

*SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY 01/08/23*

Saturday: 5:30 PM (E) ✦ Jean Ferko (req. by Mike Ferko)

Sunday: 8:30 AM (G) ✦ Mary Salchak (req. by Family)

11:00 AM (E) For the Parish Family

*32<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 1/15/23*

Saturday: 5:30 PM (E) For the Parish Family

Sunday: 8:30 AM (G) ✦ Debbie Pangratz (req. by Art & Rose Ann Provost)

11:00 AM (E) ✦ Ed Bosak (req. by Elaine Ference)

**OUR RETURN TO THE LORD FOR ALL HE HAS GIVEN US:**

01/01/23

\$ 2374.00

**CHRISTIAN CUPBOARD JANUARY COLLECTION – Boxed/Packaged Meals**

Please check the expiration dates. Expired items cannot be distributed.

**GOD WITH US ONLINE**

The Eastern Catholic Directors of Religious Education Association has established an online religious education site: God With Us Online. This offers catechetical programs with some of the most talented teachers of the faith. You can register for free online classes at [www.easterncatholic.org](http://www.easterncatholic.org). Descriptions are given for the various subjects and dates of the classes. All classes begin at 8 PM (EST).

**PRO-LIFE EVENTS IN JANUARY 2023**

1. Bus trip to Washington, DC March for Life on Friday, January 20. Buses leave Erie on Jan. 19 and return on January 21. Tickets are \$65.00

2. Erie March for Life on Saturday, January 28 begins at Perry Square at 11:00 AM.

For more information and to purchase tickets go to [www.peopleforlife.org](http://www.peopleforlife.org).

*Globalized Indifference*

The culture of comfort, which makes us think only of ourselves, makes us insensitive to the cries of other people, makes us live in soap bubbles which, however lovely, are insubstantial; they offer a fleeting and empty illusion which results in indifference to others; indeed, it even leads to the globalization of indifference. In the globalized world, we have fallen into globalized indifference. –Pope Francis

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*JESUS PRAYER – Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner*

**REGENERATION AT THE JORDAN RIVER**

So why did Christ, who did not need to be delivered from sin and death, get baptized at all! Not for himself, but for us. The Baptizer questioned Jesus at his appearance at the Jordan, saying: “I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?” Jesus said to him in reply, “Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” (Mt 3:14-15) In his baptism, Jesus identifies with the human race in its need for restoration and forgiveness. He brings the old way of life to an end, drowning it in the waters of the Jordan, and gives us the new life in his coming out of the waters. But this work of regeneration (rebirth, renewal) is not the work of Christ alone, but of God the Blessed Trinity. The concept of “regeneration” is not just for the human race, though. In the baptism of Jesus, the whole creation is renewed, because the whole creation has been affected by the fall of our first parents, Adam and Eve. The descent of Jesus into the waters of the Jordan accomplishes not only the washing of humanity, but also the restoration of creation itself.

*The Greatness of John the Baptist*

John the Baptist is the greatest. The reason is his violent dedication to Jesus which was the expression of his violent dedication to God’s truth and justice. John’s sheer, uncompromising righteousness is the cause of his greatness. There is nothing else. He was not one of the apostles. He did not witness the resurrection. He did not work miracles while he was alive. He did not write a book. He was not what one would call a mystic. But he was an ascetic and a prophet. He lived for God alone and he bore witness to the Lord’s commandments to his very last breath. The church praises him for this.

Jesus is the divine bridegroom. The Church is his bride. And John the Baptist is the best man at the marriage, the “friend” who rejoices in the bridegroom’s joy. His whole life and service was for the sake of Christ, whose way he prepared.

**THE HOLY SPIRIT**

With the manifestation of God’s Son as Jesus the Christ of Israel and the Savior of the world, God’s Holy Spirit is also manifested as a unique divine person. He too was dimly prefigured in His activities in the old covenants, but is now revealed in His personal glory. He is the “Spirit of Truth, who proceeds from the Father” (Jn 15:26). He descends personally on the man Jesus, anointing Him in His humanity, and all people in Him, showing Him to the world as the promised Messiah, and shining forth from Him upon all who receive Him as their Lord and God. This is the unique doctrine of authentic Christianity: the worship of the Holy Trinity “one in essence and undivided.”