

BOLLETTINO DI SAN FRANCESCO



RECTORY: 22870 S. Nunneley, Clinton Twp., MI 48035

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WEBSITE: sanfrancescochurch.org

RECTORY HOURS: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Monday, Wednesday & Friday

Fr. Dino Vanin, PIME and Fr. Marco Brioschi, PIME

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE: 8 a.m., 10 a.m. (Italian) and 12 p.m.

HOLYDAY MASS SCHEDULE: 8 a.m. and 7 p.m.

DAILY MASS: 8 a.m. **SATURDAY MASS:** 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.

CONFESIONS: Friday Nights 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

BAPTISMS: Sunday at 1 p.m. or by appointment.

MARRIAGES: Check with Father six months before the wedding date for the office work and necessary instructions.

FEBRUARY 2026

Unsettled by Doctrinal Development? Part 25

Dear Parishioners and Friends of San Francesco Church,

The impression that we gather from reading in the Acts of the Apostles about Baptism is that it was administered right after one's expressed conversion. Hence, we must wonder if there was any instruction given before or after Baptism was administered. At any rate, in the first three centuries of the Church, we notice a gradual increase in the length of formal preparation/instruction before Baptism.

As we saw when reflecting on the history of the sacraments of the Eucharist and Penance (Reconciliation), so also with Baptism the Church proceeded by small steps, always guided by the Holy Spirit, of course, and with openness to enlightened Church ministers who looked at this sacrament from different angles. Let me give you an example of these small steps the Church took, balancing theology with symbolism and historical circumstances.

A firm point was that Baptism was indispensable for salvation. *"Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned."* **Mark 16:16.** It had to be reconciled with the concept of the new life won for us by the death and resurrection of Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. So, what if one died before receiving Baptism? To preserve powerful symbolism, the Church had administered Baptism either right before Easter or around the feast of Pentecost. However, theologically, she had to tackle the reality of candidates dying before those set dates, including those who were martyred for their faith in time of persecution.

Gradually, by small steps, with the help of luminaries like Hippolytus of Rome (170-235), the Church developed the three types of Baptism: by water, by blood, and by desire. If one is martyred for the faith before receiving the Baptism of water, or one dies while preparing for Baptism and has expressed explicitly his/her desire for it, he/she is saved. However, some theologians took a stricter view of this matter.

By the year 200, the length of the preparation period had become considerable. A few weeks before the reception of Baptism, (generally Easter or Pentecost), the catechumens were presented to the local bishop. Their sponsors vouchsafed for their worthiness, and their preparation intensified.

After they were officially accepted as candidates, they were prayed over, blessed, exorcized of evil spirits every Sunday, anointed with sacred oil, signed with the cross on different parts of the body, and the bishop would blow on them to receive the Holy Spirit. Their instruction consisted of doctrinal topics, explanations of Holy Scripture passages, and various teachings. The loftiness of the mysteries into which there were about to enter must have made them realize that they were passing from simply being entitled to being called "Christians," to heading for the day in which they become "faithful," full-fledged members of the Faith community.

As the appointed date approached, they were instructed daily; their conduct thoroughly scrutinized; and they received a special exorcism during which they openly renounced any attachment to their sinful past. They had to memorize the Lord's prayer and a form of the Creed. In some instances, since they were called to become salt of the earth (cf. Mt 5:13) they were given a little salt to eat. Finally, for the two days before the reception of Baptism, they fasted to signify their dependence on God for their spiritual and physical sustenance. In the presence of the bishop and the community of Faith, which they were about to join, they must have felt drawn into the paschal mystery of the passion, death, and resurrection of Christ as, in most churches, Baptism was administered during what we now know as the Easter Vigil.

The darkness of the night was scattered by the lone light of the Paschal Candle, a symbol of Christ, and by whatever little light was needed for the readers of selected passages—all of these were rich in symbolism: the creation of the world, Noah's family being saved from the flood, Ezekiel's vision of the dry bones coming back to life, and so on. The readings went on for hours.

