Sullivan, Stanley Sobiech and Deacon Tom Callahan spoke of the need to share the talents of all parish communities with one another. The days of each doing only for their own are gone, and we may never enjoy that luxury again. At the introductions, we were surprised at how many of us from one parish already are involved with the other. This is especially true of our school community.

The consensus is that the ALPHA Program, this year a joint venture of both parishes and held at Mater Dolorosa, was the best ever. Even outside the meeting we hear glowing comments how impressed people are with the faith-sharing and depth of spirituality among the participants. That is the field on which we must meet.

The pastors agreed that the Lenten mission held at Holy Cross in March will be for both parishes and Wedding Jubilarians and all couples married at Mater Dolorosa and Holy Cross during the previous year will be invited to a Marriage Mass at M.D.

All present encouraged a continuation of our clergy pulpit exchanges. The people like it, and the clergy do, too.

The Diocesan Building and Sites Commission is completing its survey of all Holyoke church structures and some announcements are expected early in 2011. May the Lord help us on our faith journey!



**SNOW DAYS**

We don't want to shake the rafters, but so far we've been unscathed by winter blizzards. If the weather is REAL BAD on Sundays (so bad that a trip to the store or FOXWOODS is out of the question), use your judgment about attending Sunday Mass. **BUT, even if you can't attend, it still is the Lord's Day.** Watch a TV Mass; say the Rosary together as a family (and bring your envelope in next week). Santa and Mrs. Claus told our children a few weeks ago, *you must never be too busy to worship God on Sunday.* You better watch out. Santa's watching!

**The Jordan River**

Today we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. Jesus was baptized by John in the Jordan River.

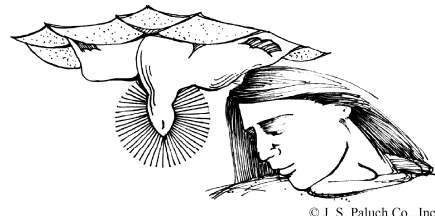
A reliable tradition identifies the place where Jesus' Baptism may have taken place. It is a must-visit spot for Holy Land pilgrims. When your pastor participated in a priests' Holy Land retreat ten years ago, the Franciscan retreat director arranged for us to renew our baptismal vows where Jesus was baptized. It was January and cold. The retreat director assured us that when you first wade into the river, it seems cold, but it becomes comfortable. Most of us tried it and it was true. At first it was c-o-l-d! But as we stood in the water renewing our own Baptismal Vows, the water was fine. Just thinking that Jesus may have stood right THERE was awesome; nobody wanted to leave.

The retreat director wanted us back on the bus, but just asking us to get out of the Jordan water wouldn't do. He had done this before, so he was prepared....

As we waded in the Jordan, oblivious to our schedule, the priest simply said: "We have to get moving. Enjoy your experience in the Jordan River, and don't worry: *the snakes swimming toward you may bite but they haven't killed anyone in some time.*" There were no snakes-a-swimming, but there were priests-a-jumping.... The speed and height of our jumps were ... *a miracle!*

**Summer Festival 2010/Winter Bazaar 2011**

Festival Chairperson Joann Wauczinski recently called a meeting of Festival Workers to acknowledge the dedication and hard work of all, and to announce that **SummFest 2010** gained almost **\$22,000.00** profit for the Parish. Everyone did well, but the evening's "WOW" award went to the Tag Sale Team who sold and auctioned over \$4,000.00 of assorted treasures. Mark your calendars for the **Winter Bazaar, February 19/20, 2011.** *Once again, God bless our benefactors!*



**And, a Final Prayer**

**HOLY SPIRIT, who came upon Christ Jesus when He was baptized in the waters of the Jordan, we pray to you: Baptize us in the fire of your love so that the Father may say to each of us: "You are my beloved, on whom my favor rests."**