

The Work of the People
The Baptism of the Lord

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord celebrates one of the four great epiphanies of the Lord. The first is when the glory of God's presence in Jesus is made known to the Jewish shepherds; the second when that glory is revealed to the Gentiles in the figures of the Magi; the third is Jesus's baptism; the fourth is at the Wedding Feast at Cana. This Feast today also proclaims Sonship of Jesus by his anointing and appointment to his messianic office. It is the feast that proclaims the Baptism that elevates believers to the status of sons and daughters of God.

The First Reading today is from Second Isaiah and speaks of the profit proclaiming a word of comfort to God's people who are in captivity. The words of Isaiah speak of the time when God's people will be led back to their own homes; time at which the people of Jerusalem will proclaim once again "Here is your God."

We return to Luke's Gospel for this Feast. The baptism scene of Luke is structured in a similar way to the first Servant Song of Isaiah. The scene in Isaiah commences with the voice of God addressing an audience, so Luke's account begins with John addressing the people about the imminent advent of Christ in their midst and of his mission. John emphasizes the difference between his baptism and the one that the Messiah will administer. John's baptism is an acknowledgment of sin and repentance while Jesus's Baptism conveys the power of the Holy Spirit that will transform those who receive it in new birth in the Spirit. By the same token, one can only receive the cleansing fire and empowering gift of the Spirit when one acknowledges one's sinfulness. God's Word proclaims Jesus and his divine status and relationship to God.

The reflection for this Feast is from Sr. Melanie Svoboda, a Sister of Notre Dame, from Chariton, Ohio. She writes and gives talks and retreats nationally.

I taught high school for over twenty years. During that time I carried a poster with me wherever I was missioned. It had three daisies on it and read: "I like being with you." I always hung it on the back wall of my classroom. Its message made me ask myself regularly: Am I, by my presence and actions in the classroom, telling my students that I like being with them—even if (on occasion) they did some unlikeable things?

That poster comes to mind when I read today's Scriptures in which God seems to be saying, "I like being with you." Through the prophet Isaiah, God speaks of "my servant . . . my chosen one in whom I am pleased." That servant could refer to Israel itself or even Isaiah. But the Christian tradition has identified him with Jesus.

Why does God like being with Israel, with Jesus? The answer is in the reading from Acts, where we are given Jesus' "job description": "He went about doing good." Why and how? "For God was with him." At Jesus' baptism the Holy Spirit descends like a dove, and a voice from heaven explicitly says, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." In other words, "I like being with you."

God likes being with us too, with you and me—even if we sometimes do unlikeable things. Isn't that what we celebrate at Christmas? God became incarnate in the person of Jesus to be with us and show us how to live.

By your presence and good actions today, convey to someone, "I like being with you."

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

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

ERIE MARCH FOR LIFE

The Erie March for Life takes place Saturday, January 29, 2022 at 11:00 am. It begins at Perry Square in Downtown Erie and will conclude by 12:30 pm following a brief program. Please arrive by 10:45 am.

Sponsored by the People for life. Any questions call 814 882-1333 or office@peopleforlife.org.

*"Lord,
 send me trusted friends
 who can help me
 to follow you more closely."*

WORSHIP

Monday, January 10
 8:00 am + Robert A. Adams (Family)
 Tuesday, January 11
 8:00 am + Robert Pflieger (Shawn & Family)
 Wednesday, January 12
 8:00 am + NO MASS
 Thursday, January 13
 8:00 am + Kathleen Nowak (Latin Mass Community)
 Friday, January 14
 8:00 am + Pete Weidner
 (Ginger (Weidner) & Dick Kester)
 Saturday, January 15 - FIRST FRIDAY
 4:30 pm + For the lost in recent tornado disaster
 in U.S. (Dale & Carole Schoiack)
 Sunday, January 16
 8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 Living & Deceased Parishioners
 9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
 Casimir Olszewski
 (Christine & Richard Bidwell)

PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Tuesday, January 11
 After Mass - St. Anthony Novena
 Saturday, January 15
 3:30 - 4:15 pm - Confession
 Sunday, January 16
 Before Mass - Confession - ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 After Mass - Confession - ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
 Monday, January 17
 5:00 pm - Doors open for BINGO

BINGO DATES FOR JANUARY, 2022
 Monday, January 17
 Monday, January 31

**IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING
 YEAR-END FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

If you want a year-end statement of your annual contributions to St. Anthony of Padua Parish or St. Bernadette Mission **PLEASE CLIP THIS FROM THE BULLETIN AND RETURN IN THE COLLECTION BASKET BY JANUARY 25, 2022.**

NAME: _____
 (Please Print)

CATHOLICS FOR LIFE AND LIBERTY

Adoration and Holy Hour for Respect Life and Religious Liberty will be January 20th at 10 PM at St. Agatha Church. All are welcome!

FREE THROW

The Edinboro/Cambridge Springs K of C Free Throw Championship will be held at Our Lady of the Lake Social Center on Sunday, January 23rd at 1 pm. Registration and warm-ups begin at 12:00 pm. All boys and girls ages 9 - 14 are invited to participate. Sign-up forms are available in the Social Center Lobby or participants may register on the day of the event. Proof of age (birth certificate) and parent/guardian signature are required. Contact Neil Burkell with questions at 734-4865.

Pro-Life Breakfast
 Guest Speak Rachel Bovard, Senior Director of Policy
 January 15, 2022 at 9:00 am
 Bayfront Convention Center
 Erie, PA.
 Reservations - \$20
 Ages 3 - 12 - \$12 Under 3 - Free
 Make reservations ASAP

ST. BERNADETTE MISSION STEWARDSHIP	
Offertory	\$600.00
Maintenance	80.00
Candles	30.00
Christmas	20.00
Oplatki	1.86
Solemnity of Mary	25.00
Initial Offering	80.00
Spread the Faith	40.00
TOTAL	\$876.86
Catholic Service Appeal Pledged: \$7,100 Paid: \$7,100	

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA STEWARDSHIP	
Offertory	\$6,885.00
Maintenance	212.00
Donation	50.00
Solemnity of Mary	132.00
Missionary Co-Op	20.00
Christmas	30.00
Initial	35.00
Candles	118.00
Oplatki	10.00
TOTAL	\$7,492.00
Catholic Services Appeal Pledged: \$29,485 Paid: \$28,770	

CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA

CHURCH NO.:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
