

**Catholic Churches of  
St. Mary, St. Joseph & St. Charles  
Pastor: Fr. Kuriakose Nediakala MCBS (Fr. KK)**

**The Baptism of the Lord**

**January 9, 2022**

**St. Mary's**  
15 1st Ave NE  
Deer River, MN  
Mass 8:30 AM Sunday  
Daily Mass: 8:30 AM  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday

**St. Joseph**  
51061 Wolf Drive  
Ball Club, MN  
Mass Saturday 4:00 PM

**St. Charles**  
308 Central Ave N  
Cass Lake, MN  
Mass Sunday 11:00 AM  
Daily Mass: Thursday Noon

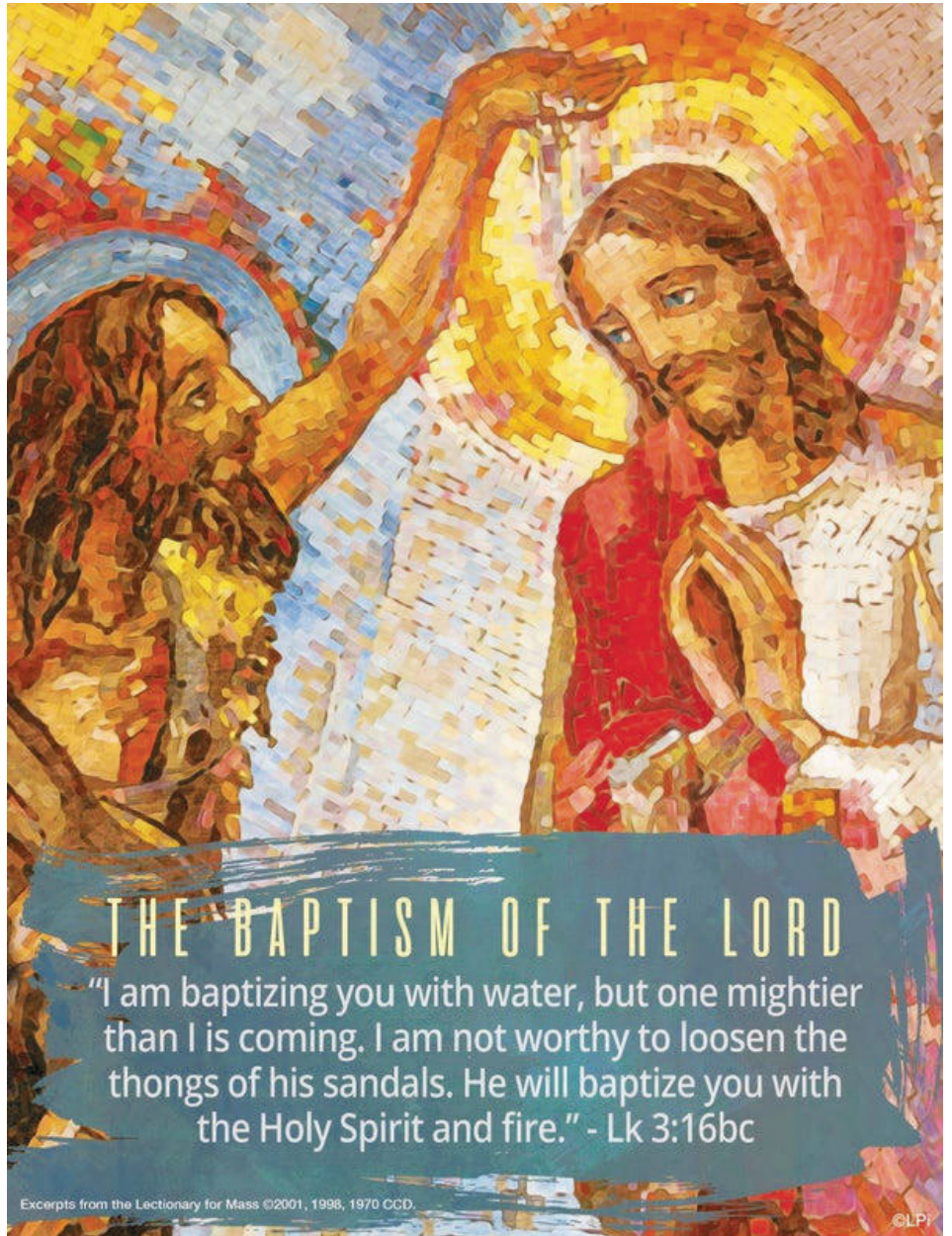
**Email**  
stmarys@paulbunyan.net  
**Fr. KK's Email**  
kkmcbs@gmail.com

