

**January 10, 2010**

**Feast of the Baptism of the Lord**

**CELEBRATION OF THE MOST HOLY EUCHARIST**

**1/11 MON**      **Rectory Office Closed**  
**7:00 PM - HOVEN - Mass/Rosary**  
**\*Albert Hericks+**

**1/12 TUES**      **5:15 PM - HOVEN - Mass/Rosary**  
**\*St. Anthony's Foundation**

**1/13 WED**      ***St. Hilary***  
**5:15 PM - HOVEN - Mass/Rosary**  
**\*Jim Simon+**

**1/14 THURS**      **7:20 AM - HOVEN - Mass/Rosary**  
**\*Fritz Glodt+**

**1/15 FRI**      **NO MASS**

**1/16 SAT**      **THE LORD'S DAY MASS**  
**5:00 PM - HOVEN - Mass**  
**\*Roman Brenner+**

**This Sunday's Readings:**

Is 42: 1-4, 6-7; Psalm 29; Acts 10: 34-38; Lk 3: 15-16, 21-22

**CATECHISM PARAGRAPHS FOR THIS SUNDAY:**

+ 50 - God wills to reveal himself. Christ as God's perfect revelation.

+ 65 - God has said everything in his Word, his Son.

+ 150-152 - The response of faith. To believe in God alone, in his Son, in the Holy Spirit.

+ 438 - Jesus' messianic consecration for mission.

+ 535-537 - The mystery of the baptism of Jesus.

+ 727 - Son and Spirit together in mission.

+ 1217-1225 - Prefigurations of baptism in Old Covenant.

**DAILY READINGS FROM SACRED SCRIPTURE:**

Monday: 1 Sm 1: 1-8; Mk 1: 14-20

Tuesday: 1 Sm 1: 9-20; Mk 1: 21-28

Wednesday: 1 Sm 3: 1-10, 19-20; Mk 1: 29-39

Thursday: 1 Sm 4: 1-11; Mk 1: 40-45

Friday: 1 Sm 8: 4-7, 10-22a; Mk 2: 1-12

Saturday: 1 Sm 9: 1-4, 17-19; 10: 1a; Mk 2: 13-17

Sunday: Is 62: 1-5; Psalm 96; 1 Cor 12: 4-11; Jn 2: 1-11

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYERS:**

**FROM HOVEN:** Fr. Lance Oser, Helen Glodt, LaVonne Schumacher, Dyt Rundall, Marvin Schmidt, Kenny Kaup, Kay Klocker, Rick Karst.

**FROM ONAKA:** St. John's Parishioners, Jill Fix, Bertha Tuchscherer.

**OTHER:** Pope Benedict XVI, Bishop Paul Swain, priests, seminarians, Sisters of our Diocese, World Peace, sanctity of all human life, our military personnel, Jeff & Trish Simon, Laura Keller-Huber, Gene Ronke, Sandy Entringer, Dorothy Frost, David Baus, Helen Krumm+, Gary Ablert+, Delores Heintzman+, Linda Anne Salfrank+, Patrick Engel.

**Names will remain on our prayer list for four weeks. Please contact Linda in the office to request continued prayers.**

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS Jan. 16, 2010**

**ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA - Saturday - 5:00 PM**

LECTOR: Rosalie Hageman  
EUCH. MIN: Marvin Schmidt  
GREETERS: Merici Rader, Pat Rausch  
MARY'S HELPERS: Calie Kaiser, JoAnn Arbach  
USHERS: Please Volunteer  
SERVERS: Caleb Hageman, Dana Hageman, Jeff Hageman

Almighty and everlasting God, have mercy upon Thy servant, Benedict, our Supreme Pontiff, and direct him, according to Thy loving kindness, in the ways of eternal salvation; that, by Thy gift, he may always desire that which is pleasing unto Thee and may accomplish it with all his might. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Please pray for Pope Benedict XVI's General & Mission Intentions for January:***

(G) General intention; (M) Mission intention

(G) **Young People and Media.** That young people may learn to use social communication media for their personal growth and in preparation to serve society.

