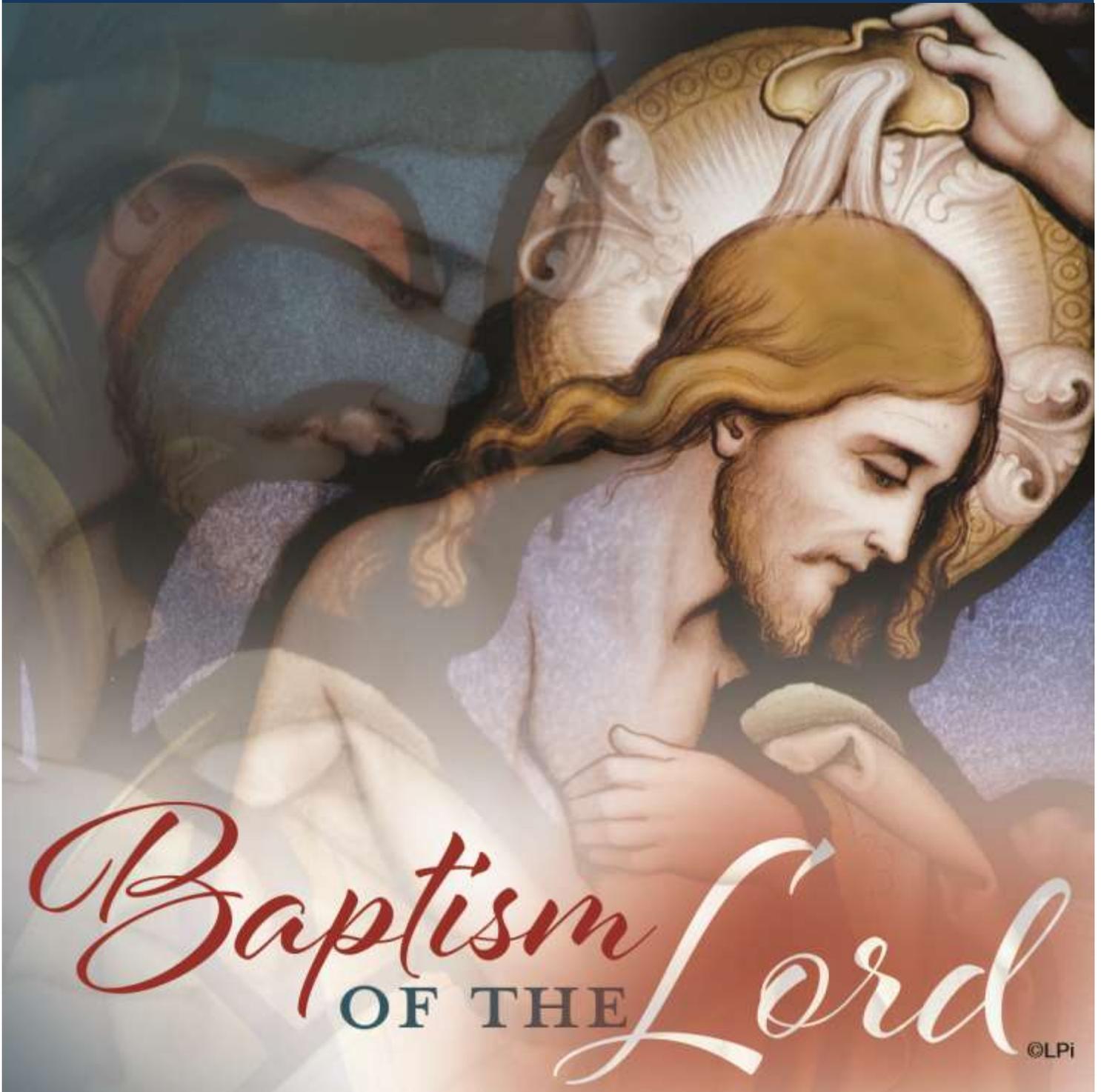


OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA



Parish Office

Address:

1200 Shippan Ave.
Stamford, CT 06902
Phone: 203-324-4634

Email: olssparishoffice@gmail.com

Mass Schedule

Monday-Friday: 8:00 am
Saturday Vigil: 4:30 pm
Sunday: 9:00 am & 11:00 am

Confessions

Saturdays: 3:30 pm - 4:00 pm
by appointment

Visit our website to sign up for weekend Mass.

WWW.OURLADYSTAROFTHESEASTAMFORD.ORG



This week the Sanctuary Candle burns in loving memory of Corazon Sibillio requested by Rosanna Cruz.



Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9

4:30pm Raymond Carrano

(req. by Helaine, wife & family)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10

9:00am Joe Masone (req. by Judy Rusin)

11:00am Jose Pastilha (req. by Elsa Neto)

MONDAY, JANUARY 11

8:00am Special Intention

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12

8:00am Ralph Antonacci (req. by Judy Rusin)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13

8:00am All Parishioners

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14

8:00am Souls in Purgatory

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15

9:00am Leokadia & Henryk Uzieblo

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16

4:30pm Ralph Antonacci (req. by OLSS Star Knitters)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17

9:00am All Parishioners

11:00am Edward S. Czescik (33 years passed)

(req. by Family)

WEEKLY COLLECTION:

Christmas This Year (12-25-20) \$12,743;

Christmas Last Year (12-25-19) \$12,744;

Advent Tree of Light \$10,935;

This Year (12/27/20) \$1,479;

**This Year (01/03/21) \$1,103;
Last Year (01/05/20) \$3,182;**

Thank you for your continued support throughout the year!