**Website**  
deerrivercatholic.com  
stcharleschurch.weconnect.com

**Mailing Address**  
PO Box 98, Deer River, MN 56636

**Phone**  
218-335-2359— Cass Lake  
218-246-8582/246-2517—Deer River

**Office Hours - Deer River**  
Tuesday 9-3  
Friday 9-1



**January 10 - 16**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			St. Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church			2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
	8 Conf SM 8:30 Mass SM	8 Conf SM 8:30 Mass SM	11:30 Conf SC Noon Mass SC	8 Conf SM 8:30 Mass SM 9 Adoration SM	3:30 Conf SJ 4 Mass SJ	8 Conf SM 8:30 Mass SM 10:30 Conf SC 11 Mass SC
SJ = St. Joseph, Ball Club		SC= St. Charles, Cass Lake		SM=St. Mary, Deer River		

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## GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

January 9, 2022

### The Baptism of the Lord

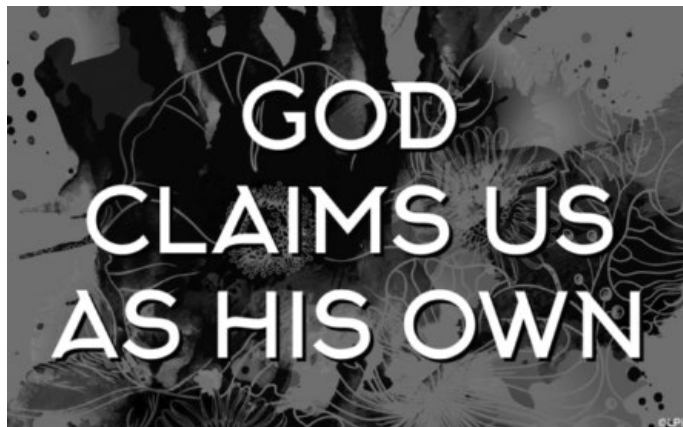
“We are called to live our baptism every day, as new creatures, clothed in Christ.”

— Pope Francis

What reference point do you use when making decisions? Many times, impulse takes control and decisions are made based solely on emotion and desire. We all know that these types of decisions can often get us into trouble. When a person has a confident sense of who they are and a real understanding of what is important and of value, the likelihood of kneejerk impulsive choices diminishes. Baptism gives us what we need to make well informed and purposeful decisions. By this simple gesture, God claims us as His own and provides us with the identity and purpose we need to properly live life.

It is tremendously reassuring, when we truly embrace this revelation and realize that we no longer have to wonder about the purpose of our lives or struggle to find our way. The answer of who we are in God has been given to us. We no longer have to fumble around, trip over ourselves or walk aimlessly about. Issues surrounding the sacredness of life, the meaning of death, the protection of those most vulnerable, care for the weak and the poor, offering hospitality to those in search of a home, the purpose and proper place of work, how to create a just social order, caring for creation, and understanding our roles as heralds and stewards are just a few of the wonderful gifts baptism brings. When we make decisions based on things such as these core Gospel truths we really act as Christ himself, revealing to others the new creations that we are. This is how we live our baptism.

