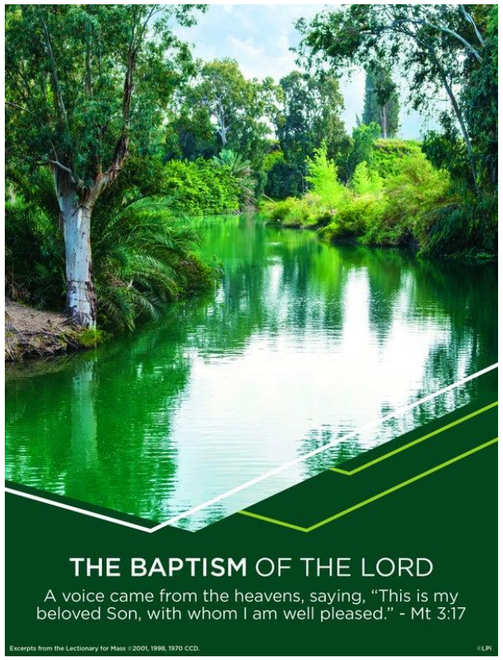
Baptism of the Lord
January 12, 2025



Weekend	Bl. Sac.	St. Isaac
Jan. 5th	$1,430	$1,104
Christmas	$1,749	$6484

Beginning February: VITA - Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (Free Tax Return Preparation for Qualifying Taxpayers) in Warren, Washington, & Northern Saratoga counties in February and March. This is free tax assistance for families and individuals whose household income is $60,00 or less per year. This service will be available in Chestertown & Warrensburg. More information to follow.

When School is delayed or cancelled, weekday morning Mass, the Rosary & Holy Hour are also CANCELLED!

St. Isaac Jogues

Intentions & Mass Cards: Please call Kathy DeBartolo at 518-494-7873
1/11 Jason Smith *Req. Karen Smith*
1/18 Frances Pema *Req. Kathy DeBartolo*
1/18 Jerry Merkel *Req. Janet Early*
Changing Church from Christmas Wednesday, January 15th at 12:00 pm. Many hands make light work.
Daily Mass this Wednesday, January 8th.
Diocesan Assessment: We have met our assessment. Thank you!
2nd Collection: January 18th & 19th is for Evangelist.

Blessed Sacrament

Intentions & Mass Cards: Please call Rita Whitney at 518-338-6858.
1/12 Rita Fowler *Req. Dawn Faller*
1/19 Tom Mihalics *Req. Maureen Mihalics*
Prayer Intentions: call Pat Nugent 518-668-2765
Rosary Tuesday's at 9:30 am.
Daily Mass: Thursday, January 16th at 9:30 am followed by Adoration.
2nd Collection: January 19th is for Insurance.
Food Pantry: There is a bin at the entrance of the church. The need at the pantries has grown exponentially this year. Please consider giving weekly to those in need. This will be brought to the North Country Ministry. They are especially looking for items that have pull tabs (no can opener to use), shelf stable food, also, personal hygiene products, cleaning products & kid-friendly foods.

Holiday Season magic made through you in the Giving Tree Program at NCM

Thanks to your kindness and generosity, this holiday season was truly magical for the 273 children whose Christmas wish lists were fulfilled through our Giving Tree Program. These children, part of 117 families in our local communities, woke up to a Christmas morning they will treasure forever, thanks to you! This year was another record-breaking year for the program, and we are deeply grateful for your incredible support.

Because of you, children across the region received not only essential items like warm clothing but also many of the special gifts they dreamed of finding under the tree. Your thoughtful contributions brought not just presents but also hope, joy, and love into their homes.

Your generosity has been a profound blessing not only for the children but also for their parents. Every parent wants to create a magical Christmas for their children, and your support helped make this possible when resources fell short. You have given these families more than gifts—you have given them the gift of dignity and peace during this holiday season.

In the spirit of Christmas and Santa Claus himself, you have stepped into these families' lives as anonymous heroes, spreading compassion and joy. Your selfless acts have left a warmth that will be felt for years.

Thank you for your extraordinary generosity and for participating in our Giving Tree Program. You are the angels among us, and your kindness has left a lasting imprint on the hearts of so many.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Kayla Carlozzi
Executive Director

In addition: North Country Ministry is currently seeking a Part-Time Administrative Assistant. The primary duty of this position is to process donations through our donor database, applicants must have extensive attention to detail and computer database knowledge. This position is for 16-20 hours a week, starting salary at $22. If you or someone you know is interested please email a resume and cover letter to Kayla Carlozzi at kayla@ncmfriends.com

Recognizing God in our Ordinary Moments

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* ©LPi