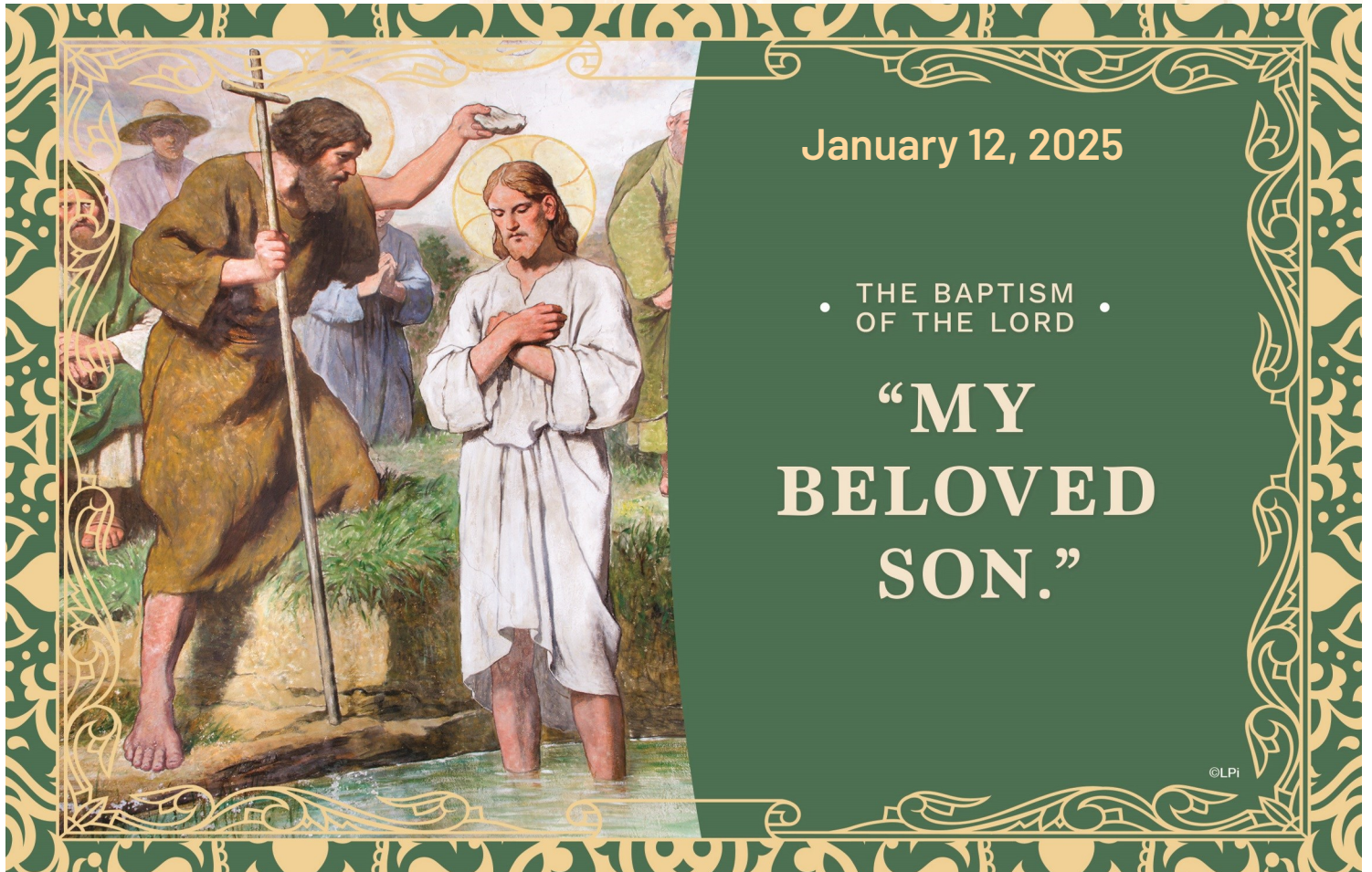




St. Mark Parish

St. Mark is a Catholic parish committed to fostering discipleship through the Word of God and the Sacraments. We are dedicated to providing Catholic education to our youth, to bringing a deeper relationship with Christ to our adults, and to supporting those in need through the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy. We encourage all of our parishioners to participate in the shared responsibility of worship, prayer, study and service.



PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Adam Zajac
Pastor

Mrs. Karen Cocita
Principal

Mrs. Meaghan McCarthy-Silver
Pastoral Minister

Mrs. Julia Wallace
Music Ministry Director

Mr. Michael Kay
Youth Ministry Director

Mrs. Jeannette Puckett
Parish School of Religion
(PSR) Director

COMMUNITY & SACRAMENTS

New Parishioners: All are welcome to join the parish! Visit the website or call the parish office to arrange to meet a pastoral staff member.

Become Catholic: Interested in becoming Catholic? Call the parish office for an appointment with a pastoral staff member to learn more.

Infant Baptism: As you celebrate a new birth, make sure to arrange for the child's baptism. The third Sunday of the month is our regular schedule.

Reconciliation: Mercy and peace are here for you. Confession is available on Saturdays from 3:00pm to 3:45pm, or by appointment.

Marriage: Over six months we will prepare you to exchange vows before the altar. Whether engaged or civilly married, contact us to get started.

Anointing of the Sick: If you or a loved one is seriously sick, please call the parish office to arrange for a priest to visit and anoint.

Homebound: We are happy to bring Communion to you if you are unable to participate in the celebration of Mass.

LITURGY AND PRAYER INTENTIONS

Papal Intention

January: For the right to an education. Let us pray for migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

Liturgy Schedule

Scripture readings can be found online at:
bible.usccb.org

Monday, January 13

8:30am Mass.....Francis Kelley

Tuesday, January 14

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

Wednesday, January 15

Thursday, January 16

Friday, January 17-St. Anthony

6:45am Mass @ St. Mel

Saturday, January 18

3:00pm Confessions

3:00pm Confessions @ St. Mel

4:00pm MassRita Szy

4:30pm Mass @ St. Mel

Sunday, January 19-2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:00am Mass @ St. Mel

8:30am Mass..... Patricia Keating

10:00am Mass @ St. Mel

11:30am Mass For the Parishioners of St. Mark Parish and the Parishioners of St. Mel Parish

12:30pm Baptisms

Pray for the Sick

We commend to your personal prayers parishioners who have asked to be prayed for:

William Adams	Irene Gurchensky	Judy Reitz
Gianna Andolina	Carol Hughes	Nora Sudetic
Jack Behnke	David Kurth	George Surovec
Katy Brent	Pat McAndrew	Herb Tippie
Henry Buehner	Gerald McArthur	Georgieann Treible
James Coyne	Jim McIlwee	Joe Wantz
Matthew Craven	Mary Miller	Charlotte Whiting
Nicole Foerstner	Maisie Nowlin	Lillian Zahara
Mary Frantz	Bill Retzer	Lew Zahara Jr.
Theresa Fridrich	Mary Stark	Joseph Zavatchen Jr.
	Sr. Josette Obodzinski	

Pray for the Deceased

John Kness, Brother of Marce Longer

Fr. Ned Weist

Mike Lehto, Husband of Maureen Lehto

May perpetual light shine upon them

Other Intentions

Weekly Luke McGraw Memorial Candles Intention

Francis Kelley

Liturgical Ministers	emHCs	Lectors	Servers
Saturday, January 18 @ 4:00pm	Marian Lundeen Mary Price Rosanne Kelley	John Levis	Houston Engle Owen Glazier Grant Glazier
Sunday, January 19 @ 8:30am	Karen Cocita Kathy O'Malley Michael Kay	Michael Grathwol Mary Lewis	Albert McGervey Anthony McGervey Julia McNulty
Sunday, January 19 @ 11:30am	Shawn Wroten Lisa Ditzel Michelle Biggins	Cari Foster NOT FILLED	Gianna Andolina Joseph Andolina Clare Hurley

NEWS AND EVENTS

Offertory Collections

In-Pew Collection December 25	\$ 7,208.00
Faith Direct (December 25)	\$ 3,380.00
In-Pew Collection December 29	\$ 4,007.00
Faith Direct (past month total)	\$ 5,041.00

Thank you for your generosity!

