

Blessed Trinity

CATHOLIC CHURCH

All Are Welcome



FEBRUARY 27, 2022

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**14040 PURITAS AVENUE
CLEVELAND, OHIO 44135**

Phone: 216-671-5890

Fax: 216-938-9843

Email: office@blessedtrinitycleveland.org

Web: <https://blessedtrinitycleveland.org>

<https://instagram.com/btp216>

Facebook: facebook.btp216.org

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS

Monday–Wednesday: 9am—8pm

Thursday & Friday: 9am—5pm
(Closed for lunch 12:30–1:00 pm)

Saturday: 1pm—3:45pm

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 pm

Sunday: 9:00 am and 11:00 am

**Monday: 10:30am at
Church**

Tuesday: 8:30am

Wednesday: 8:30am

Thursday: No Mass

Friday: 8:30am

**RECONCILIATION
BY APPOINTMENT
ONLY AT THIS TIME**

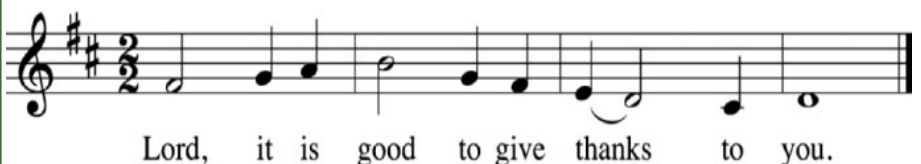
OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Blessed Trinity Parish is an open and welcoming Catholic community, centered in the Eucharist and celebrating God's gift of Diversity. We bring God's love to one another and support one another in responding to the challenge of living the Gospel. We strive to deepen participation and encourage all parishioners to take ownership for the everyday life of their church, especially Spiritual Growth, Community Life, the Building of a Just Society, and Service to All God's People.



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Psalm 92 Lord, it is good to give thanks to you



Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

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We Baptize You

I'm sure you read about the ruckus caused by a priest baptizing saying "we" instead of "I".

It's easy to say, "What difference does it make?" and "How dumb is that?" So, let's take a closer look at what is at issue here.

What is baptism? It is about the person being baptized, not the one performing the ritual. Baptism reminds us we are children of God; loved, special and initiated into the family of the church. It is that sacrament by which a person (or his/her parents) chooses to be a disciple, to follow Jesus Christ, to live His Way. It gives membership into the Christian community. It confers the rights and responsibilities of being a Catholic. In the rite itself the priest says, "*the Christian community* welcomes you with great joy. In its name I claim you for Christ our Savior. (emphasis mine.) After signing the baby with the sign of the cross the priest says, "I now invite your parents and godparents to do the same," *godparents representing the entire Christian community*. In this sense "We baptize you" makes perfect sense and is correct.

But there's more. Theologians have always distinguished between the Jesus of history and the Christ of faith. The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith says that the priest acts in the person of Jesus Christ. "The difference is theologically crucial, the CDF ruled in 2020, because it's not the "we" of the congregation doing the baptizing but the "I" of Jesus Christ, working through the priest.

What I want to know is where have all these doctrinal experts been that last four weeks as we listened to Paul's letter to the Church in Corinth stating that the Christian community is the body of Christ? "You are the body of Christ" Paul writes (1 Cor 12:27). It is not just the priest who can act on behalf of Jesus Christ. It is the community as well.

Precisely for this reason the guidelines for the sacrament of baptism clearly state, "baptism should be performed at Mass." Where is the outrage/punishment for priests that refuse to do baptisms at Mass? They too are clearly in violation of "church teaching."

When you make baptism about the person performing the ritual, then that person must follow the proper ritual. It would be the same as a president being inaugurated by the Chief Justice of the supreme court and then changing some of the wording. Technically, the new president wouldn't be legit. Same here. It is not that it is wrong. It is that it reflects a certain theology, one in which clericalism thrives.

Clearly the CDF's idea of church is that Jesus Christ can only work through the priest and not the entire church. Their view of "church" is a hierarchical, institutional one.

It was Thomas Aquinas who "thingified" the sacraments, who made them objects of salvation instead of moments of loving relationship and living encounters with Christ. Aquinas made the sacraments all about the priest performing them and nothing about the community that celebrates them. This approach is what we hear reflected in the recent statement of the CDF. This is not what Jesus had in mind and as many of you have told me "What would Jesus do?"