At dawn, the bishop, his assistants, and the candidates moved to the baptismal pool. The candidates were anointed and exorcized one final time. They made an

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additional renunciation of Satan and his enticements. Unclothed, the male candidates went into the baptismal pool with a deacon and were asked about their faith in God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Three times water was poured over their heads: once for each affirmative answer about their faith in the Holy Trinity. Separately, unclothed female candidates went down into the pool, assisted by deaconesses, and underwent the same rite as their male counterparts. Upon coming out of the pool, the baptized were anointed with sacred oil and given a white garment to wear. The bishop called on the Holy Spirit to descend upon them individually before they could join the congregation for the celebration of the Eucharist, and they received the Lord in Holy Communion for the first time.

The essential parts of the baptismal rite of the early third century are visible in our Easter Vigil celebration whenever it includes candidates being baptized and joining our Faith community. Hopefully, the Lord will bless our Faith community of San Francesco by granting us some new members, so that we, too, can taste and enjoy the symbolism and the solemnity of those early centuries of the Church.

Fr. Dino Vanin, PIME, at San Francesco Church

NB: Most of the information featured in "Unsettled by Doctrinal Development?" is taken from the book "Doors to the Sacred" by Joseph Martos, Triumph Books, 1981

MASS INTENTIONS:

February 1-Sunday

8am Bob Ruggioli by wife Sharon
8am Rick & Arlene Johnson by Sharon Ruggioli
8am Louis & Josephine Ruggioli by Sharon Ruggioli
8am Nancy & Carl Kaspari by family
8am Thomas Daniel by family
8am Kevin DeLaere by DeLaere family
8am Anna & Edward Colorida by Mary Ann Morgan
10am Ottavio Zicarelli by wife Ida & family
12pm Barbara Milana by Vita Lombardo
12pm Barbara Pinelli by Reno Pinelli & family
12pm Janice Renee Pinelli by Sam & Alice Pinelli

February 2-Monday

John & Piera Franklin by daughter Mary Mutti
Evandro & Sally DiMichele by DiMichele family
The Protection of the Unborn by DiMichele family
The Conversion of Sinners by DiMichele family

February 3-Tuesday

Nancy Jakubowski by Paolo & Angie Milana

February 5-Thursday

Maria Zito by family
Evandro & Sally DiMichele by DiMichele family
Special Intentions of the DiMichele family by family

February 6-Friday

Spiritual well-being of Bianca Mutti by mom Mary
Special Intentions of the DiMichele family by family
For All The Faithful Departed by DiMichele family

February 7-Saturday

For All The Faithful Departed by Vitale family
Special Intentions for Mary Mother of God Prayer Group
Spiritual well-being of Bianca Mutti by mom Mary
6pm Jocille Crowe by Patrick & Dorothy Degens
6pm Robert Maricco 1-year anniv. by wife & daughter

February 8-Sunday

8am Nancy & Carl Kaspari by family
8am John & Piera Franklin by daughter Mary Mutti
8am Jay Ludington, Jr. by Ludington-Dawson family
10am Antonino Badalamenti by wife & family
10am Salvatore Manzella by wife Rosa
12pm Vincent & Pierina Frabotta by family
12pm Mary Kolis by family
12pm Duncan & Marie Sousa by family
12pm Thomas & Benedetta Sabatini by Maria & Joe
12pm Rafaelle & Margherita Sabatini by Maria & Joe
12pm Giuseppe & Luisa Sabatini by Maria & Joe
12pm Marianna Bologna by family

February 11-Wednesday

Aldo Terenzi by wife Tina
Robert Ezzo by family
Evandro & Sally DiMichele by DiMichele family
Special Intentions of the DiMichele family by family
The Protection of the Unborn by DiMichele family
The Salvation of the Dying by DiMichele family