(M) **Christian Unity.** That every believer in Christ may understand that unity among all Christians is necessary for effective proclamation of the gospel.

**FR. LANCE'S NOTE**

**Dear Family in Christ:**

With this beautiful feast of our Lord's Baptism, we come to the end of our Christmas celebrations and enter into the "green" of the First Week of Ordinary Time, which begins on Monday.

In today's celebration, we prayerfully reflect on our Lord Jesus, Who, out of love for us, submitted Himself to this "washing" for sinners - the Son of God, in His humility, allows Himself to be considered a sinner, in order to teach by setting the example for us. We are to be cleansed of sin in the great Sacrament of Baptism, and thus reborn as sons of God and disciples of Christ. Baptism opens the Gates of Heaven to us; the sin of Adam is washed away; we are adopted into the Family of God; we become members of the Mystical Body of Christ - the Church, thus Christ identifies Himself with us in all of our joys and sorrows as He continues to experience His Passion through us, so that at the end of time we can enjoy a share in His Resurrection; we are established as living stones in the Temple of God and are thus made Temples of the Holy Spirit, Whose role it is to sanctify us into the living *Imago Dei* (Image of God).

How could we ever thank our Heavenly Father enough for the Holy Gift of Baptism?! Today, we pray that through the merits of this Feast Day, we may live our baptismal vows/vocation with love in this life and harvest its fruits in the next, when we will sing the praises of God throughout all eternity.

**Suggestion: find out the date of your Baptism (your second birthday) and attend Mass in thanksgiving on its anniversary each year. What more beautiful and effective way is there to render the thanks we owe to our Eternal Father?**

***Ad Jesum per Mariam!***

**ADULT EVENTS/RETREATS**

**Fruit of the Spirit Retreat** offered in Watertown

February 5-6, 2010: A retreat is based on Galatians 5 22:23 and will focus on the 'Fruit of the Spirit' - living proof that the Holy Spirit of God dwells in us. Participants will focus on the fruits of the Spirit and come to understand that we need the Holy Spirit to grow, learn and produce these fruits in our lives. The retreat begins Friday night at 6:30 and concludes Saturday evening at 9:30 pm. Presenters for the weekend will be Mrs. Jane Barz and Mrs. Carol Larson. Pre-registration is required. The fee for the retreat will be \$40.00, which includes your registration fee and 2 meals on Saturday. For more information or to register please contact Mavis

Kemnitz at 605-880-5996 or [mavis.kemnitz@gmail.com](mailto:mavis.kemnitz@gmail.com)

**It is your responsibility to help get your spouse to Heaven!**  
Learn more by attending a **Worldwide Marriage Encounter** weekend. Our next weekend will be held on February 12-14, 2010, at Broom Tree Retreat and Conference Center. Contact Curt & Rochelle Lauret at 605-362-9145 or visit [www.WWME.org](http://www.WWME.org).  
**Worldwide Marriage Encounter: A Weekend of Discovery... A Lifetime of Love!**

**YOUTH RETREAT**

**In 2010 the Diocesan-led Steubenville trip will be going to the Steubenville North conference in St. Paul;** the dates of the actual conference are Friday, July 30th to Sunday, August 1. The \*tentative\* cost will be in the \$250-\$300 range, depending on final busing costs and whether or not a Valleyfair stop is included. The diocese has approximately 100 seats available. More info to come as details are finalized.

**COMING EVENTS - HOVEN**

**Tues., Jan. 12th @ 7:30 PM** - Altar Society Meeting in the Church basement. New officers and circle leaders are asked to attend.

**COMING EVENTS - ONAKA**

**Tues., Jan 19th @ 7:00 PM** - Altar Society meeting.

**No Mass in Onaka on Sunday, Jan. 17th or Sunday, Jan. 24th.**

**No Mass in Hoven on Sunday, Jan. 17th or Sunday, Jan. 24th.**

**There will only be weekend Mass in Hoven on Saturday, Jan. 16th and Saturday, Jan. 23rd at 5:00pm.**

**NOTES**

**Christmas Concert Pictures** are available at the rectory if you wish to order them. Cost is 50 cents each.

**Please** write your name on your 2010 church envelopes the first few times you use them so we may check our numbering system. Also, the money counters request that you don't put any tape, labels, etc., over the seal on the envelope. Thank you!