Instead, Rome uses its laws to control people not just by deciding who really got baptized and who didn't, but also who's in a valid marriage and who isn't, who can receive communion and who can't, whose sins are forgiven and whose aren't, etc. It's just Vatican control freaks run rampant. What would Jesus do?

What's even more maddening is this is not new. Some priests and deacons have been saying "We baptize you" for years. In 2003, the Congregation for Divine Worship and Sacraments wrote to a bishop who had concerns about the "we baptize" formula being used by one of his priests. They replied, "Please be assured that the form that you describe, and in the manner that you describe it, does not cast into doubt the validity of the Baptism conferred...the use of the first-person plural does not invalidate the sacrament," the Congregation explained.

Seventeen years later, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith said otherwise. Reasonable Catholics have found themselves asking, "How could something be valid in 2003, and invalid by 2020? Is all of this legitimate?" Is it just a semantic game? (And as another aside, how many Vatican Congregations do we really need, ruling on the same issues?)

In summary, if you believe that baptism is about the priest and the priest alone acting in the person of Christ on behalf of the institutional church, then that priest must use the prescribed language by the institution. This approach reflects a certain theology which looks at sacraments as things that are confectioned by the proper matter and form. Congregation for the Defense of the Faith *actually said this* articulating an essential theological reality about the sacrament of baptism — the CDF explained that modifying sacramental formulae can "render... invalid the Sacrament itself, because the nature of the ministerial action requires the transmission with fidelity of that which has been received. The formula, in short, was not forbidden or prohibited, it was merely impossible that using it would confection a valid sacrament." (By the way, who uses the word "confection" when talking about baptism or any sacrament? We're not baking a cake here. Or should I say "I'm not baking a cake here?")

AROUND THE PARISH & OTHER PARISH NEWS

But if you believe that the people of God are the Body of Christ as the Catholic church teaches, then you are more interested in what baptism means, whom it is for and the role the Christian community plays in raising a person in the faith. In that case, the words “I” or “we” make a big difference.

St. Teresa of Avila said, “Christ has no body now but yours”. Would Jesus side with the legalistic, burdensome, Pharisaical approach of the institution or the understanding that we, the people of God, are the body of Christ present for one another? I know I don’t have to answer this question for you. It’s the guys in the Vatican that I wonder about.

PASTORAL TEAM

216-671-5890

Rev. Mr. Dick Beercheck, *Deacon*

dbeercheck@blessedtrinitycleveland.org

Mrs. Katie Corbett BS Ed., *Pastoral Associate*

kcorbett@blessedtrinitycleveland.org.....Ext 20

Ms. Sonia Hu, *Music Minister*

soniaxyuanhu@gmail.com

Fr. Doug Koesel, *Pastor*Ext 21

dkoesel@blessedtrinitycleveland.org

OFFICE STAFF

Ms. Ginger Needham, *Office Manager*....Ext 10

office@blessedtrinitycleveland.org

Mrs. Linda Wilson, *Business Manager*Ext 26

linda@blessedtrinitycleveland.org

Society of St. Vincent DePaul @ Blessed Trinity..Ext 14

Stephen Ministry.....Ext 19

E-MAIL BULLETIN NOTICES TO:

bulletin@blessedtrinitycleveland.org or deliver them to the rectory office. Notices MUST be in by **Monday** of the week before the bulletin is distributed.

E-MAIL PRAYER LINE REQUESTS TO:

gracesamarin@att.net

Please pray for:

Aurelio Abarca, Maureen Ashdown, Thomas Ausnehmer, Doris Eikens Azzarello, Vincent Bontempo, Charlene Boyer, Mary Brennan, Sarah Brower, Adele Burke, Ann Busch, Callie Carley, Gladys Castro, Pat Chapin, Romualdo Cipro, Alex & Ashley Cornet, McKayla Coyne, Cathrine Damm, John Darmstadt, Martin Patrick Dugan, Dukles Family, Barb Dylag, Edward Dzuro, Shirley Fago, Donald Flanagan, Alice Friedel, Vesna Goverdovski, Michael Graham, Donald Haluska, Robert Hardman, Catherine Heidinger, Susanne Heisey, Agnes Hocevar, Helena Hoogstraten, John Itayem, Nicola & Mara Jandric, Roubir Jesri, Jr., Ann Jones, Annette Kalister, Joanne Kauchuk, Betty Kensick, Tony Kernan, Karen Kraus, Linda Kreon, Fr. Dennis Kristancic, Marilyn Lombardo, Karen Long, Mary Lynch, Eileen Mangan, Sr. Rita Marra, SND, Rosemarie Martin, Kathy McAvinue, George McKee, Peggy McMahon, Molly McQuillan & family, Sandra McRae, Andrea Medina, Betty Ann Menzing, Mary Jo Menzing, Tony Miller, Jim & Steve Moravcik, Jennifer Naelitz, Dave Norris, Tom O’Boyle, Noreen Ortiz, Tony Pierson, Lisa Prokopius, Catherine Rajnicek, Carol Roberts, Matthew Rossman, Ron Ruble, Bob Ruddy, Kayana Ryniak, Mary Salamon, Mary Ellen Salo, Marilyn Samonte, Jerry Secunde, Jeffrey Secunde, Carolyn Sesplankis, Brandy Shuttera, Debbie Shavorinsky, Terri Siegwarth, Joanna Somerville, Larry Sowders, Leonard Sprenger, Christopher Stein, Roberta Steinbacher, Pete & Teri Thayer, Kevin Thompson, Sherrie Thompson, Dennis Tyburski, Celine Whelpley, John & Noreen Williams, Jay Yesenko, Eileen Young.

Please pray for all who are serving in the military, especially the men and women connected to our parish:

- * Brook Robinson (Navy), son of David & Michelle and grandson of Dolores Coleman
- * Kyle A. Riley (Air Force), nephew of Robert Hollowell
- * Greg Koch (Air Force), nephew of Nancy Koch
- * James Ashenhurst (Navy), stepson of Stephen Flynn and son of Jenny Simons
- * Yoshi Cacho (US Marine Corps), son of Medel & Marianne Cacho
- * Michael Duniec (Air Force), grandson of Dottie Schultz and nephew of Margie Pavone.

***Thank you for your generous support!
Collection amounts will be in next bulletin.***

Bring in your “old” palms from last year so we can make ashes for Ash Wednesday, March 2nd. Bring them to church this weekend, or bring them to the office by this Tuesday, March 1st. Thank you!

Advertiser of the Week:
Slone & Company, Funeral Directors

FASTING AND ABSTINENCE - Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence from meat for all who have reached their 14th year. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of Fasting and Abstinence. Fasting is for all who have completed their 18th year and have not yet reached their 60th year. Fasting requires having only one full meal for the day. Two smaller meals may be taken, but together they should not equal one full meal.

The next Cleveland **Retrouvaille Weekend** is scheduled for **March 4 - 6, 2022**. The Retrouvaille program is a Lifeline for Troubled Marriages. For more information concerning the program, or to register, call Marce or Liz Gliha at 440.357.6580 or 1.800.470.2230, or www.helpourmarriage.org.





This Week at Blessed Trinity

Sunday, Feb 27

9:00am—10:30am	CGS (Joseph Center)
9:00am—10:45am	PSR Grs. 1-3 (Atrium)
10:00am-10:45am	PSR Grs. 4+ (Rectory Basement)
12:00pm—1:15pm	Children of Light (Atrium)
12:00pm—4:00pm	Stephen Minister Training (Jos. Ctr.)

Monday, Feb 28

9:30am—10:30am	Legion of Mary (Church)
7:00pm—8:30pm	Finance Council (Jos. Center)

Tuesday, March 1

8:00am-8:30am	Novena—Rosary (Church)
9:30am—12:00pm	Bountiful Basement
10:30am—12:00pm	AA Meeting (Rectory Basement)

Wednesday, March 2

4:30pm—6:30pm	Produce GiveAway (N. Parking Lot)
5:00pm—6:45pm	Bountiful Basement
7:00pm—8:00pm	Tai Chi Easy (Joseph Center)

Thursday, March 3

11:00am—12:00pm	AA Meeting (Rectory Basement)
2:00pm—4:00pm	Steph. Min. Grp. Mtg. (Rec. Lib.)
7:00pm—8:30pm	Bible Study (Rec. Liv. Rm.)

