

PARISH CALENDAR

Feast of the Baptism
of the Lord

January 13, 2019

Give comfort to my people,
says your God!

Saturday, January 12	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, January 13	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 10:45 a. m.	Religious Education
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
	..... 6:00 p. m.	CHRISTMAS DECORATION -REMOVAL
Monday, January 14	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a. m.	Mass
	..... 9:00-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Tuesday, January 15	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a. m.	Mass
	..... 7:00 p. m.	Leadership Meeting - Church
Wednesday, January 16	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a. m.	Mass
	..... 9:00-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, January 17	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a. m.	Mass
	..... 7:30 p. m.	Prayer Meeting - Church
Friday, January 18	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a. m.	Mass
	..... 9:00-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Saturday, January 19	..... 4:00-4:45 p. m.	Confession
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass



NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

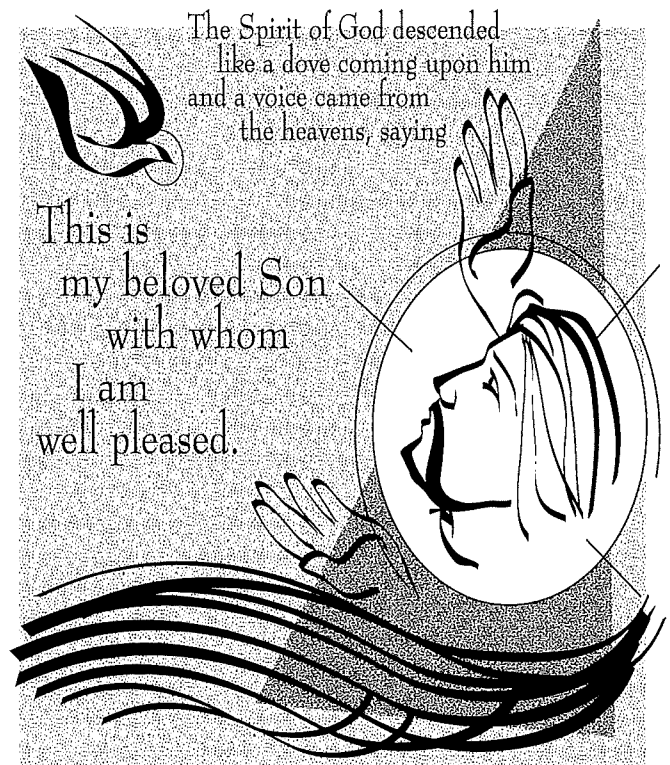
Is:62:1-5: God loves and restores Israel as a spouse
1 Cor: 12:4-11: The Spirit bestows many diverse but equal gifts
Jn:2:1-11: Jesus' first sign is at the wedding feast of Cana

Reflection

This Sunday brings the Christmas season to a close. It brings the reality of God-with-us, "Emmanuel," as close as it can get. This Sunday, the liturgy exhorts us to recall our identification with Christ. Making the life of this redeeming, gentle Servant and Son our own life means living our baptism, our "Christening." Because we have been baptized into his death and resurrection, we, too, are servants and sons or daughters of God. This is our gift or "favor." We are the beloved ones, no matter what we do or how well or how badly we act as God's beloved. Together we pray to be faithful to our baptismal identification with God's Son, to follow his path of service, and to be as open to God as God is to us.

As baptized Christians, we have been favored with a share of the light and life of Jesus, God's "favored One." Being favored means many things: it means basking in grace; it means traveling a holy path; it means journeying to eternal life in light. It also means being busy about what baptized people do. Being favored means sharing the favor. And we can't do this in the abstract. We have to give of ourselves to others as Jesus did.

We must heal the sick, reach out to the poor, challenge evil, and even die for one another if that is called for—and it most surely is. This week, let's do someone a favor: send some flowers to a nursing home, donate some good used clothes to a free store or women's shelter, write a legislator about an important bill that's pending, refuse to put up with prejudice, give some special thanks for baptism, and remember how favored we are.
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

CULTURAL/HULA MINISTRY: If you are interested in being a part of the Cultural/Hula Ministry please join us after the 5pm Sunday Mass at 630pm-8pm. Just be open to learning more about Hula and other cultural dances within the context of our Catholic faith. If you have experience, that is also appreciated but no experience necessary. Any questions please call/text Christina Lefu'a at 808-699-1343 or email her at chrilefua@yahoo.com

DAY OF PRAYER: The over 56 million abortions since the 1973 decisions of Roe v Wade and Doe v Bolton reflect with heartbreaking magnitude what Pope Francis means by a "throwaway culture." However, we have great trust in God's providence. We are reminded time and again in Scripture to seek the Lord's help, and as people of faith, we believe that our prayers are heard. The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM), # 373, designates January 22 as a particular day of prayer and penance, called the "**Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children**": In all the Dioceses of the United States of America, **January 22 (or January 23; when January 22 falls on a Sunday)** shall be observed as a particular day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the rights and or penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion.