**2010 Church Envelopes** are located in the back pews. Please pick your envelopes up. If you do not find a box of envelopes with your name on it and wish to have them, please contact the rectory.

**Notice** - There are daily spiritual readings and reflections at the following website [www.apostleshipofprayer.org](http://www.apostleshipofprayer.org).

**Anniversary Mass Celebration** - If you will be celebrating 25, 50, 60, and 65 or more years of marriage, **please call the rectory by Mar. 19th** so your name can be submitted to the diocese. A special Mass in your honor will be celebrated this summer, date is not scheduled at this point. For those who submit their names, an invitation will be sent to you by the diocese to attend this

celebration.

**Movies for Sale** - "The Passion", "Jesus of Nazareth", "Our Father's Plan", "Joan of Arc", "Kenosis Confession", "Three Kinds of Love", "The Meaning of the Mass". If interested, stop at the rectory or call us.

**Natural Family Planning & Fertility Care:** For information and a list of instructors and physicians call the Family & Children Faith Formation Office, 605-988-3776.

Also see: [www.usccb.org/prolife/issues/nfp](http://www.usccb.org/prolife/issues/nfp)

**Please remember** that the Church bulletin is available on St. Anthony's website at [www.stanthonyshoven.com](http://www.stanthonyshoven.com) and also in a printable form on the Hoven website at [www.hovensd.com](http://www.hovensd.com)

**SACRIFICIAL GIVING – ST. ANTHONY’S**

*For December 31, 2009 - January 3, 2010*

Amount collected for New Years.....\$945.00

Amount collected for weekend.....\$3,483.01

**SACRIFICIAL GIVING – ST. JOHN’S**

*January 1-3, 2010*

Amount collected for New Years.....\$96.00

Amount collected for weekend.....\$424.00

*God bless you for your continued support of our parishes!*

**Geothermal Update**

**Project Cost: \$495,000**

**Pledge Goal: \$300,000**

**Pledge Total: \$200,208.62**

**Pledge Income Received: \$176,239.82**

**Outstanding Pledge Balance: \$23,968.80**

**ALTAR SOCIETY NEWS**

**Next Funeral Luncheon:** Circle 9

**Special Activity:** Circle 6

**Tues., Jan. 12th @ 7:30 PM** - Altar Society Meeting in the Church basement. New officers and circle leaders are asked to attend.

**Prayer for a Priest**

Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest, it is Your holy Will to associate with Yourself in Your priestly office other men to whom You entrust the most sublime of all human ministries. Have pity, most kind Jesus, on all the Priests of holy Mother Church. Give them a love for You so great and warm, that it may fill their whole beings with fervor and zeal, and make even the most difficult tasks easy and light for Your love.

Have pity in particular, dear Lord, on all those Priests who are spent and weary, discouraged or desolate, or who labor under some special trial, temptation, or sorrow. Visit them with Your efficacious graces and consolations. Kindle their hearts with the fire that burns in Your own most Sacred Heart. Teach them the methods of Your apostolate, as You taught the favored Twelve whom You chose to be Your Apostles.

Keep them from sin, comfort them in every affliction, give them health and vigor of body and soul, that they may do effectively the work You give to them. Remind us to pray for them often. Help us to cooperate with their efforts. Make it the ambition of every Catholic to aid, by prayers and words and deeds, in the apostolic work of saving souls, the greatest of all human activities, and which drew Your Divine Majesty from heaven to earth.

Grant, sweet Jesus, that all who are Your Priests on earth may come, holy and pure, to the glory of Your Heavenly Kingdom, with

all their faithful flocks, to rejoice in the vision of Your Eternal Loveliness, Who, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one, all-loving God, world without end. Amen.

