



## ***Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast!*** ***January 12, 2020***

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### ***Upcoming local community events . . .***

- Jan 25, 2020: Mike Norris Memorial Ice Fishing Derby (Raquette Lake NY), 7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Feb. 3, 2020: Saranac Lake Winter Carnival Service, St. Luke's (Saranac Lake NY), 7:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. SL Winter Carnival is Jan. 31 – Feb. 9.
- Feb. 15-16, 2020: Raquette Lake Winter Carnival (Raquette Lake NY)

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### ***Events in the nation . . .***

It has been a troubling, scary, and deadly week for many due to attacks and threats of war in the Middle East. Tensions continue to be high both in the Middle East and at home in the US, especially for families who have loved ones working or stationed in the military in the Middle East. Threats continue to be thrown back and forth, and there does not appear to be a "peace process" as governments like to call it. As Christians – and all people of faith – we can continue to pray for leaders of all nations:

*"Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth, that in tranquility your dominion may increase until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen."*

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### ***Not a sermon . . .***

If I preached this Sunday about the scripture readings, I would talk how the passage from Isaiah (see below) announces the appearance of a "Servant" powered by the Holy Spirit to carry out the will of God: create a new earth, "to bring forth justice to the nations." But the Servant will not be as a warlike, brutal conqueror ("he will not cry or lift up his voice or make it heard in the street"); rather, "he will faithfully bring forth justice...until he has established justice in the earth." It is no great leap to read this acted out in the Gospel of Matthew as Jesus requests baptism by John the Baptist. Jesus' baptism initiates his public ministry, following the 40 days in the wilderness. The passage from the Book of Acts reinforces this message. First, God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit and with power. Jesus is God's agent. As such, he "went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil." The New Testament readings come full circle back to Isaiah: Jesus' baptism is the empowerment with the Holy Spirit to the Servant as announced in Isaiah. Psalm 29, of course, reminds us that God is the true source of creation.

Prayers for ....

**JIM (FRIEND FROM SARANAC LAKE): JUST RECEIVED A SERIOUS CANCER DIAGNOSIS.**

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***SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY: THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD***

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**Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17**