Parish News

St. Mark Giving Tree

Thank you to everyone who made the Giving Tree ministry a wonderful success! Whether you donated, shopped for a gift, wrote out ornaments, sorted and checked in the gifts, delivered gifts or said a prayer for the people we serve - we could not do it without you! More than 400 gifts were distributed this year and the organizations and individuals we serve were so very appreciative! From barbie dolls and games to clothes and microwaves, so many Christmas wishes came true because of the collective effort of our parish. Thank you for helping to spread the feeling of hope and love throughout our community which lasts long after the gifts are unwrapped. Happy New Year!

Birthright Baby Bottle Donations

January 11 & 12 through January 25 & 26

We are sponsoring a fundraiser for Birthright, a pregnancy crisis and counseling center. Baby bottles will be available to pick up at all Church entrances January 11 & 12. If you are able, please pick up a baby bottle, fill it with spare change to 'help make a change in a young woman's life'. Please return the filled bottles the weekend of January 25 & 26. Bottles may also be returned to the Parish Office.

Thank you for your continued generosity.

Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors and Altar Servers

Please notify in writing or by email of any dates that you are not available to serve for the next schedule, which will be from February 2025-May 2025. We need this information so that all Ministers are available to fulfill their scheduled Mass times. We appreciate your continued service. The deadline to submit dates is Monday, January 13th by 4:30pm to cbirchfield@stmarkcleveland.com. Please be mindful of holidays and vacations. Thank you for your help.

Regional and Diocesan News and Events

Respect Life

2025

There are opportunities to help and pray for those who are at risk, both at the beginning of their lives, and through to their ends of life.

Starting this week, there are two ways for us to participate.

The annual Mass for Life at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist will be on Friday, January 17th from 10:00am to 11:00am.

We could also join thousands of Catholics nationwide praying for the protection of human life from January 16th through the 24th. We can sign up at 9daysforlife.com

May God bless all of us!

Jubilee Anniversary Mass

Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist

We are always excited to celebrate the jubilee anniversary Mass for couples married 50 years. This Mass is celebrated at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist in downtown Cleveland. On Sunday, June 29, 2025 at 2:00pm we will celebrate with all couples married in 1975. Everyone is invited and may bring family with them. Doors open at 1:30pm. This is not a tickets event. No registration required.

The Office of Marriage and Family Ministry is pleased to provide a letter from Bishop Malesic and a certificate for all couples married 50 years. Attendance at the 50th Wedding Anniversary Mass is not required.

Please go to the www.dioceseofcleveland.org website and search 50th Wedding Anniversary Jubilee Mass for more information and to request a certificate.

Reminders and Regular Events

Holy Name Society Meetings

Fellowship, prayer, and service for all parishioners

All men and women of the parish ages 18 and older are welcome to join the St. Mark Holy Name Society. Meetings are the second Tuesday of the month at 6:00pm in either the Picnic Pavilion or Social Hall. At these gatherings, we dine together and discuss what event we will be doing next to help the community of St. Mark. If you would like to know more, contact Jim Cocita at: jimcocita@gmail.com

Young Family Gatherings

Connect with other young parents

Once a month after the 8:30am mass, young families are welcome to gather in the Social Hall (or Pavilion) for bagels, coffee, and community. Dates vary each month. For questions contact Briana Dave at: bciancibello@gmail.com

Upcoming Dates: January 12, February 9, March 16 and April 13

Donut & Coffee Social

Once a month after all masses in the Social Hall. Gather with fellow parishioners. For questions contact Michael Kay at mkay@stmarkcleveland.com

Upcoming Date: February 1 & 2

REQUEST FOR 2024 CONTRIBUTION REPORT

Please send a request via email to dbroughton@stmarkcleveland.com or fill out this form and return it to the Parish Office.