### **The Baptism of the Lord - Origins and Significance**

The Jewish people were familiar with baptism because it was used to admit Gentiles to Judaism, and the Essenes conducted ritual washings to signify commitment to moral and religious purity. John the Baptist called the people to put their lives in order so that they should be suitably prepared for the coming of the Messiah, and to show their firm purpose by being cleansed in the waters of the Jordan. He explained that his baptism was a preparation for the Baptism in the Holy Spirit which the Messiah would bring. The limitations of the Jewish ceremonial bath to wash away gentile “defilement” would give way to the efficacious, sacramental rebirth in Our Lord’s Baptism, and a sublimation of the Old Law in the arrival of the New Covenant. Through such a Baptism flow all the gifts of grace, and not only in the Sacrament but in the entire economy of salvation.

After John had been preaching and baptizing for about six months, he sensed that he was attracting more veneration than was his due. He told his followers that he baptized only with water but One was coming to baptize in the Holy Spirit, and He was of such worth that he did not deserve to perform the most menial task of untying His sandals. (cf. *Mk 1:7-11; Lk 3:15-16*).

### **From the Liturgy**

“Almighty, eternal God, when the spirit descended upon Jesus at His baptism in the Jordan, you revealed Him as your own beloved Son. Keep us, your children born of water and the Spirit, faithful to our calling.” (*Opening Prayer*).

“Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. John tried to dissuade Him. ‘It is I who need baptism from you’, he said ‘and yet you come to me!’ But Jesus replied, ‘Leave it like this for the time being; it is fitting that we should, in this way, do all that righteousness demands.’ At this, John gave in to Him. As soon as Jesus was baptized He came up from the water, and suddenly the heavens opened and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on Him. And a voice spoke from heaven. ‘This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on Him.’” (*Gospel, Mt 3:13-17*).

### **Reflection**

Our Lord was thirty years old when He left Nazareth to begin His public life and travel south to the district which bordered the Jordan to meet John and present Himself for baptism. The Gospel has told us of John’s reticence and Jesus’ reassurance that all should be accomplished in the cause of righteousness. Jeremiah had promised that a Righteous Branch would issue from the House of David, and his prophecy is fulfilled in Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, whose dawning light dispels the darkness of sin and the shadows of death. He brings Justice, not as an enforcer, but as a Servant and Shepherd-King who transforms hearts in the way that a branch encourages new life.

John did not baptize without giving prior instruction but, in Jesus’ case, he recognized the Teacher without compare. Given the family love manifested by Mary’s visit to Elizabeth (cf. *Lk 1:39-46*), the two men must have known each other, and Matthew’s Gospel indicates that there had been earlier conversations which had helped John form an opinion... He certainly understood Jesus’ wish to identify Himself with the repentant sinners who would become His disciples, and in whose lives He wished to be totally involved.

Our Lord’s baptism of water is followed by Baptism of the Holy Spirit, the Dove who brooded on the face of the waters in the first creation. Now he rests on Jesus while the Father, the voice of creation in the beginning, claims His beloved Son whose mission He invests with Messianic dignity. Jesus gives John’s mission ultimate approval by submitting to his baptism and now he initiates His own as God’s suffering Servant. He is sinless and has no need of cleansing, but He associates Himself with the members of His Mystical Body to show that the baptism of death brings a new birth of reconciliation with the Father. Afterwards, the Spirit leads Him to the desert where he fasts for forty days and nights. He has no need of penance, but He sets an example, and gives Satan notice that the battle has been joined. (cf. *Mt. 3:13-17; Mk 1:9-11*). When the obedient Abraham was willing to sacrifice Isaac, the cherished, only son of his old age, the boy innocently asked where was the lamb for the oblation. His father told him that God would provide. When God was about to free His people from Egyptian slavery, He ordered that a spotless, male lamb should be offered. In consuming it, the Hebrews accepted His merciful deliverance, and the blood of the lamb on their doorposts saved them from the avenging angel. When Isaiah foretold the coming of God’s chosen, Suffering Servant, he saw Him as one who would “be led out like a lamb for the slaughter.”