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

This is what John the Baptist proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."
- Mk 1:7-8

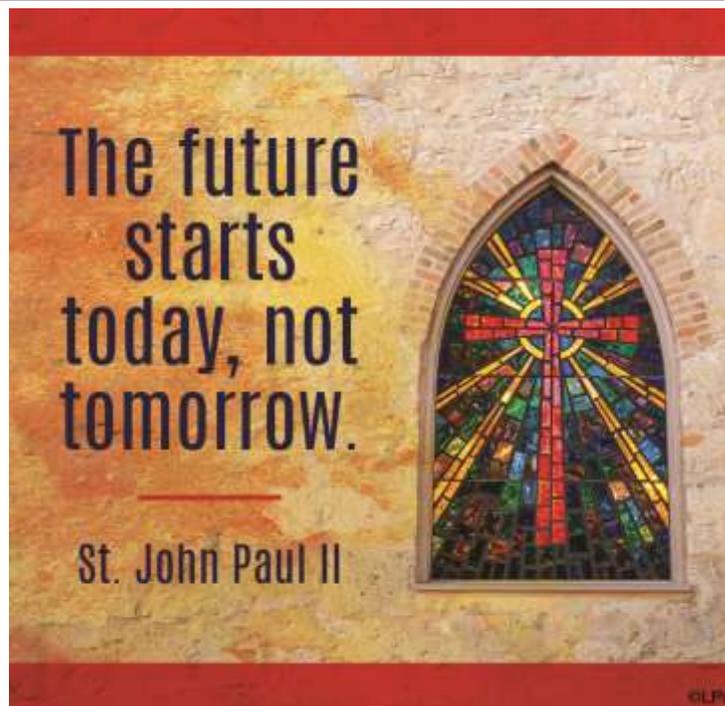
We need history. We need it in order to understand ourselves, personally and collectively. The pieces of our histories may not have always been the most positive, honest, exemplary, dignified, proud and best moments of our lives, but they are ours. We have to acknowledge, remember, accept, and often heal them. We cannot forget them or pretend that they never existed. As horrible as the atrocities of events like Auschwitz, brutal injustices committed throughout the human journey, or personal painful experiences in our own stories, we need to remember. These times when humanity in general or people in particular have lost their way are times that need to be reconciled and redeemed.

If we lose the memories, we will make the same mistakes again. The human soul needs a strong sense of affirmation, direction, and clear purpose. Without these essentials, we will easily run amuck and **repeat the sins of our past. God's voice throughout history has** spoken precisely about this! We are reminded through the voices and example of many prophets and witnesses not to make the same mistakes again, come back to center, discover the purpose given to us by God, maintain a sense of proper direction, seek healing for wounds and be reconciled to our Creator.

Baptism is so incredibly important for the salvation of humankind, not only eternally but here and now. Our existence depends upon it. It gives us the affirmation we need from God by gifting us with the same intimate relationship Jesus had with the Father. We are blessed with the direction and clear purpose we need in order to be productive stewards and faithful Christians. Baptism calls us to remember, accept, and deal with the sins and inequities of our past regardless of how hurtful and serious. We consciously choose to turn away from them and put on the new life of Christ. To do this well, we must look hard and long at our sins and failings, listen to what they are saying and learn from them. If we ignore the past, collectively or personally, or pretend that it never happened, we will never grow. We will surely die.

People need to hear the message, lived and spoken, delivered by the baptized members of the Body of Christ. It is an essential message of hope that is layered with visions of justice, peace, reconciliation, redemption, blessing, and healing. It is a message that helps us remember what has gone before, the graces and the sins, and bring **ourselves by God's help where we need to be. We are called to do** much more than sit home behind our closed doors. We have a message to deliver. Are we ready to do so?

The Advent Tree of Lights gave us a special sense of joy this Christmas season. The tree covered with several hundred brightly colored lights was lit on Christmas Eve in a short ceremony that included the reading of all the names of loved ones identified by parishioners in weeks prior to Christmas and a blessing of the tree by Father Peter. The Advent Tree offered us all a reflective moment to shine a light on those we love.



BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Today the Church celebrates the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord. This brings to an end the season of Christmas. The Church recalls Our Lord's second manifestation or epiphany which occurred on the occasion of His baptism in the Jordan. Jesus descended into the River to sanctify its waters and to give them the power to beget sons of God. The event takes on the importance of a second creation in which the entire Trinity intervenes.

In the Eastern Church this feast is called Theophany because at the baptism of Christ in the River Jordan God appeared in three persons. The baptism of John was a sort of sacramental preparatory for the Baptism of Christ. It moved men to sentiments of repentance and induced them to confess their sins. Christ did not need the baptism of John. Although He appeared in the "substance of our flesh" and was recognized "outwardly like unto ourselves", He was absolutely sinless and impeccable. He conferred upon the water the power of the true Baptism which would remove all the sins of the world: "Behold the Lamb of God, behold Him Who takes away the sin of the world".

Many of the incidents which accompanied Christ's baptism are symbolical of what happened at our Baptism. At Christ's baptism the Holy Spirit descended upon Him; at our Baptism the Trinity took its abode in our soul. At His baptism Christ was proclaimed the "Beloved Son" of the Father; at our Baptism we become the adopted sons of God. At Christ's baptism the heavens were opened; at our Baptism heaven was opened to us. At His baptism Jesus prayed; after our Baptism we must pray to avoid actual sin.

— Excerpted from Msgr. Rudolph G. Bandas