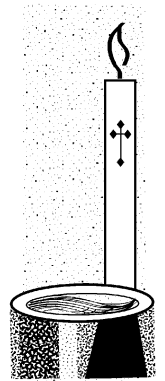


PARISH CALENDAR

Feast of the Baptism
of the Lord

January 12, 2020

Give comfort to my people,
says your God!



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

NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

Isaiah:49:3, 5-6: *You are a light to the nations.*

1 Corinthians:1:1-3: *The beginning of Paul's writings to the Corinthians.*

John:1:29-34: *The Baptism said, "Jesus is the Son of God."*

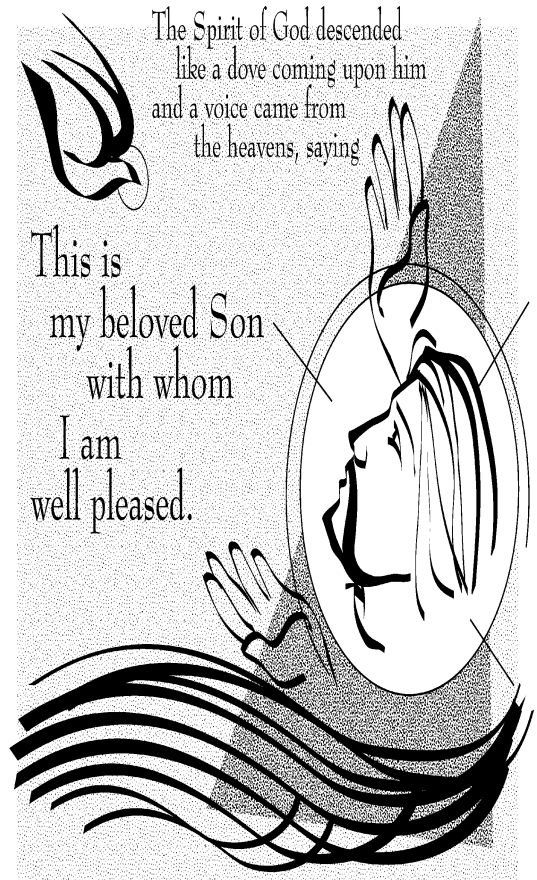
Reflection

The Church's celebration of the Baptism of the Lord brings our meditation on the Incarnation to an end. This Sunday our attention is gently, firmly shifted from the intimacy of the birth of Christ to the universality of salvation. The name, Jesus, means "the Lord saves." At the Annunciation, Mary was told that her child's name would be Jesus, because he would save the people from their sins. On the feast of the Epiphany, the small child of little Bethlehem is introduced to the world in the persons of the magi. On this Sunday we are introduced to the compassionate Savior. He is the beloved one on whom the Father's favor rests. He is also the one whose compassion goes to the great lengths described by Isaiah. He will not break the bruised reed nor quench the smoldering wick.

The second reading sends us off in a worldwide direction. Peter is called to the home of Cornelius the Gentile centurion, a God-fearing and generous man. Until this time, Peter is concerned with preaching to his fellow citizens—the Jews in Palestine. He has not yet grasped the meaning of universal salvation. But the Holy Spirit is ahead of Peter. And in the second reading we see the spread of the light that dawned at Christmas. God shows no partiality, and Jesus is Lord of all, Jew and Gentile alike. Peter recalls the anointing of the Holy Spirit that marked the beginning of Jesus' ministry. That same Spirit is present in the household of Cornelius, and he and his whole household are baptized.

This is the first recorded baptism of a Gentile in the New Testament. The fledgling Church struggled for some time before it was fully able to welcome Gentiles into the fold. This Spirit-driven decision had to overcome human reticence, and it was through the strenuous, passionate efforts of Paul that the Spirit had its way. Today, we have a universal Church—one that reaches to the ends of the earth.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRO-LIFE: The 47th annual Hawaii March for Life will be **Thursday January 16, 2020 from 4-6PM** at the State Capital rotunda. This year's theme is : **RAISE YOUR VOICE** for all of human life because Ohana begins at conception. For more information call the Diocesan Respect Life Office at 203-6722.