February 14-Saturday

Peter Cervi by family
Vocations to Priesthood & Religious Life
6pm Frank Audia by wife Joan
6pm Dino D'Andrea by Luciano & Luciana Pietrantoni

February 15-Sunday

8am Antonio & Angelina Slongo by family
8am Rita & Marcel Normandeau by Ron/Michelle Marino
8am Giuliana Pavan by John Mantovani
8am John & Piera Franklin by daughter Mary Mutti
8am Joseph & Barbra Vermander by family
10am Rocco Ruggirello by family
10am Giuseppe Palombo by Susan Palombo
10am Antonino & Filippa Passalacqua by son Joe
10am Franca Esposito by husband & family
10am Giuseppe Casali by Sharon Ruggioli
10am Germano & Loris Costa by Fernanda Costa
10am Bruno & Filomena Fabbri by Fernanda Costa
12pm Elena DeLeonardis by family
12pm Diva Bonaldi by family
12pm Salvatore DiLorenzo by wife Maria
12pm Clyde Butros-(birthday) by wife Nancy

February 22-Sunday

8am Juerg Mutti by Mary Mutti
10am Antonio & Rosa Tundo by family
10am Vincenzo Esposito by wife Elena
10am Armando Gennari by wife Savina

February 25-Wednesday

John Paluzzi-8 year anniversary by family

February 26-Thursday

Michael Traskal by family

February 27-Friday

Tom Latimer by wife Shirley
Veronica Pisa by daughter Michele Pisa-Jones

February 28-Saturday

6pm Gaetano & Antonietta Biundo by family

Lectors for February:

Feb 01-J. Nowc, L. Pietrantoni, A. Perugi

Feb 08-P. Graebert, M. Sugameli, N. Butros

Feb 15-J. Nowc, V. Amaro, L. Sawyer

Feb 22-P. Graebert, T. Silverio, A. Perugi

Saturday, 6pm-Feb. 07-J. Foglyano, **Feb 14**-D. Brosky

Feb 21-J. Foglyano, **Feb 28**-D. Brosky

MANY THANKS To our parishioners & friends who generously support our parish throughout the year, we couldn't keep the church running without you! Our gratitude extends to those who gave to the **Giving Tree**, your kindness touched and helped those in need. God's Blessings to all for the generous and heartfelt donations.

Dates to Remember:

FEBRUARY 5th-THURSDAY @ 7pm

San Francesco Church will begin offering a **WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY** based on the exegetical method of the Fathers of the Church.

The objective of the study is to familiarize us with the language of the Bible through the help of those Theologians and Saints who lived closer to the time of Jesus. They can assist us in trying to grasp the meaning of many Biblical passages which sound so difficult to our modern way of thinking. If you are interested in participating in these Bible Study classes, please join us and invite a friend to attend with you as well. The Bible Study is free of charge, all you need is your personal Bible, a notebook and pen!

We look forward to seeing you.

Fr. Marco Brioschi, PIME



HOLY LAND ITEMS SALE – February 14th & 15th

After All Holy Masses

Amy Abufara will once again be here to sell beautiful olive wood carvings and other religious artifacts to support Christians in the Holy Land.

ASH WEDNESDAY is FEBRUARY 18th

There will be two Masses:

8:00am & 7:00pm with distribution of ashes



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Friday @ 7:00pm during Lent starting February 20th

CONFESIONS

Will be heard from 6:00pm to 6:50pm on Fridays during Lent



FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH CELEBRATION

On Saturday, March 21st after 6:00pm Holy

Mass. In his honor we will offer many of

the traditions associated with this beloved

Feast: St. Joseph soup will be served in the Father Rossi Hall. Distribution of oranges and bread, Holy Prayer Cards in Italian and English and a raffle for the beautiful St. Joseph statue will be held! Tickets will be sold after all Masses starting in February. The winner will be announced on this night. Anyone wishing to donate or help with the event should contact Lisa Nowc @ (586) 260-4912.