Name (print) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email report to: _____

Pick up at Parish Office _____ Mail to above address _____

General Parish Calendar

Saturday,	January 11	
3:00 pm	Confession	
4:00 pm	Mass	
5:30 pm	Basketball Tournament	G/FR
	Baby Bottle Pick-up	
Sunday,	January 12	
8:30 am	Mass	
8:30 am	Sunday PreSchool	CR
9:30 am	Rosary	
9:30 am	Young Families	SH
11:30 am	Mass LS	
1:00 pm	Basketball Tournament	G/FR
Monday,	January 13	
8:30 am	Mass	
5:00pm-9:00 pm	Basketball Tournament	G/FR
6:30 pm	PSR Class Gr. 1-8	CR
Tuesday,	January 14	
4:30 pm	RCIC	CC
5:00pm-9:00pm	Basketball Tournament	G/FR
6:00 pm	Holy Name Mtg.	SH
Wednesday,	January 15	
4:00 pm	RCIA	CC
5:00pm-9:00pm	Basketball Tournament	G/FR
5:30 pm	Baptism Class	CC
Thursday,	January 16	
8:30 am	Mass	
5:00pm-9:00pm	Basketball Tournament	G/FR
6:00 pm	Pack #268 Den Mtg.	SH
7:00 pm	Troop #293	SH
Friday,	January 17	
5:00pm-9:00pm	Basketball Tournament	G/FR
Saturday,	January 18	
10:00 am	Space Derby	SH
3:00 pm	Confession	
4:00 pm	Mass	
5:30 pm	Basketball Tournament	G/FR
Sunday,	January 19	
8:30 am	Mass	
8:30 am	Sunday PreSchool	CR
9:30 am	Rosary	
11:30 am	Mass LS	
1:00 pm	Basketball Tournament	G/FR

Note: (LS)=Livestreamed

We are back into the swing of things after a joyous Christmas holiday which brought everyone back well-rested.

This is always an interesting time of the year, especially for our Eighth Grade students. Much of life is about choices, and this past week, each one of them made a very big choice about which high school to attend for the next four years of their lives. For some, this choice was very simple- there is a family legacy. Yet for others, the choice was a very difficult one that involved comfort, success, and finances. As a school, we provided "shadow" opportunities for them and encouraged open house visits. In preparation for this week, countless recommendation forms have been completed for them by all of us who have worked with them specifically these past two years. I had the pleasure of meeting with them this week to discuss their choices and the application process as well as discuss their upcoming trip to Washington D.C. I love these special moments I get to share with the 8th Grade because before we know it, they will have graduated to become our next class of alumni. Please keep them and their families in your prayers as they navigate through this time in their lives.

It is also hard to believe we are nearing completion of the second quarter already. At the end of every quarter, as a faculty we gather together in church before school for a short prayer service, followed by breakfast. Then the children begin to arrive! Prayer should be an important component in all of our lives. There are examples throughout Scripture of the importance of prayer. The Apostles prayed together on the day of Pentecost in Acts 1:13-14. Paul and Silas' prayers were followed by conversion of another in Acts 16:25. When we pray with others, we surrender our personal thoughts and focus on the needs of others. The faculty recognizes the importance of prayer as well as the importance of praying together, for it is in these moments that we are drawn together even closer, while providing us opportunities to grow in grace. I am blessed with such a wonderful, faith-filled faculty who are so dedicated to their mission of "Nurturing Faith, Inspiring Academic Excellence, and Instilling Hope for the Future." This is the Mission of St. Mark Catholic School. For me personally, I love the fact that our school is directly connected to our church. Often times, I stop in church after the day has ended just to take some time for personal prayer and reflection. I find it quite uplifting.

In a new pastoral letter, "[A Flourishing Apostolic Church](#)," released Dec. 15, Bishop Malesic said his intent is, "That we might recommit ourselves to a daily entry into the Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ so that the Church of Cleveland may truly flourish." Bishop Malesic is asking that all Catholics of the Cleveland Diocese set aside 15 minutes each day for simple reflection. While daily prayer is quite basic to all baptized Catholics, it can be easily overlooked in a society prioritizing "getting on with things" over quiet moments of introspection. Bishop Malesic continues on in his pastoral letter, "I invite you, if it is not already part of your daily routine, to make time for God – at least fifteen minutes of prayer a day. Consider putting down your phone and rest in the Lord. Read some Scripture. Give thanks for the blessings you have received. Review your day with him. Share your dreams and your joys. Share your fears, sorrows, and worries. Then listen for his response, which will usually be heard in the silence of your heart as Jesus speaks to you." I encourage all of you this new year of 2025 to examine your own prayer life and find /make time to pray and reflect. As a faculty, we are going to be taking a deep dive into Bishop Malesic's pastoral letter beginning in February, which I am looking forward to doing.