WORD OF LIFE: "When we encounter Christ, experience his love, and deepen our relationship with him, we become more aware of our own worth and that of others. His love for each person is cause for great joy, and growing understanding of this priceless treasure motivates us to share his love with others." - "USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities" *How to Build a Culture of Life*, "www.usccb.org/culture-of-life"

WEEKLY READINGS

Jan 13 Sun: The Baptism of The Lord

Is:40:1-5, 9-11; Ps:104; Tit:2:11-14; 3:4-7; Lk:3:15-16, 21-22

Jan 14 Mon: Ordinary Weekday

Heb:1:14-20; Ps:97:1 & 2b, 6 & 7c, 9; Mk:1:14-20

Jan 15 Tue: Ordinary Weekday

Heb:2:5-12; Ps:8:2ab & 5, 6-7, 8-9; Mk:1:21-28

Jan 16 Wed: Ordinary Weekday

Heb:2:14-18; Ps:105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9; Mk:1:29-39

Jan 17 Thu: Saint Anthony, Abbot

Heb:3:7-14; Ps: 95: 6-7c, 8-9, 10-11; Mk:1:40-45

Jan 18 Fri: Ordinary Weekday

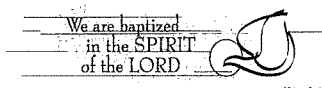
Heb:4:1-5, 11; Ps 78: 3 & 4bc, 6c-7, 8; Mk:2:1-12

Jan 19 Sat: Ordinary Weekday

Heb:4:12-16; Ps:19: 8, 9, 10, 15; Mk:2:13-17

A Beginning

Baptism signaled the beginning of Jesus' ministry. It signals the beginning of ours as well. For us, baptism begins at the font, but it doesn't end there. Baptism is promise, not fulfillment. Baptism is for growth, growth into communion with all others who have been baptized. When we are immersed in the waters of baptism, we rise because of God's "favor;" we rise by a "given" energy not our own. We name that life force the Holy Spirit. What does baptism say to us? Baptism says, "You don't have to be your own leader, a self-made person. You don't have to rely only on yourself to be successful." In the community of the Church, all the baptized find security, service, success, and wondrous favor. Copyright © 2002, World Library Publications. All rights reserved.



NOTE ON STEWARDSHIP

In today's reading from the Gospel of Luke we hear the proclamation of the baptism of Jesus with "all the people." Indeed, "heaven was opened," and the Father announced his special favor. Whenever we partake of the body and blood of Christ, heed his call in our daily lives, share his Good News, become instruments of his transforming justice and peace, heaven is opened to us, and through the Holy Spirit, the Lord announces his special favor on us as well. A good stewardship reflection this week might be this: How, or in what ways, have we personally experienced God's special favor in our lives? (**International Catholic Stewardship Council ~e-Bulletin**)

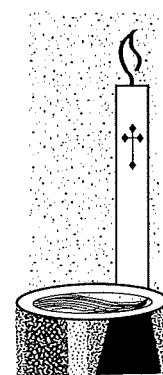
The people who approached John for baptism were poised and ready. They were on the lookout for the coming of a new leader, king, and liberator. John quickly informed them that he was not the one they were looking for, that a mightier one than he would be coming soon with a baptism of Spirit and fire. The reference to fire here recalls ancient covenants and purification in which objects were cleansed by being passed through fire. It also recalls God's presence, which was frequently accompanied by fire. John wanted his listeners to realize that baptism with fire means both a complete purification and also the presence of God (the Holy Spirit) in all those so purified.

The Gospel goes on to recount how the Holy Spirit comes upon Jesus, designating him the long-awaited Messiah. Perhaps all the people gathered at the Jordan didn't realize that Jesus was more than a human servant, but the Spirit's words were understood by those who preached after Pentecost and by the author of today's Gospel, who uses the word "Son" quite pointedly.

As the new calendar year begins, the story of the necessary baptism of Jesus signals his journey from life to death. This first revealing chapter of Jesus' life story and its meaning is set before us. This story will be told and understood through the bright light of the Resurrection. We are invited to take it all in and make it ours. What a marvelous favor! Copyright © 2002, World Library Publications. All rights reserved.



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