WORD OF LIFE: "An unexpected pregnancy can be a difficult and frightening time, and it's important that your friend knows you are thinking of her and supporting her. . . . don't forget the most important thing is to pray. Even if it's just a quick two-second prayer, prayer is the most effective way we can help. Pray for her, for her child, and for guidance in how you can give her the best possible support." USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "10 Ways to Support Her When She's Unexpectedly Expecting" (www.respectlife.org/support-her)

WEEKLY READINGS

Jan 12 Sun: The Baptism of the Lord

Isa:42:1-4, 6-7; Ps:29; Acts:10-34-38; Mt:3:13-17

Jan 13 Mon: Ordinary Weekday

1 Sam:1:1-8; Ps:116:12-13, 14-17, 18-19; Mk:1:14-20

Jan 14 Tue: Ordinary Weekday

1 Sam:1:9-20; 1 Sam:2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd ; Mk:1:21-28

Jan 15 Wed: Ordinary Weekday

1 Sam:3:1-10, 19-20; Ps:40:2 & 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10; Mk:1:29-39

Jan 16 Thur: Ordinary Weekday

1 Sam:4:1-11; Ps: 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25; Mk:1:40-45

Jan 17 Fri: Saint Anthony, Abbot

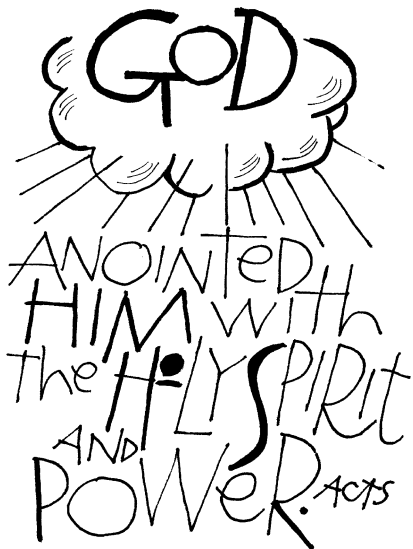
1 Sam:8:4-7, 10-22a; Ps: 89: 16-17, 18-19; Mk:2:1-12

Jan 18 Sat: Ordinary Weekday

1 Sam:9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1; Ps:21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Mk:2:13-17

Manifestation

The quiet expectation of Advent and its fulfillment in the Incarnation are open to the entire universe on this feast of the Baptism of the Lord. The beloved One over whom the single star and angels hovered and whom shepherds and magi honored, now walks to the banks of the River Jordan. His public and saving ministry begins. This is the second "epiphany," or manifestation, of the gift of God's Son. Again the heavens open and a servant and beloved Son is presented to us. Copyright © 2004, World Library Publications. All rights reserved.



NOTE ON STEWARDSHIP

Saint Matthew's story of the baptism of Jesus is an appropriate scripture reading to reflect on our own baptism. Jesus' baptism has been understood as a symbol of his death. Baptism is the sacrament by which we die to an old life of sin and enter a new life of grace. We "put on Christ." To be a good steward of one's baptism means to accept that one has new life in the risen Lord and is willing to be guided by the life of Jesus. As this year begins to unfold, reflect on the meaning of your own baptism, and how you might make an even deeper commitment to a new life in Christ Jesus. (International Catholic Stewardship Council)

In the first reading we are addressed directly. We are told of the chosen one of God. He is described as a person full of compassionate tenderness beyond imagining. Then the point of view switches, and we become the audience while the chosen one is addressed: "I have called you ... grasped you by the hand ... formed you ... set you as a covenant."

When Isaiah first spoke, this beloved servant was without a name. Nonetheless, the chosen and beloved one had a mission to act on our behalf, freeing us from blindness and the various prisons we seem to build for ourselves. The beloved servant will obliterate the darkness we create. His compassion will be limitless. That is what Isaiah tells us on this day. His prophecy leads us directly to the banks of the River Jordan, where we identify the beloved servant at the beginning of his mission.

Jesus comes down to the Jordan River's edge. He submits to a baptism of repentance. He identifies with sinners, an act that stuns John the Baptizer, whose protest is overruled by Jesus. Thus Jesus accedes to the demands of God. This act of submission is rewarded when the skies open wide and heaven reaches down to earth as Jesus arises from the water. Here is God's beloved Son; here is the one on whom God's favor rests. Here before us is the servant of whom Isaiah once sang.

On the banks of the Jordan the Father reigns on high; the descending Spirit appears in the form of a dove; the Son ascends from the water to begin his mission. Over the waters of the Jordan River, the writer of the fourth Gospel sets forth a Trinitarian vision. In its credo and proclamation and art, the Church has forever after proclaimed this faith.

This is a gentle, firm epiphany, or manifestation, of God. Jesus began his public life identifying with us and being identified by his Father. This Son of Mary is God's own beloved Son. Here, too, is a full manifestation of the Incarnation.