As soon as John the Baptist heard the voice of the Father presenting His beloved Son, He knew that Jesus was the expected Messiah, and that his mission as prophetic herald was almost at an end. Surrounded by his own disciples, he pointed to Jesus and announced Him as “the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.” In this expression of sacred significance, all the Old Testament images completely come together. Jesus is the sacrificial Paschal Lamb without blemish who is offered to expiate sin and, in the Eucharist, gives His flesh and blood for our spiritual food and drink. As He did for Abraham and Isaac, God provides the sacrifice and, in his identification, John foretells Our Lord’s death and the end of the Judaic sacrificial ritual.

Everything promised by God through His prophets has come to pass, and the last prophet actually sees the Lamb who redeems with His blood. In obedience to His Father’s will the innocent Lamb has accepted John’s baptism and, with it, the baptism of death which saves the world from the result of sin. He will be sacrificed at the very hour when, according to Mosaic law, the lambs for the Passover sacrifice should be killed in the Temple. Like these sacrificial lambs, not one of His bones will be broken. Our Lord, however, is the triumphant Lamb who, like His ancestor David, defeats all beasts and reptiles and is the heavenly Victor to whom is entrusted the future of the earth. (cf. *Jn 1:1-34; Is 53:1-7; Rv 4*).

Between 4 and 5 weeks after conception, the child's brain develops at an incredible rate, and the stomach, esophagus, pancreas, intestines, kidneys, and even reproductive organs are all developing. Between 5 and 6 weeks the embryo begins to move spontaneously and reflexively--e.g., in response to touch the embryo will withdraw. By 6 weeks plus 2 days an embryo's brain waves have been recorded by EEG. Flyer, *Respect Life Program* (2009-2010)  
Please use this weekly column to open a healthy discussion with your family. (Refer children who are away from home to it at [www.stanthonyshoven.com](http://www.stanthonyshoven.com))

**Seven Miracles that Saved America *Why they Matter, Why We Should Have Hope***

By Chris Stewart and Ted Stewart, Shadow Mountain, \$27.95, 311 pp. Review by David Forsmark

*"In the beginning of the contest with G. Britain, when we were sensible of danger, we had daily prayer in this room for the Divine protection — Our prayers, Sir, were heard, and they were graciously answered. ... I have lived, Sir, a long time; and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth, that God governs the affairs of men!"*

—**Benjamin Franklin, 1787**

*"There is no overwhelming proof, but deep inside we know. And to those who believe, it also seems clear that these events took place with the direction and purpose. Despite our weaknesses, which are many, and our failings, which have existed since our inception, God has been willing to intervene so that this nation might survive."*

— **Chris and Ted Stewart, 2009**

The Founding Fathers regularly wrote that they considered themselves to be doing God's work in establishing the United States. This habit was not just confined to the conspicuously devout, such as Patrick Henry and Samuel Adams but also to such secular saints as Jefferson and Franklin, the so-called Deists. More to the point, they fervently believed — and often asserted — that God in his Providence actively intervened in events to make their efforts successful.

Today, we often dismiss such rhetoric as "just the way people talked back then" and explain how politicians of a certain era used it to rally an overwhelmingly religious populace behind them.

In their terrific new book, *Seven Miracles that Saved America: Why they Matter, Why We Should Have Hope*, former Air Force officer Chris Stewart and his brother, U.S. District Court Judge Ted Stewart, argue forcefully that the Founders not only *meant* what they said, but they were *right*.

The Stewarts look at seven instances in which overwhelming odds had to be beaten for the United States to exist in its current form. While some might argue over their meaning or the significance of some of their "miracles," the unlikely circumstances that saved the day in several cases will have even a hardcore secularist taking a second look:

- The extraordinary unlikelihood that America was colonized due to the efforts of an ambitious navigator with humble beginnings — rather than perhaps the greatest fleet ever assembled for just such a purpose— which "discovered" North America about 70 years before Columbus.
- The million-to-one odds that saved the English colonization of America as a fleet crossing the Atlantic arrives in Jamestown minutes before it was to be abandoned.
- The fortuitous fog that saved Washington's army that was as well-timed — and accurate — as any artillery smokescreen.

The discovery of the Japanese fleet heading toward Midway in the vastness of the Pacific during World War II by an American reconnaissance airplane extending its search well beyond its operational range.