Friday, March 4

1:00pm—3:00pm	Steph. Min. Leaders Grp. (ZOOM)
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Update Membership Information. Does our Church database have YOUR family membership record correct? Here is your chance to update YOUR record for our annual Guide Book & Directory (if you haven't already done so). It is time for us to update our database with any changes, additions, or deletions that may have occurred in YOUR family over the past year. **Have you changed your phone number: cell or land line? Have you moved? Are you preparing to move soon? Is your email current? Have any of your children moved out on their own and need to be taken off the list? Do you want your record published?** If you have not already informed the Church Office about changes to your record, please let us know now so that the information in the Guide Book & Directory is correct. The Church Office number is 216-671-5890. *Thank you for your help!*

Caring Corner



Our class of 6 Stephen Ministers complete their training today and will be commissioned at the 11:00 Mass on March 6. The course has involved readings, presentations, discussion, role-playing, and other skill-building activities. Everyone in the class has grown in their caring knowledge and skills. And they will continue to grow as caregivers through ongoing training.

An inter-parish men's group will meet March 4th for a First Friday luncheon at St. Clarence Church, 30106 Lorain Rd, N. Olmsted. Registration begins at 11:15am, followed by the luncheon, then an inspirational talk and concludes with Mass. Cost is \$13. Please call George Perz at (440) 937-6606 by Tuesday, March 1st to make a reservation.



WORSHIP

Saturday, Feb 26

4:00pm Blessed Trinity

Sunday, Feb 27 (Sir 27:4-7; 1 Cor 15:54-58; Lk 6:39-45)

9:00am All Souls

11:00am All Souls

Monday, Feb 28

11:30am All Souls

At West Park Neurological Center

Tuesday, March 1

8:00am Novena—Rosary

8:30am All Souls

Ash Wednesday, March 2

12:05pm Mass with Ashes

7:30pm Mass with Ashes

Friday, March 4

8:30am George & Julia Barnett
(Ron & Kathy Mickler)

9:00am Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 5

4:00pm All Souls

Sunday, March 6 (Dt 26:4-10; Rom 10:8-13; Lk 4:1-13)

9:00am Blessed Trinity

11:00am All Souls



Mobile Pantry/Produce Give Away
March 2, 2022, 4:30--6:30 p.m. Contact Katie by Tuesday if you plan to help. Meet in the back parking lot at 2:30pm to set up. Clients may be in line to receive produce after 4 p.m.

Guide Book & Directory Advertising Opportunity We are in the process of updating our annual Guide Book & Directory for the church. This book is being provided and direct-mailed to each family at no cost to our church, and it is again being subsidized by local businesses that advertise. If you own or manage a business and would like to find out about advertising in our book, please call the Church Office. 92.1% of families would rather patronize a Guide Book & Directory advertiser over a non-advertiser. It “will pay” to advertise in our new Guide Book & Directory.

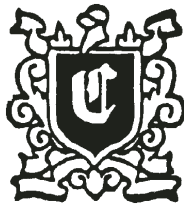
GENTLE WOMAN FELLOWSHIP – an Inter-Parish Group Meets on First Fridays at St. Clarence Parish, 30106 Lorain Rd, N. Olmsted. The next meeting is **March 4th**. Mass starts at 8:30am; Rosary at 9am; Coffee and snacks at 9:30am; followed by a DVD Presentation. You must r.s.v.p. to Mary Hoover at 330-636-1698 or Mary Tschanz at 440-235-6258 if you will be attending the Mass/gathering, or have any questions. Our group’s policy is to cancel gatherings when N. Olmsted City Schools are closed.

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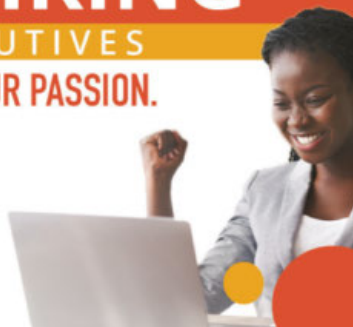
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