

The Work of the People

The Baptism of the Lord

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord proclaims a theophany, a revelation or manifestation of the divinity of Jesus by his anointing and appointing to his messianic office. This Feast is tied closely to the Solemnity of the Epiphany which we celebrated last Sunday because Jesus' baptism is one of the four great epiphanies in the Gospels. The last of these four is the wedding Feast at Canaan in John's Gospel. Today we celebrate the feast that proclaims the Baptism that elevates believers to the status of daughters and sons of God.

The first reading for today is from Second Isaiah. This reading is also used at the Easter Vigil and gives us a sense of God's care for all of us. No doubt the invitation to "come to the water" prompted the selection of this beautiful text of Isaiah. In the water, life is to be found. Note the themes of repentance and turning to the Lord, of *metanoia* in the second part of the reading. We think of the word (Word) in the last lines of the reading that only as Torah (Law), but also, in Christmas time, of Jesus, the Word made flesh, who will do God's will and accomplish the purpose for which he was sent.

In the reading from the first letter of St. John the language of "begotten" points to the parental relationship, both Jesus's and ours with the heavenly Father. Our new birth comes through belief in Jesus. The testimony of the Father and the Spirit is evident at Jesus's baptism. The testimony of blood will come in the gift of his life on the cross, his mission completed.

In the gospel we hear Mark's version of Jesus's baptism. Jesus comes forward as one of the many people who heard John, as one just like any other person. John knows that the one to come is at the same time different from all other people. Jesus's baptism was a moment of intense revelation: he saw the Spirit descend upon him; he heard the voice of the Father say: "you are my beloved son". He will show us the way to the Father by walking it himself.

The reflection today is from St. Gregory Nazianzus (ca. 330 – 389) who was one of the three great Cappadocian Fathers. He was Archbishop of Constantinople and defended against Arianism (Jesus is not fully God).

John is baptizing when Jesus draws near. Perhaps he comes to sanctify his baptizer; certainly, he comes to bury sinful humanity in the waters. He comes to sanctify the Jordan for our sake and in readiness for us; he who is spirit and flesh comes to begin a new creation through the Spirit and water. . . .

Jesus rises from the waters; the world rises with him. The heavens like Paradise with its flaming sword, closed by Adam for himself and his descendants, are rent open. The Spirit comes to him as to an equal, bearing witness to his Godhead.

A voice bears witness to him from heaven, his place of origin. The Spirit descends in bodily form like the dove that so long ago announced the ending of the flood and so gives honor to the body that is one with God.

Today let us do honor to Christ's baptism and celebrate this feast in holiness. Be cleansed entirely and continue to be cleansed. Nothing gives such pleasure to God as the conversion and salvation of men, for whom his every word and every revelation exist. He wants you to become a living force for all mankind, lights shining in the world. You are to be radiant lights as you stand beside Christ, the great light, bathed in the glory of him who is the light of heaven. You are to enjoy more and more the pure and dazzling light of the Trinity, as now you have received—though not in its fullness—a ray of its splendor, proceeding from the one God, in Christ Jesus our Lord, to whom be glory and power for ever and ever. Amen.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Heb. 1:1-6/Mk. 1:14-20
 Tuesday: Heb. 2:5-12/Mk. 1:21-28
 Wednesday: Heb. 2:14-18/Mk. 1:29-39
 Thursday: Heb. 3:7-14/Mk. 1:40-45
 Friday: Heb. 4:1-5, 11/Mk. 2:1-12
 Saturday: Heb. 4:12-16/Mk. 2:13-17
 Sunday: 1 Sam. 3:3b-10, 19/1 Cor. 6:13c-15a, 17-20/
 Jn. 1:35-42

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

The gospel today points to Jesus' humanity; like us He needed RECOGNITION ("You are my Son"), AFFECTION ("My Beloved Son") and AFFIRMATION ("With you I am well pleased."). In our families, it is easy to focus on irritating behaviors and take for granted all the positives. This New Year take a lesson from God the Father, be an AFFIRMER and not a BLAMER.

*"When I feel too tired to pray, Lord,
 remind me
 of the rich reward
 of time
 in your presence."*

WORSHIP

Monday, January 11
 8:00 am + For the Intention of Joseph DePetris
 (Gerard & Martha Adamczyk)
 Tuesday, January 12
 8:00 am + Daniel H. Baker (Rita Baker & Family)
 Wednesday, January 13
 8:00 am + NO MASS
 Thursday January 14
 8:00 am + John E. Auer
 Friday, January 15
 8:00 am + Kathy Snyder (Peg Adams)
 Saturday, January 16
 4:30 pm + Bonnie Gerlosky (Ginger & Dick Kester)
 Sunday, January 17
 8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 Living & Deceased Parishioners
 9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
 Mark Cianciotta (Shawn Pflieger)

PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Tuesday, January 12
 After Mass - St. Anthony Novena
 Saturday, January 16
 3:30 - 4:15 pm - Confession
 Sunday, January 17
 Before Mass-Confession at
 ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 After Mass-Confession at ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

*“Holy Spirit,
 help me guard my time this Sunday.
 Refresh me this Sabbath
 with restful prayer,
 fellowship, and recreation.”*

YEAR-END FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

To reduce the cost of mailing a report, if you want a year-end statement of your annual contributions to St. Anthony or St. Bernadette **PLEASE CLIP THIS FROM THE BULLETIN AND RETURN IT IN THE COLLECTION BASKET BY MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 2021.**

NAME: _____
 (Please Print)

THE ETHICAL RECEPTION OF COVID-19 VACCINES

As various vaccines for COVID-19 are made available to the public, concerns about safety and efficacy - as well as the ethics of their research and development - challenge all to make informed choices. Bishop Lawrence Persico has issued a statement that provides information about the vaccines and a process of ethical decision-making consistent with Catholic values. The statement, which can be found at www.eriecd.org/news/News-releases.html, also links to several helpful Vatican and USCCB documents.

“Lord Jesus,
 never let me take You for granted.
 Always let me show You
 the respect You deserve.
 Let me revere Your wondrous ways.
 Amen

ST. BERNADETTE MISSION STEWARADSHIP	
Offertory	\$643.00
Maintenance	60.00
Solemnity of Mary	105.00
Initial	68.00
Catholic Communication	30.00
Candles	40.00
TOTAL	\$946.00
Catholic Services Appeal	
Pledged: \$5,805	Paid: \$5,805

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA STEWARDSHIP	
Offertory	\$3,846.00
Maintenance	210.00
Candles	34.00
Initial	75.00
Solemnity of Mary	268.00
Catholic Faith	20.00
CSA	100.00
TOTAL	\$4,553.00
Catholic Services Appeal	
Pledged: \$27,024	Paid: \$26,454
Please Note: 2020 CSA pledges must be paid By January 24, 2021	

CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA

CHURCH NO.:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