While this book makes a theological and political point, the emphasis in *Seven Miracles that Saved America* is on storytelling. The Stewarts employ an unusual device — novelizing part of each chapter, much like the Shaaras or Alan Eckert — while sticking to known facts and actual quotes. This makes for an extremely engaging, if rather quirky, narrative.

The authors open with the fascinating — and not well known account — of how America should have been colonized by the Chinese, rather than by Western Europeans. Even if the Chinese did not discover the American continents, though it seems likely they *should* have, with their massive fleet and more advanced technology.

However, the glorious fleet that was sent on a mission of discovery, returned to a China that had changed and become inward-focused and xenophobic. The records of the exploration were burned, and the fabled fleet was left to rot, along with China's expansionist ambitions. (For more on this, check out last year's interesting, if flawed, book, *1421*<sup>[1]</sup>.)

The next chapter, *The Miracle at Jamestown*, continues the discussion of the religious and cultural nature of those who colonized America and why it was important. While the Stewarts propose the obvious, that those who followed Columbus were culturally very different than the navy of Zheng He, the authors assert it was also very important that a Protestant presence be established in America. They contend the competition among Christian sects led to the religious diversity and tolerance that formed the basis of the United States.

Their story of how close Jamestown came to failure and abandonment is gripping reading. How it was saved is one of the more convincing cases for the word "miracle" in the book—along with the "mysterious fog" that saved Washington's army in New York in the Revolutionary War, allowing him to pull off a Dunkirk-like evacuation and live to fight another day.

Many might put the circumstances of extraordinary events down to the American character that results from free men, for the first time in history, being allowed to operate on principles of liberty. It's not unusual, for instance, to hear the term "the miracle of the Constitution." It's just unusual — today, at least — for it to be meant as literally as the Stewarts' assert.

This is particularly true in the chapters in which the authors see the hand of God in the timing of Abraham Lincoln and Ronald Reagan assuming the presidency in times of crisis.

Easily the most controversial chapter — and the most likely to raise the ire of some country club Republicans, much less Democrats — is the chapter saying that Ronald Reagan not only won the Cold War but also saved America.

The Stewarts, however, point out that George H.W. Bush, while a good man, *did* call the Reagan economic agenda "voodoo economics" during the Republican primaries. Even if Bush 41 truly was aboard, he would not have had the political oomph to push it through a Democrat-controlled Congress.

More importantly, Bush was from the "realist" foreign policy tradition, which would have looked for "stability" and détente over real change. The most persuasive point the authors make here is to remind us that, after all of Reagan's successes in putting the USSR on the ropes, Bush ordered a "reassessment" of U.S. relations with the Soviets upon taking office.

While the first Bush administration was "reassessing," communism collapsed, and 41 was too surprised to even celebrate the Berlin Wall coming down, as Reagan had predicted.

Of course, such pivotal battles as Gettysburg and Midway had hundreds of little moments that one could argue "changed the course of history." In the case of Midway, for example, the authors are persuasive in their argument that nearly every one of those moments miraculously went the Americans' way.

In the case of Gettysburg, for instance, they could easily have titled the chapter, "The Miracle of Friendly Fire." Had Stonewall Jackson, the South's best tactician and Lee's greatest commander been with him at Gettysburg ... who knows? Jackson was easily the most important figure in American military history to be mistakenly shot by his own troops.

Those of a determinedly secular mindset may be apt to dismiss this book too quickly. Even if you reject the premise out of hand and prefer to think of it as "*Seven Statistically Wildly Improbable Coincidences that Saved America*," this book is worth your time.

In each case, the Stewarts do a masterful job of setting the stage of not only why the odds were stacked against the outcome we take for granted but also in reminding us of what was at stake. Each chapter, it could be argued, is as good a one-chapter treatment of a momentous time as you are likely to find anywhere—particularly setting the stage for the Civil War, and demolishing the notion that slavery was a side issue.

Which brings us to the authors' ultimate point. As bad as things seem now, America has been much closer to the precipice in its history. The Stewarts write that if God did not let the nation fail, or fall to its enemies then, there is no reason to suppose he is done with America yet.

The end may not be near after all.