Plans are well underway for our Catholic Schools' Week celebration, which begins with an Open House on Sunday, January 26th between 9:30-11:30. Our Scholastic Book Fair, students' science fair projects, and some great art projects will be on display. Even if you do not have children here at St. Mark, please take a few moments to walk our hallways; you will be amazed at what you see! We would love to show you our school- your school! As a special feature this year, every classroom has been assigned a specific decade of time over these past 75 years to display on their classroom doors. If you are a graduate of St. Mark, you may find yourself on a door somewhere! We are blessed in so many ways with great children and families. Our children are engaged, happy, and very well prepared for high school. We have so much to be thankful for, including you, our parishioners. Come and visit!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 1st as we celebrate our 75 years as a school as well as our upcoming 80 years as a parish with a dinner dance. Invitations will be coming out in mid-January.

May God continue to bless you with his goodness.
Mrs. Cocita



Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of January 12, 2025

Sunday:

Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 (1)/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/
Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

Monday:

Heb 1:1-6/Ps 97:1 and 2b, 6 and 7c, 9/
Mk 1:14-20

Tuesday:

Heb 2:5-12/Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9/
Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday:

Heb 2:14-18/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9/
Mk 1:29-39

Thursday:

Heb 3:7-14/Ps 95:6-7c, 8-9, 10-11/
Mk 1:40-45

Friday:

Heb 4:1-5, 11/Ps 78:3 and 4bc, 6c-7, 8/
Mk 2:1-12

Saturday:

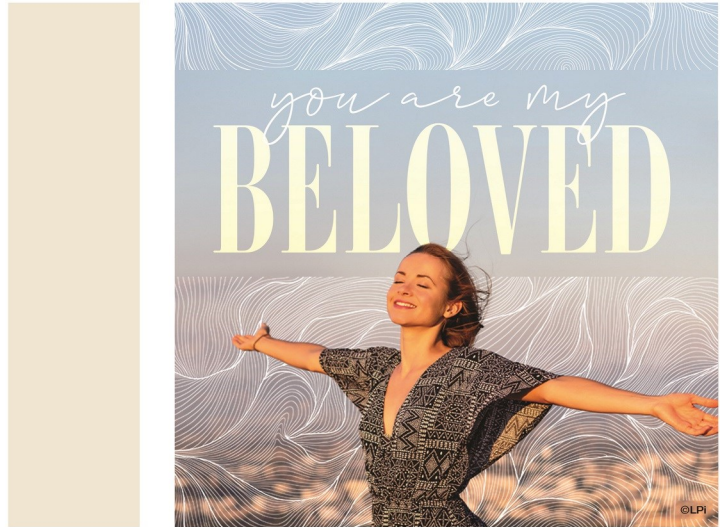
Heb 4:12-16/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mk 2:13-17

Next Sunday:

Is 62:1-5/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10 (3)/
1 Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-11



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

In my second year of theology studies, I went to confession to a priest visiting the seminary for a three-day retreat. My heart wasn't in it. I was going through the motions. I confessed my sins and waited for his response. The priest said, "For your penance, I'd like you to go into the chapel and repeat the words **'You are my beloved Son, with you I am well pleased'** (Luke 3:22) until they mean something to you." Easy penance, I thought.

But to my surprise, I struggled to say those words. I sensed a strong interior resistance blocking them. How could God be well-pleased with me? He couldn't be, I thought. A battle within me ensued. Two hours later, the resistance vanished, and I found myself able to speak, and claim as my own, those marvelous words. I emerged from the chapel with a new, deep, peaceful conviction that I was indeed God's beloved son.

