

# Dear Padre,

## My fiancée was baptized in the Lutheran Church. If she becomes Catholic, will she be baptized again?

A person can be validly baptized only once, whether in or out of the Catholic Church. Catholics believe three things are necessary for a valid baptism: baptizing in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; flowing water; and the intention of the “minister” to baptize using the form (words of the Trinitarian formula) and matter (flowing water) needed for a valid baptism.

Orthodox and most Protestant baptisms are recognized by the Catholic Church. However, the Catholic Church does not recognize as valid baptisms performed by Christian communities that don't believe in the Trinity—Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons, for example. These communities may use the same matter (flowing water), but they don't have the same form (Trinitarian formula) or intention in their baptism.

If your fiancée decides to become Catholic, she will need to attend Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults sessions, make her first Communion and reconciliation, and be confirmed, but she has already been validly baptized and will not need to be baptized again.

Fr. Scott Katzenberger, CSSR  
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



### A WORD FROM Pope Francis

To baptize a child is an act of justice toward them. Why? Because at baptism we offer a treasure, at baptism we offer a pledge: the Holy Spirit. Baptism endows the child with the strength of the Holy Spirit: the Spirit that will defend and assist each of them throughout life.

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD, JANUARY 12, 2020

## Calendar

**Monday**  
JANUARY 11  
Weekday  
Heb 1:1–6  
Mk 1:14–20

**Tuesday**  
JANUARY 12  
Weekday  
Heb 2:5–12  
Mk 1:21–28

**Wednesday**  
JANUARY 13  
Weekday  
Heb 2:14–18  
Mk 1:29–39

**Thursday**  
JANUARY 14  
Weekday  
Heb 3:7–14  
Mk 1:40–45

**Friday**  
JANUARY 15  
Weekday  
Heb 4:1–5, 11  
Mk 2:1–12

**Saturday**  
JANUARY 16  
Weekday  
Heb 4:12–16  
Mk 2:13–17

**Sunday**  
JANUARY 17  
Second Sunday  
in Ordinary Time  
1 Sm 3:3b–10, 19  
1 Cor 6:13c–15a,  
17–20  
Jn 1:35–42

# Our Parish COMMUNITY

January 10, 2021

Baptism of the Lord (B)

Is 55:1–11

1 Jn 5:1–9

Mk 1:7–11

## My Son, My Daughter

Who was not asked, at the dawn of young adulthood, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” Today there are so many options for girls and boys. How does one decide? Money and security are very tempting, as are fame and reputation. And then there is the other side of the story when, in the quiet of our thoughts, we wonder if we became everything we might have been. Did we choose the right path or the easy one? Did we rise to the occasion when life challenged us, or did we stay where it was comfortable? Did we really grow up, or did we just get older?

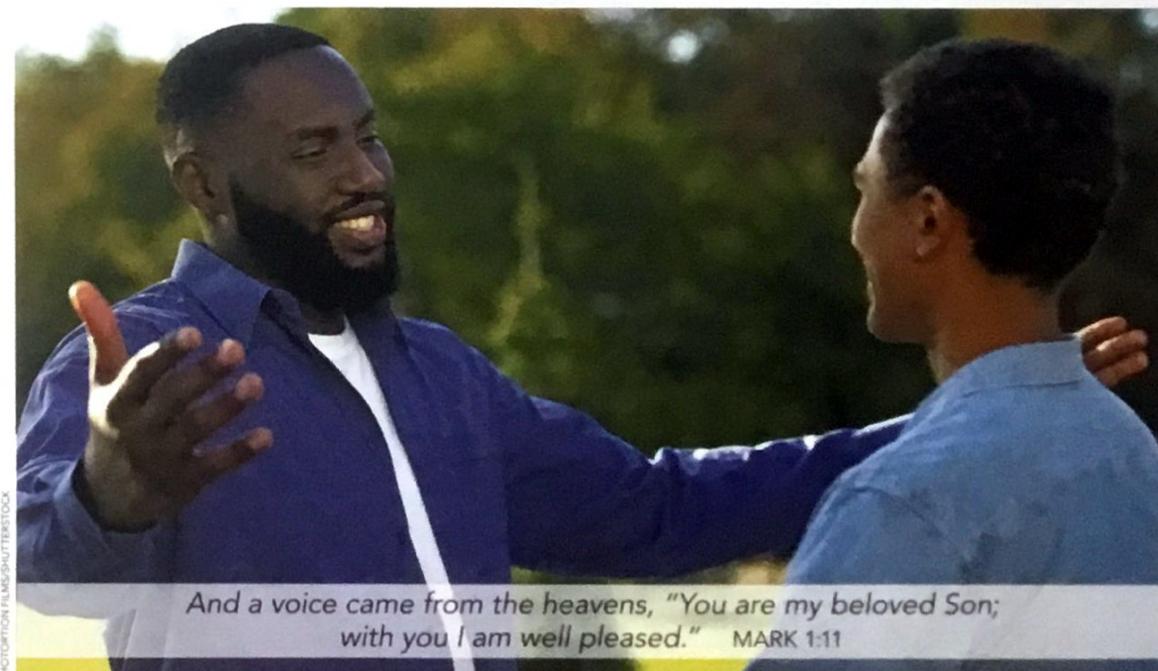
Today we cross the threshold of Christmastime and into Ordinary Time, when the readings focus on discipleship. What kind of disciple do we want to be? Regardless of the past, today we have a chance to start

anew. Today's Gospel passage places Jesus before us as a model to follow. He is at the threshold of his ministry. Stepping out of the waters of the Jordan, he is told: “You are my beloved Son.” As Son, his role is to bring God's goodness to the world. Through baptism and profession of faith, we too are filled with God's spirit. We too are beloved sons and daughters of God, called to bring God's goodness to the world. What does this mean for us? To what kind of lives does this call us? What do we want to be when we grow up?

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

### FOR Reflection

- ★ What can you do to make your part of the world a better place?
- ★ Look deep within yourself. To what might God be calling you?



And a voice came from the heavens, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.” MARK 1:11



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 Tressa Powers, Finance Council Chair 355-6206  
 Altar Society President, Nanette Rice 355-7676  
 Tom Bachman, Grand Knight 640-8259  
 Prayer Line Starters, Allison Bushek 355-1696  
 & Nanette Rice 355-7676

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday, Jan. 11 8:00 a.m. Fred & Suzie Jones Family**  
**Tuesday, Jan. 12 8:00 a.m. D. M. of Guebelle & Schmidt**  
**Thursday, Jan. 14 8:00 a.m. Thanksgiving for Moisture**  
**Friday, Jan. 15 8:00 a.m. Special Intention**  
**Saturday, Jan. 16 4:00 p.m. Gary Sack**  
**Sunday, Jan. 17 9:00 a.m. Pastor's Intention**

**VOCATION VIEW**

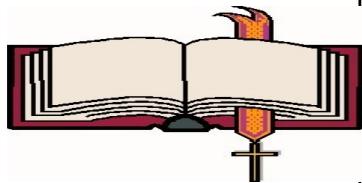
Delight in God's call to you in baptism. What grace do you need to strengthen your commitment? Remember, God has set you as a covenant to the people. (Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7)

**STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT**

Today we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. The US bishop's pastoral on stewardship reminds us that Baptism gives all of His disciples a share in His priestly work and calls them "to offer up the world and all that is in it – especially themselves – to the Lord of all."

January 9, 4:00 p.m. Gwen Waechter  
 January 10, 9:00 a.m. Julie Kaps  
 January 16, 4:00 p.m. Debbie Frederick  
 January 17, 9:00 a.m. K of C Member  
 January 23, 4:00 p.m. Tom Bachman  
 January 24, 9:00 a.m. Mike Broeckelman  
 January 30, 4:00 p.m. Karen Burden  
 January 31, 9:00 a.m. Julie Kaps

*Thank you so much for your ministry!*



**"YOU ARE MY BELOVED SON; WITH YOU I AM WELL PLEASED."**

**BAPTISM OF THE LORD— JANUARY 10, 2021**

My friends, The Baptism of the Lord that we celebrate today ends the Season of Christmas. We hear from today's gospel (Mark 1:7-11) of how Jesus came to the Jordan to receive a ritual washing from John, and rose from those waters filled with God's Spirit and focused on the mission ahead.

And yet, in a very real way, this day is not so much about Jesus' baptism as it about our own baptisms --- yours and mine. You see, when we were washed clean by these sacred waters (either as an infant or as an adult) we weren't just receiving some sort of spiritual "life insurance policy" but rather were united to Jesus in a particular and holy way --- one in which we share in his death and resurrection and share in his sacred mission, a mission in which we are called to do nothing less than help transform the world.

So how can we do what we are called to do? Love. And why should we do these things, why should we lay down our lives in God's service and in the service of others? Same answer --- love. But make no mistake about it --- faithful discipleship does not start with the love we show. It starts with God's love --- our incredible God who has loved us first. It starts with our God looking down upon each of us and saying some pretty incredible and profound words, words not unlike what came from the heavens that day long ago, "You are my beloved . . ."

Everything we do in faith starts with that truth ---that God loves us --- not a little or once in a while --- but deeply, continually, unconditionally. And nothing we do or don't do can ever change that, from the most serious sin to the greatest act of kindness. God simply loves us, period. And that's what makes all the difference. And so, as we think about our own baptisms this day, as we reflect on what it means to be a disciple of Jesus, let's ask the more important question, "Why do we even follow him at all?" Hopefully our answer will be, "Because he has loved us first." Everything else is just a response to that profound, utterly gracious, life-changing truth.

Fr. Peter Tran

**COLLECTION** for January 3, 2021: Envelopes: \$1,969.00; Loose: \$127.00; Online Giving: \$1,466.00; Total \$3,562.00; Average Weekly Expense: \$1,989.55. Income over/under (+1,572.45) *Thank you so much to our faithful stewards for supporting our parish, diocese, and worldwide Church.*

**JANUARY CLASSES –CONFIRMATION & FIRST COMMUNION**

Confirmation: January 3,10, 17,24,& 31 — First Communion: January 6,13,20, & 27

Please keep our First Communion and Confirmation students, their parents, and their catechists in your prayers for their safety and perseverance in faith.

**CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS** We will be taking down Christmas decorations on Monday, January 11 at 5:30 p.m. Your help would be appreciated. Thank you.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS** Thank to all who generously contributed to the Christmas Flower this year. Thanks to All and God Bless!

**In MEMORY/IN HONOR OF...**



**Family Member**—Req. by Karen Burden

**Berning & McKinney Families**—Req. by Steve & Debbie Berning

**Elizabeth Hughes, David & Michelle Bergkamp, Keather Vittetau, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Scchrufner, Anna & Wilfred Bergkamp**—Req. by Alvin & Suellen Berkamp

**Loren & Elenora Laane Family, Clem & RoseMarie Guebelle Family, Urb & Pauline Steinke Family** —Req. by Steve & Marge Lane

**The Rice & Cahoj Families**—Req. by Stan & Nan Rice; and An Anonymous Cash Donation.

**UNDERSTANDING THE GOSPEL OF THE WEEK (Mark 1: 7-11)**

**Why did Jesus seek baptism?** Because Christian baptism takes away a person's sins, people wonder why Jesus was baptized. The question comes from the mistaken belief that John's baptism is Christian baptism. It isn't. John prophesied that God's kingdom was coming and that people had better get ready for it. He used baptism as a way for people to show that they believed in what he was saying and wanted to turn away from their former way of life and prepare for what was coming next. By being baptized, Jesus expressed his belief that a new era of salvation was about to begin.

**Divine witness: The heavens being torn open** indicates that God has come to the earth in a new and startlingly close way. The same imagery is used at Jesus' crucifixion (Mark 15:38). In the Old Testament God sent his **Spirit** upon those he chose for a special role. Such people included Moses and the elders (Numbers 11:24-26), David (1 Samuel 16:13), and Elijah and Elisha (2 Kings 2:9-15). The **dove** may represent closeness to the heavens, the metaphorical dwelling place of God. In the Old Testament God's presence is compared to a bird hovering over her young to protect and strengthen them (Deuteronomy 32:11, Psalm 17:8, Psalm 91:4, Isaiah 31:5). The comparison of God's Spirit to a dove in the New Testament, however, occurs only in the story of Jesus' baptism. The **voice** speaks words that are probably meant for Jesus alone to hear. In the Old Testament **son of God** refers to a descendant of David, Israel as a whole, anyone who is righteous, and even angels. Although some of these uses of the title apply to Jesus, Mark ultimately uses the title to indicate Jesus' new and unparalleled relationship with God.

**Well-pleased** Jesus' ministry led to crucifixion, a horribly shameful way to die. Many people thought that God rejected Jesus, and that's why Jesus was so brutally killed. Here Mark makes it clear that God stands with Jesus from the very beginning of his ministry. <https://oursundayreadings>

**A PRAYER FOR HOPE AFTER A HARD YEAR**

God, Thank you for helping us to make it through this difficult year. Thank you that you've carried us through the uncertainty of deep waters, through the flames of trials, and through the pain of hard losses. We are constantly aware of how much we need you, your grace, your strength, your power working through even the toughest days.

Help us to keep our focus first on you this season. Please forgive us for giving too much time and attention to other things, for looking to other people before coming to you first. Help us to reflect again, on what Christmas is really all about. Thank you that you came to give new life, peace, hope, and joy. Thank you that your power is made perfect in our weakness.

Help us to remember that the gift of Christ, Immanuel, is our greatest treasure, not just at Christmas, but for the whole year through. Fill us with your joy and the peace of your Spirit. Direct our hearts and minds towards you. Thank you for your reminder that both in seasons of celebration and in seasons of brokenness, you're still with us. For you never leave us. Thank you for your daily powerful Presence in our lives, that we can be assured your heart is towards us, your eyes are over us, and your ears are open to our prayers. Thank you that you surround us with favor as with a shield, and we are safe in your care.

We choose to press in close to you today, and keep you first in our hearts and lives. Without you we would surely fail, but with you, there is great hope. Thank you for your healing power, thank you for bringing us into this new season up ahead. We look forward to all that You still have in store. In Jesus' name, Amen. (www.crosswalk.com)

## CATHOLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER

**Question:** Anonymous asked, "How can you live the promise of your Baptism each day?"

**Answer:** Great question, thanks! Easy answer: live out the Gospel! Oh, you were looking for a little bit more. Ok. Much of this goes back to what I posted on yesterday: Grace. Sanctifying Grace, which we first receive at Baptism, is what we need to have eternal life. Each time that we receive the sacraments, we renew the Sanctifying Grace that we received at (and, with the possibility of mortal sin, maybe lost since) Baptism. The best way, then, to live out our Baptismal promises is to live a sacramental life.

What are these promises? At the Masses every Easter, we publicly renew our Baptismal promises by answering 'I do' to each of the following questions:

Do you reject Satan? And all his works? And all his empty promises?

Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth?

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

The Catechism gives us some general guidelines on how to live out our Baptismal promises:

"Having become a member of the Church, the person baptized belongs no longer to himself, but to him who died and rose for us. From now on, he is called to be subject to others, to serve them in the communion of the Church, and to "obey and submit" to the Church's leaders (see Heb 13:17), holding them in respect and affection. Just as Baptism is the source of responsibilities and duties, the baptized person also enjoys rights within the Church: to receive the sacraments, to be nourished with the Word of God and to be sustained by the other spiritual helps of the Church...Reborn as sons of God, [the baptized] must profess before men the faith they have received from God through the Church" and participate in the apostolic and missionary activity of the People of God" (#1269-70).

And from #2340:

"Whoever wants to remain faithful to his baptismal promises and resist temptations will want to adopt the means for doing so: self-knowledge, practice of an asceticism adapted to the situations that confront him, obedience to God's commandments, exercise of the moral virtues, and fidelity to prayer. "Indeed it is through chastity that we are gathered together and led back to the unity from which we were fragmented into multiplicity" (St. Augustine).

Each of us became a "new creature" at Baptism. Every time we renew our Baptism through the Eucharist, Confession, or the other sacraments, each of us becomes a "new creature", thanks to God's Grace. Awesome! ([www.standrewparish.blogspot.com](http://www.standrewparish.blogspot.com))

### FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

#### DO JUSTICE

We sometimes imagine it's about collecting sacraments. Or stockpiling mountains of prayers. Writing fat checks to charities. Or being nice to people we don't like. But the prophets relentlessly insist that what God desires from us is a just world. Where there's a privileged class, abominable wage gaps, racist systems, and deeply disproportionate outcomes for a nation's citizens, the peaceable reign of God can't gain a foothold. Contemplate categories of injustice—education, health care, employment opportunities, criminal justice—to name a few. Make one your special cause, learn all you can, and educate others about it. (Prepare the Word)

### FIESTA DEL BAUTISMO DEL SEÑOR

#### HACER JUSTICIA

A veces imaginamos que necesitamos coleccionar sacramentos. O acumular montañas de oraciones. Hacer contribuciones importantes a organizaciones benéficas. O ser amables con la gente que no nos gusta. Pero los profetas insisten incansablemente en que lo que Dios nos pide es un mundo justo. Donde hay una clase privilegiada, enormes desigualdades salariales, sistemas racistas, y resultados profundamente desproporcionados para los ciudadanos de una nación, el pacífico reino de Dios no puede lograr un punto de apoyo. Considera las categorías de injusticia —educación, cuidado de la salud, oportunidades de empleo, justicia criminal— por nombrar algunas. Haz de una de ellas tu causa especial, averigua todo lo que puedas, e informa a los demás acerca de ella.