REMINDERS:

Mary Mother of God Prayer Group meets every Monday @ 1pm. Join us for prayer followed by conversation & refreshments in the social hall.

Membership Cards: Please let us know if you have any change of address or changed your phone number. We need to keep current information on file.

Visit our website: sanfrancescochurch.org for access to monthly bulletins, updated information & weekly homilies.

Recycle Bins- Please continue to bring all your junk mail & any recyclable papers you have and place them in the bins located in our parking lot. Thank you for helping the environment and our church.

San Francesco Dinner Dance

San Francesco Parish will host our annual Dinner Dance **Sunday, March 22nd, 2026** at Penna's of Sterling. This event features a sit-down dinner, open bar and entertainment by Pino Marelli. Doors open @ 3pm, dinner served @ 4pm. Tickets are \$70.00 per person (no tickets sold at the door.) This event is a fundraiser, and all proceeds go directly to the maintenance and preservation of the church. This years honorees are **Vincent Amaro & Lelio D'Aristotle**.

San Francesco is a personal parish established to serve the Italian community and all people who choose to use its services in lieu of their territorial parish. San Francesco parish has no geographic boundaries, all are welcome to come together and worship, grow in faith and love. Please come celebrate and help support the Parish with an evening of dining and dancing.

For tickets or further information, contact Ann Burrell (586) 242-1981 or Sharon Ruggioli (313) 882-5132.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Scossi dallo Sviluppo Dottrinale? Parte 25^a

Carissimi parrocchiani e amici di San Francesco Church,

In questo numero di febbraio vorrei descrivervi l'amministrazione del battesimo come offerto dalla Chiesa agli inizi del terzo secolo.

In generale, il battesimo veniva solennemente celebrato a Pasqua o alla Pentecoste. La preparazione durava molto tempo. Alcune settimane prima della data fissata, i catecumeni erano presentati al vescovo e i loro padrini/madrine gli garantivano che fossero degni di ricevere il battesimo.

Una volta ammessi ufficialmente, i candidati erano fatti oggetto di preghiere, sacre unzioni, benedizioni, e il segno della croce era fatto su varie parti del loro corpo, come gli occhi, la bocca, le mani, i piedi, eccetera. Le lezioni scelte in preparazione al battesimo riguardavano aspetti dottrinali, passi della Sacra Scrittura, e altri insegnamenti importanti. Gradualmente, si rendevano conto che stavano per passare dall'essere considerati semplicemente "cristiani" a diventare veri membri della comunità cristiana.

Alcune settimane prima della data stabilita, i candidati erano istruiti ogni giorno, nuovamente esorcizzati, e

invitati a imparare a memoria il Padre Nostro e il Credo.

Due giorni prima della Pasqua, digiunavano come segno di totale dipendenza dal Signore. La vigilia di Pasqua, la sola luce accesa era quella del cero pasquale, simbolo di Cristo e la fioca luce necessaria per i lettori che leggevano brani della Sacra Scrittura riguardanti i vari accenni in essa contenuti sul Santo Battesimo. Alle prime luci dell'alba i candidati maschili, assistiti da diaconi, completamente nudi, entravano nel fonte battesimale. Dopo ognuna delle tre parti della professione di fede nel Padre, Figlio e Spirito Santo, acqua del fonte battesimale era versata sul loro capo e, uscendo fuori dall'acqua, venivano unti col sacro olio e rivestiti di una veste candida.

La stessa cerimonia era fatta con le donne, assistite da diaconesse. Alla fine, il vescovo alitava lo Spirito Santo sui neobattezzati e venivano ammessi al gruppo dei fedeli per la prima S. Messa come partecipanti a pieno diritto, e facevano la loro prima S. Comunione...

Questa breve rassegna ci fa vedere come, oggigiorno, il rito battesimale durante la Veglia pasquale conservi gli aspetti principali tramandati tanti secoli fa.

P. Dino Vanin, PIME