



St. David's Parish  
Monastery Road, Pantasaph,  
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## PARISH NEWSLETTER

# The Baptism of the Lord

January 8, 2023

### Freedom

"The person who abandons himself totally in God's hands does not become God's puppet, a boring 'yes man'; he does not lose his freedom. Only the person who entrusts himself totally to God finds true freedom, the great, creative immensity of the freedom of good."

*Pope Benedict XVI*

## READINGS

1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Is 42:1-4, 9-10
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Acts 10:34-38
3 <sup>rd</sup> Gospel	Mt 3:13-17

### Scripture Reflections

The Baptism of the Lord is the great event celebrated by the Eastern churches on the feast of Epiphany because it is the occasion of the first public revelation of all the Three Persons in the Holy Trinity, and the official revelation of Jesus as the Son of God to the world by God the Father. Hence, it is described by all four Gospels. It marks the beginning of Jesus' public ministry.

The turning point: His baptism by John was a very important event in the life of Jesus. First it was a moment of identification with us sinners. Sinless, Jesus received the baptism of repentance to identify himself with his people who realized for the first time that they were sinners. (As given in the anecdotes, St. Damien, Blessed Mother Teresa, Gandhi, and Mandela identified with the people whom they served). Second, it was a moment of conviction about His

identity and mission: that He is the Son of God and His mission was to preach the Good News of God's love and salvation and to atone for our sins by becoming the "*suffering servant*." The Father's words, "*This is my beloved Son*," taken from Psalm 2:17, gave Jesus the identity of God's Son, and the words "*with whom I am well pleased*," from Isaiah 42:1 (referring to the "suffering servant"), pointed to Jesus' mission of atoning for the sins of the world by His suffering and death on the cross.

Third, it was a moment of equipment. The Holy Spirit equipped Jesus by descending on him in the form of dove, giving him the power of preaching and healing. Fourth, it was a moment of decision to begin public ministry at the most opportune time after receiving the approval of his Heavenly Father as His *beloved Son*.

## THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

### *(Catechism of the Catholic Church)*

1213 Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit (*vitae spiritualis ianua*), 4 and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission: "Baptism is the sacrament of regeneration through water in the word." 5

### **I. WHAT IS THIS SACRAMENT CALLED?**

1214 This sacrament is called Baptism, after the central rite by which it is carried out: to baptize (Greek *baptizein*) means to "plunge" or "immerse"; the "plunge" into the water symbolizes the catechumen's burial into Christ's death, from which he rises up by resurrection with him, as "a new creature." 6

1215 This sacrament is also called "the washing of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit," for it signifies and actually brings about the birth of water and

the Spirit without which no one "can enter the kingdom of God." 7

1216 "This bath is called enlightenment , because those who receive this [catechetical] instruction are enlightened in their understanding . . . ." 8 Having received in Baptism the Word, "the true light that enlightens every man," the person baptized has been "enlightened," he becomes a "son of light," indeed, he becomes "light" himself: 9

Baptism is God's most beautiful and magnificent gift. . . .We call it gift, grace, anointing, enlightenment, garment of immortality, bath of rebirth, seal, and most precious gift. It is called gift because it is conferred on those who bring nothing of their own; grace since it is given even to the guilty; Baptism because sin is buried in the water; anointing for it is priestly and royal as are those who are anointed; enlightenment because it radiates light; clothing since it veils our shame; bath because it washes; and seal as it is our guard and the sign of God's Lordship. 10

## **NEW YEAR COLLECTIONS**

### **Dec-Jan -31-1**

Gift Aid collection	146.00
Loose cash	142.40
Crib	92.91
Tea	22.30
<b>Total</b>	<b>403.061</b>

## MASS INTENTIONS

Date	Offered by	Intentions
8	Angela Taylor	Kel Heighton (For healing)- By
15	Angela Taylor	Catherine Parry (For healing) By

### **SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION**

**Sacrament of Confession at 11.30 am on Saturday  
ON EMERGENCY ANY TIME 0741-749-4277**

### **Please Pray for our Sick**

Eliza Brizzi, Mary Toumaine, Patrick Nagle,  
Phillip Mc Greavy, Anthony Parry

### **ANNIVERSARIES (Jan8-14)**

Michael Reilly, Sr. Maud, '87: William Morley, Catherine Murphy, '83:  
Mary Alice (Moir) Geogh, Ann Frances Smyth, '01, William Moran, '93:,  
Eric Steele '11 Rita Schwarz '12, Helen Singleton, '89:, Mary Winifred  
Fleming

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