

January 11, 2019



ANNUNCIATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY PARISH

FIAT NEWSLETTER

Christmas & Carnival

Dear Friend of Annunciation Parish & School,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! This past Sunday, January 6th, we celebrated the fourth major feast of the Christmas Season, the Epiphany of the Lord. This coming Sunday, January 13th, we conclude the Christmas Season as we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Our parish church looks beautiful decorated for Christmas. Stop in church now through Sunday for a visit, and spend some time at the manger scene with your children.



On Monday, January 14th, we begin a block of time called Ordinary, or Ordinal, Time. There are two blocks of Ordinal Time in our Church Year. The first begins the day after the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord and concludes on Shrove Tuesday, or Mardi Gras (the day before Ash Wednesday), therefore spanning the time between the Christmas Season and the Season of Lent. There is a long tradition of storytelling and fun-making during this winter span of Ordinal Time. This time is often called [Carnival](#). The celebration of Carnival traditionally begins on the Twelfth Day of Christmas, the Solemnity of the Epiphany. We conclude Winter Ordinal Time on March 5th this year, the day before Ash Wednesday. We will celebrate here at Annunciation on March 5th with our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Mardi Gras Celebration. Plan to attend and celebrate with us!

Sincerely,

Dr. Sandi Chakeres,
Director of Faith Formation

Annunciation PTO Celebrates Christmas!

Our Annunciation Catholic School PTO celebrated the Christmas Season with an adult social on December 28!



FIAT: Faith In Action Today
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Special points of interest:

- We are currently celebrating National Migration Week 2019 (January 6-12, 2019). This year's theme is "Building Communities of Welcome." You can find out more [here](#).
- The Catholic Education Foundation for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati is accepting applications for need-based tuition grants.
- Follow us on [Facebook](#) to get all our latest news and see all our latest photos!

**Icon at top left of page: Archangel Gabriel (Annunciation), 16th Century, Russian Heritage, Location: Andrei Rublev Museum in Moscow. Used with permission of St. Isaac of Syria Skete (Orthodox Byzantine Icons, Inc.); 25266 Pilgrims Way, Boscobel, WI 53805 www.skete.com

The Baptism of the Lord

The last major feast of the Christmas Season, in fact - the last day of the Christmas Season - is the [Feast of the Baptism of the Lord](#). This feast is usually celebrated on the Sunday after Epiphany Sunday, which this year is January 13th. The baptism of Jesus is a significant event. Mark's Gospel begins with the preaching of John the Baptist and the Baptism of Jesus. In all three synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke), at the baptism of Jesus the spirit of God *descends like a dove* upon Jesus and a voice from heaven pronounces Jesus to be *my beloved Son*. In these three Gospels, it is immediately following Jesus' baptism that he is tempted by Satan, and it is immediately after this temptation that Jesus begins his public ministry. In John's Gospel, as soon as John the Baptist gives testimony to Jesus, witnessing to the descent of the Spirit in the form of a dove upon Jesus, Jesus calls his first disciples. And this is immediately followed by Jesus' first miracle - changing water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana.

Yes, baptism is a significant event! Not just for Jesus, but for each one of us. It is in baptism that we die and rise with Christ. It is in baptism that we enter the Church, the Body of Christ. It is in baptism that we become children of God. It is in baptism that we are anointed priest, prophet and king.

So as we approach the conclusion of this Christmas Season, let us celebrate not only Jesus' baptism, but our own. Let us continue to remember and celebrate our baptism each and every day as we follow Jesus this new year. And let us give special thanks for all those baptized here at Annunciation Parish during this past year.

After Sunday Mass, continue celebrating the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord in your own home - your "domestic church." Make dove shaped or shell shaped cookies, and write each family member's baptismal name and date of baptism on individual cookies. Share these at your table as you talk about family baptismal celebrations and reflect on the [Readings for the Feast!](#)



Upcoming Events

- ◆ Thursday, January 17, 9:30 a.m.: Morning Prayer
- ◆ January 18-25: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- ◆ Monday, January 21: Parish & School Office closed for MLK holiday
- ◆ Thursday, January 24, 9:30 a.m. : Morning Prayer
- ◆ Sunday, January 27: Begin Catholic Schools Week; Annunciation Catholic School Open House Noon-2:30 p.m.
- ◆ Tuesday, January 29, 6:00-9:00 p.m.: Plenary Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
- ◆ Thursday, January 31, 9:30 a.m.: Morning Prayer
- ◆ Saturday, February 2, 5:00 p.m. Mass; Celebration of the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas); Blessing and Procession with Candles
- ◆ Sunday, February 3: Blessing of Throats at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Masses

***It's Happening at
Annunciation!***

School Concert

The evening before Christmas Break, our Annunciation Catholic School students, grades 1-8, presented a concert of Advent and Christmas hymns - "The Birth of Our Savior."