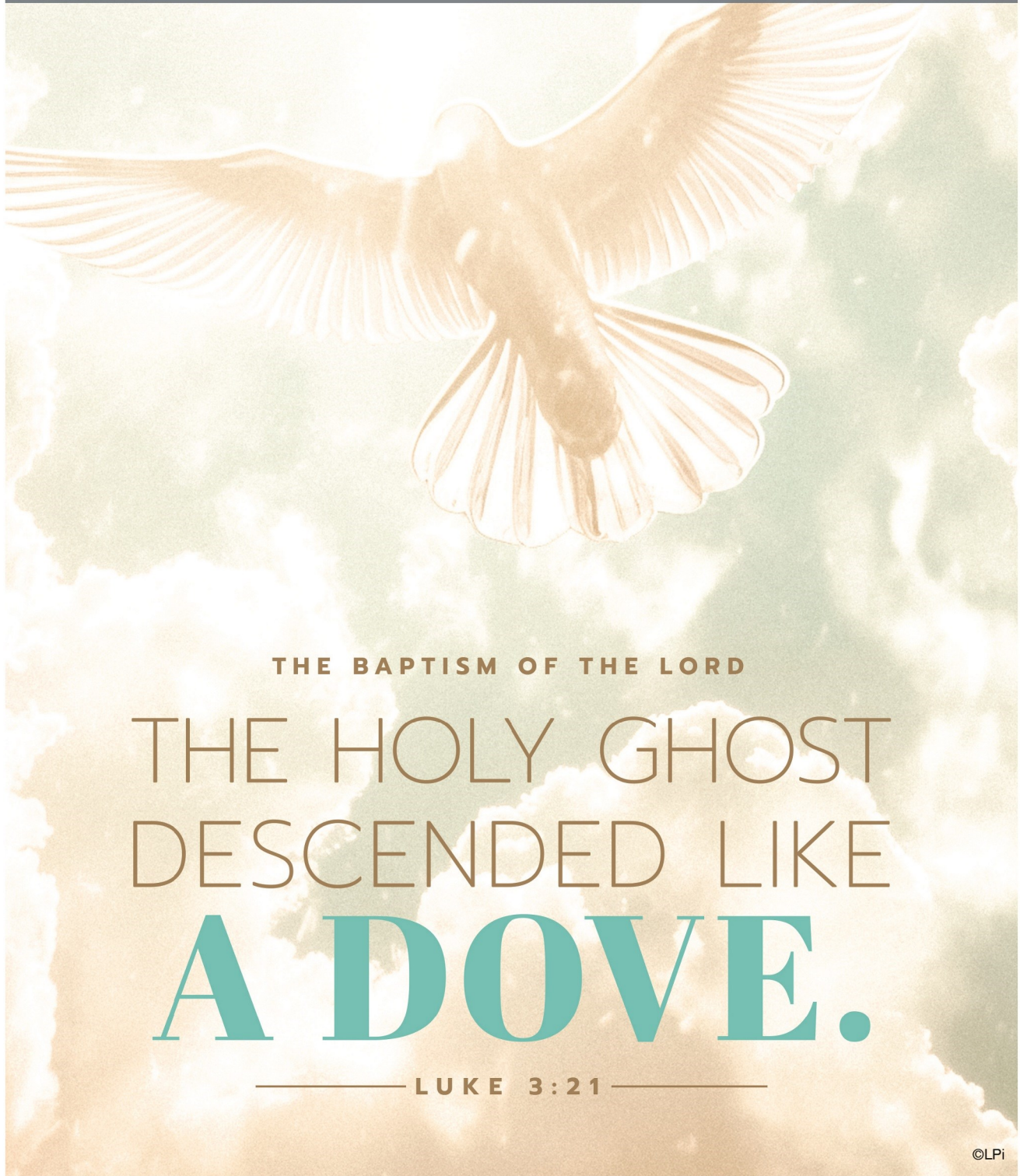
Those words are a precious gift from heaven to all of us. Jesus' baptism, which we celebrate this week, offers them to us. Are we willing to receive these words anew? Many things can block this deepening of our baptismal identity: failings, sins, disappointments, traumas, problems, and so on. Yet God's love is always greater. This week I challenge you to prayerfully repeat these words over yourself — or perhaps over someone you're struggling to love — until those words find a home in your heart.

— *Father John Muir*

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2025 | THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2025



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

THE HOLY GHOST
DESCENDED LIKE
A DOVE.

LUKE 3:21

©LPI

7

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD