

Dear Padre,

Why did Jesus have to be baptized? Did he have original sin like us or was there another reason to be baptized?

Jesus is God and did not have original sin like us. He is like us in all things except sin. The baptisms John performed did not free people from their original sin. The people who came to John to be baptized were declaring that they were going to change their ways and reform their lives. They promised to turn away from sin and follow the commandments. The baptism of Jesus was different. When Jesus was baptized, God revealed who Jesus is and commissioned him to begin his mission on earth.



There were three significant components to Jesus' baptism. First, the skies opened above Jesus. The prophet Isaiah prayed that God would tear open the sky and come down to earth (Isaiah 63). This was a sign to the people that God was coming down to earth. A new era was beginning. God was no longer "locked up" in the heavens.

Second, the Spirit of God, in the form of a dove, descended from the sky and hovered over Jesus and the water. This takes us back to the first moments of creation when the spirit of God hovered over the waters. The Spirit was a sign to the people that a new creation was being made.

Finally, a voice declared that Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus is the new Adam, who will begin the new creation. Let us call the Holy Spirit to be within our hearts and send us forth, as Jesus was sent, to proclaim a new creation founded on the love and peace of our Savior.

Fr. Paul J. Coury, CSSR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

Calendar

Monday JANUARY 10 Weekday 1 Sm 1:1-8 Mk 1:14-20
Tuesday JANUARY 11 Weekday 1 Sm 1:9-20 Mk 1:21-28
Wednesday JANUARY 12 Weekday 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20 Mk 1:29-39
Thursday JANUARY 13 Weekday 1 Sm 4:1-11 Mk 1:40-45
Friday JANUARY 14 Weekday 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a Mk 2:1-12
Saturday JANUARY 15 Weekday 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a Mk 2:13-17
Sunday JANUARY 16 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Is 62:1-5 1 Cor 12:4-11 Jn 2:1-11

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about Dear Padre.

Our Parish COMMUNITY

January 9, 2022

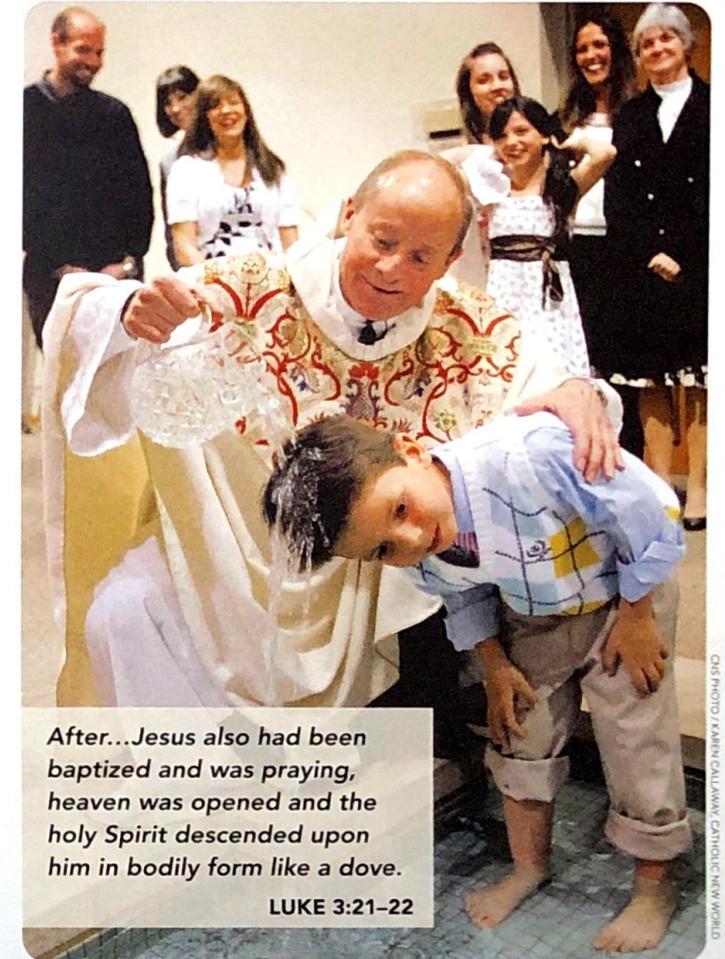
The Baptism of the Lord (C)
Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 40:1-5, 9-11
Acts 10:34-38 or Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7
Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

Taking Up Christ's Ministry

Before the Second Vatican Council, ministry was considered by many to be a Protestant word, and the religious leader who did it was called a *minister*. Catholics had priests and bishops who received and administered sacraments. Religious women did the Church's work in schools and hospitals. The council turned our understanding of Church membership inside out. We've come to realize that with baptism—not ordination or religious profession—comes the responsibility of ministry. Catholics and Protestants alike understand their commitment to justice and peace is a genuine ministry that seeks to establish God's reign in our world.

Many interpreters believe that the account of Jesus' baptism points to the inauguration of his own ministry. The theology expressed is certainly Trinitarian (the voice, Jesus identified as Son, and the dove). However, the revelation of his true identity occurs as he begins preaching and healing. Some say his baptism was meant to strengthen him as he began his public life. Others believe it was meant to strengthen his disciples.

Today we maintain that by baptism we are all children of God. Vatican II has enlightened us as to what this really means. Pope Francis has reminded us that by virtue of our baptism we are missionary disciples (see *Evangelii Gaudium*, 120). In other words, as disciples we follow Jesus, learning from him. As missionaries we go out to spread his Good News to others. It is now for us to take up the ministry where he left off, to be faithful servants with whom God is well pleased.



After...Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove.

LUKE 3:21-22

FOR Reflection

- ★ How does your life's work make the world better? If it does, then you are a missionary disciple of Jesus.
- ★ Go out of your way to make someone's life a little better this week.



A WORD FROM Pope Francis

After these thirty years of hidden life, Jesus' public life begins. And it begins precisely with his baptism in the River Jordan. But Jesus is God; why does Jesus get baptized?... Because he wants to be with the sinners. For this reason, he gets in line with them and does the same thing they do.

ANGELUS, BAPTISM OF THE LORD, JANUARY 10, 2021



Rectory & Parish Office
 600 Soderberg St. Lakin, KS 67860
 Mailing Address: PO Box 983
 Fr. Peter Tran, Pastor—355-6405
 Tuesday—Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
 Email: saintanthonylakin@gmail.com
 Website: saintanthonylakin.org

Karen Burden, Rel.Edu. Committee	355-6388
Lisa Gannett, DRE	355-6611
RCIA	355-6405
Gwen Waechter, Parish Council Chair	272-1030
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 & Nanette Rice	355-1696 355-7676

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, Jan. 10	8:00 a.m.	Charles & Eileen Hoff
Tuesday, Jan. 11	8:00 a.m.	Margaret McComack
Thursday, Jan. 13	8:00 a.m.	For Rain
Friday, Jan. 14	8:00 a.m.	For the Country
Saturday, Jan. 15	4: 00 p.m.	Carter Brown
Sunday, Jan. 16	9:00 a.m.	Gary Sack

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (color: Green)

1/15/2022 - Saturday, 4: 00 p.m.

Servers: Maggie Gannett, Jonathan Gannett, Nathan Gannett

Reader: Tom Bachman

1/16/2022 –Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

Servers: K of C

Reader: K of C

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (color: Green)

1/22/2022 - Saturday, 4: 00 p.m.

Servers: Lucy Gannett, Jason Velasco, Ryann Bamberger

Reader: Debbie Frederick

1/23/2022 – Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

Servers: Kingston Guerrero, Cade Berning, Joce Berning

Reader: Fred Jones

Reconciliation: Confessions will be heard every Saturday at 3:00 p.m. and every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. every Friday from 4:15—4:50 p.m. or by appointment.

Baptism: Parents who have children to be baptized must be registered. Godparents must be 16 years of age or older and have received Confirmation and Eucharist. Please call the parish office for an appointment.

Marriage: Please contact parish priest at least four to six months before the wedding.

Anointing of the Sick: Celebrated anytime by calling a priest.

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THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD – JANUARY 9, 2022



Friends, when two people entering into marriage have the same expectations, it gives them a firm footing upon which to begin their lives together. But when those expectations don't coincide, don't match up, it can be disastrous. Yes. Expectations matter.

Today we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. And we do so not simply to reaffirm who Jesus is, but also to reflect on our own baptisms --- what it meant back then, and what it means now. For most of us, we were baptized as infants. That means our parents, in almost every case, made the decision for us. And they did so out of love --- but also with certain hopes and expectations. They hoped that we would grow up to love Jesus. They hoped that we would stay tethered to the community of faith we call Church. They hoped that we would grow up to be kind and generous and compassionate and merciful and faithful.

Do we still have those same expectations? Those same hopes? Those same dreams?

Maybe we feel that our baptism was just something that happened long ago --- not something we need to live out each and every day.

And that's why expectations truly matter in the spiritual life. If our expectations and God's expectations don't match up, we can never be the person God created us to be. We will always continually fall far short, way short, --- and will experience life in a diminished way, in a way in which peace and joy and meaning are only dim shadows of what they could be.

My friends, our baptisms might have been long ago --- but the grace is still there, the calling is still there, our Lord Jesus is still there --- expecting wonderful things from us. Let's expect the same --- and strive to make them happen.

COLLECTION for January 2, 2022: Envelopes: \$1620.00; Loose: \$148; Online Giving: \$906.27; Total \$ 2674.27; Average Weekly Expense: \$1,761.17. Income over/under +913.10.

Thank you so much to your faithful stewards for supporting our parish, diocese, and worldwide Church.

K of C Meeting will be Wednesday, January 12 at 7:30 p.m. Parish Hall.

CHRISTMAS DECORATION We will be taking down Christmas decorations this Sunday (1/9/), right after Mass. Your help would be appreciated. If you would like to take the flower that you had in memory or in honor of You're welcome to do so after that Sunday Mass. Our Parish Altar Society would like to extend an invitation to all those who will be able to help out taking down Christmas decoration to join them for brunch at the parish hall.

BUDGET SHOP We will be working at the Budget Shop on Saturday, January 15 and Tuesday, January 18. Please keep these dates on your busy calendars and try to save a few hours to help us. We are open on Saturdays and Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Any help will be greatly appreciated. And "Thank You" ahead of time.

PILGRIMAGE TO TOPEKA The Diocese of Dodge City will be making a pilgrimage to Topeka for the annual IGNITE-Mass, Rally, and March for Life. We will leave on January 24th on a bus, spend the night, participate in the rally, then be back in Dodge City around 10:30 p.m. on January 25th. To register, please visit dcdiocese.org/offices/respect-life. Contact Emma Showalter at 620-227-1540 or dcyouth@dcdiocese.org for questions.

VOCATION VIEW "I, the LORD, have called you for the victory of justice," Do you feel the Lord calling you to consider becoming a priest, deacon or consecrated religious?

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT Jesus, whom God called "my beloved Son," is also the "servant" of whom Isaiah speaks in the first reading. We who are baptized in Christ must follow His example and use our time and resources in the service of God and neighbor.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (adapted from the Rite of Baptism) God, the all-powerful Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, you have given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and forgiven all our sins. May we who have been enlightened by Christ always walk as children of the light and keep the flame of faith alive in our hearts. When the Lord comes in glory, send us out to meet him with all the saints in your heavenly kingdom where you reign for ever and ever. Amen.

UNDERSTANDING THE GOSPEL OF THE WEEK - (Luke 3:15-16, 21-22)

Expectations John the Baptist told people to change their lives in preparation for God's coming. As a result, some Jews thought John himself might be the messiah, the one God would send to bring about a dramatic change in their lives. John insists that he isn't. • It was the job of slaves to remove their master's shoes. John explains that he's less than a slave compared to the person God will send. • John urged people to repent of their sins. God's chosen one will do more – he will judge, empower, and purify people.

With the holy Spirit and fire People were baptized by John only as a sign of their contrition and openness to God. John declared that when the messiah came, he would bring about a new era in which people are forgiven and God's spirit fills them. The fire may refer to how God would purify people, burning away their sins. It may also (or instead) refer to a time of judgment in which those who reject God are cast out of his reign (see v.17).

While Jesus was praying Although we think of supernatural events occurring while Jesus was baptized, Luke writes that they happened when Jesus was praying. Luke emphasizes prayer more than the other Gospel-writers. He both includes more prayers in his Gospel and more frequently notes that Jesus is taking time to pray.

Saturated with the Spirit Just as the angel Gabriel told Mary that the holy Spirit would come upon her, so the Spirit comes upon Jesus. In the Old Testament God sent his Spirit upon those he chose for a special role. Luke, the author of both this Gospel and the Book of Acts, emphasizes the role of the Holy Spirit in Jesus' ministry much more than the other Gospel-writers. The prophet Joel spoke of a new era in which God's Spirit would be poured out (Joel 3:1f). After the Spirit-filled Son of God defeats sin and death, he fulfills this hope (Acts 2:1-11). The dove 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.

(www.oursundayreadings)

UNDERSTANDING THE SECOND READING (Titus 2:11-14,3:4-7)

By baptism This passage reminds us that God offers grace and salvation through baptism. Therefore, those who have been baptized should turn away from sin and lead virtuous lives. God helps Christians to live in a new and holy way by filling them with his holy Spirit. Christians find the strength to persevere in their new way of life by remembering how they were saved. God didn't have to save them from evil and death, but chose to because of his generous love. Such undeserved love, a love that has given them eternal life, should make believers eager to do what is good. (www.oursundayreadings)

Question: In John 3:5, Jesus says that no one can enter the kingdom of God except by water and the Spirit. So it seems that unbaptized children, Muslims, Jews, et al., cannot go to heaven. I am personally worried about my five unbaptized grandchildren. — John Rebar

Answer: The Church teaches the necessity of baptism for salvation in accordance with the holy Scriptures. Thus a person who willfully refuses to be baptized, knowing the requirements for faith in Jesus and the reception of baptism, cannot be saved.

However, not everyone fully knows or understands the necessity of baptism and faith in Jesus. Some, as you note, are young children who cannot reasonably know, and whose parents have failed in their duties. Others may be raised in largely non-Catholic settings or even in settings that are hostile to the Christian faith. God does not absolutely require of people what they cannot have reasonably known. Therefore, we presume that, since God is just, he can and does deal with those sorts of situations in ways known only to him, and that people will be judged on what they could have reasonably known. Though we cannot know absolutely the fate of unbaptized children (since God has not revealed it) or even adults, we can be confident that God, who wants to save all, will deal with them justly and reasonably.

Jesus' clear teaching, however, on the necessity of baptism must not be lightly cast aside, simply based on reasonable speculation by us. You as a grandfather should firmly admonish your own children of the need to have their children baptized at once and warn them that their own salvation may be at stake if they fail to do so. Mere encouragement, if it is not enough, may need to give way to insistence and vigorous warning. You may do well to consult with your parish priest and other family members to turn this rather unfortunate state of affairs into an evangelical and teaching moment.

Question: My son refuses to have his young children baptized. He says the priest who celebrated his wedding indicated that infant baptism is only a tradition, not a mandate. Is this so? — Name withheld

Answer: If the priest said this, he was wrong. Canon law states: "Parents are obliged to see that their infants are baptized within the first few weeks. As soon as possible after the birth, indeed even before it, they are to approach the parish priest to ask for the sacrament for their child, and to be themselves duly prepared for it" (Canon 867). This is a mandate, not a mere cultural tradition.

The mandate is rooted in the child's need and in the teaching of the Scriptures, which say: "Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them; and when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. But Jesus called them to him, saying, 'Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God'" (Lk 18:15–16). The children referred to here are little children or infants, since the Greek word in verse 15 (*brephe*) clearly means infants. And Jesus calls them *paidia*, a diminutive form of *pais*, which means children in Greek. Hence we are not to hinder the little children from access to the Kingdom and to Jesus. Elsewhere, Jesus adds, "Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God" (Jn 3:5). So, the way even little children gain access to the Kingdom is through baptism.

That children are in urgent need of baptism is rooted in the reality that each of us is born with original sin (see Rom 5:12), which is a grave spiritual wound. Healing from this condition should not be delayed but should be offered as soon as reasonably possible.

For these reasons, and others, the Church has always baptized infants. Early documents both affirm and witness to this. Saint Irenaeus, writing in AD 189, says of Jesus, "He came to save all ... infants ... and youths, and old men" (Against Heresies, 2:22:4). Hippolytus, writing in 215, taught: "Let the children be baptized first. All those children who can answer for themselves do so, and to those children not yet able to speak, their parents shall answer for them" (Apostolic Tradition 21:16) (Monsignor Charles Pope—Catholic and Curious)

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Tell it like it is

The hidden days are over. When the Spirit descends on Jesus and the heavenly voice proclaims him beloved, Jesus is effectively outed as the Divine Son. Did Jesus know this was the hour when his private life would come to an end? When any dreams he may have had for a quiet domestic existence were surrendered for good? The underlying truth is that on the day of our Baptism, we each surrender the notion of a private world that's all about us. As Pope Francis puts it, "Immersing us in Christ, Baptism also makes us members of his body, which is the Church, and participants in its mission in the world." Be the beloved. Share the love. (Prepare the Word)

FIESTA DEL BAUTISMO DEL SEÑOR

Decir las cosas como son

Los días ocultos han terminado. Cuando el Espíritu desciende sobre Jesús y la voz celestial lo proclama amado, Jesús es realmente anunciado como el Hijo Divino. ¿Sabía Jesús que esta era la hora en que su vida privada llegaría a su fin? ¿Que renunciaría definitivamente a cualquier sueño que pudiera haber tenido de una tranquila vida doméstica? La verdad implícita es que en el día de nuestro Bautismo, cada uno de nosotros renuncia a la noción de un mundo privado que gira en torno a nosotros. Como dice el Papa Francisco: "Al fundirnos en Cristo, el bautismo nos hace también miembros de su cuerpo, que es la Iglesia, y partícipes de su misión en el mundo." Sé el amado. Comparte el amor.