It is difficult to walk against the tide. Yet, that is precisely what baptism calls us to do. Although we are sinners, in need of mercy and far from perfection we are called to order our life and make decisions based upon the wisdom and guidance of Almighty God. He alone is the one who can claim us as His sons and daughters. Standing up for our principles will not make us popular. But who ever said Christianity is a popularity contest? Baptism calls us to stand up for that which goes against the grain of secularism. Standing in line with other sinners, we have our anchor to steady us in the tempests of life and God is very pleased. Forge ahead. There is nothing to fear. ©LPi



## Mass Intentions January 10 - 16

Mon Private Mass	Claudia Lyytinen †	
Tues. 8:30	Caleb, Ray, and Family	SM
Wed. 8:30	Doug Huotari †	SM
Thur. 8:30	Lauren Daigle †	SM
Fri. 8:30	Dale and Dawn Evans	SM
Sat. 4:00	Gertrude Villeneuve †	SJ
Sun. 8:30	Richard Steinhoff †	SM
Sun. 11:00	For the people of our cluster parishes	SC

## St. Mary's and St. Joseph's Religious Education

There will be religious education classes this coming Wednesday, January 12.

2:30pm - 4:00pm Grades K - 5

6:00pm - 7:00pm Grades 6 - Confirmation

## St. Charles Parish Council

There will be a Parish Council meeting today after Mass at St. Charles. If you are a parish council member, please plan to attend. Thank you.

## St. Mary's and St. Joseph's Joint Parish Council

St. Mary's and St. Joseph's will have a Parish Council Meeting on Thursday, January 13th at 9:00am. If you are a Parish Council member at St. Mary's or St. Joseph's, please plan to attend this meeting.



## Anointing of the Sick or Pastoral Visit

If you are ill or will be having surgery and would like to receive the Sacrament of the Sick, please call the Parish Office to set up a time to meet with Fr. KK. If hospitalized, be sure to indicate you are Catholic upon hospital admittance.

## **EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS**

### **I Hope I Am Like Him**

“Who is this Christ? Is he like you?”

Perhaps you've heard this story, often attributed to the life of St. Teresa of Calcutta. A sick man asked her this question, as he marveled at her tireless service to himself and others in the name of someone named Jesus Christ.

“He is nothing like me,” the saint is said to have answered. “But I hope I am like him.”

Though the authenticity of this exchange cannot be verified, its message rings perfectly true: all the value of our stewardship lies in its relativity to the one in whose name we perform it.

Consider the figure of John the Baptist — a magnificent, towering character even purely from a literary or historical perspective. A martyr who fed on wild locusts and boldly spoke truth to power — a man so great some mistook him for the Messiah.

But why is he great? Because he prepared the way. All his accomplishments and escapades mean nothing if they are taken out of the context of salvation history. He only makes sense relative to Christ — and this is exactly as he wanted it. “One worthier than I is coming,” he insists. And because of that humility and that total embrace of God's will, he is given one of the greatest honors in the New Testament — he baptizes the Son of God.

Let's examine our lives in the light of their relativity to Christ. How do we prepare the way? When Christ comes to us, what do we do? How do we leave ourselves open to be actors in God's plan?

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi



# BAPTISM OF THE LORD

The Baptism of Christ is not explained in Scripture. We know it is connected in some way with our own baptism, because John told the multitude, "I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." (Mk 1:8) If John baptized with water only, Christ would baptize with the Holy Spirit. But if Christ Himself would baptize, with a baptism far greater than John's, why did He have to be baptized by John at all?

John's baptism was a sign of repentance, a symbolic act by which the person baptized renounced his sins. But John knew Jesus had no sins to renounce or repent of. And so he said, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" (Mt 3:14) But Christ insisted. He said, "Thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness." (Mt 3:15) And so the question of why Christ had to be baptized can be put in these terms. How did Christ's being baptized fulfil all righteousness?

Baptism didn't begin with John the Baptist. It was originally a Jewish rite, which symbolized a washing from unrighteousness through the renunciation of sin. It was used until John's day for the cleansing of Gentiles who were converting to Judaism. John's baptism was revolutionary, in that he offered it to Jews -- meaning that they, no less than the Gentiles, needed to be cleansed of their sins. They were no better than the Gentiles in conforming their lives to the will of God. And this was a preparation for the teaching of Christ, that all mankind, Jew and Gentile alike, needs to come to Him for cleansing.

In light of all this, why was it necessary for Christ Himself to undergo a rite that symbolized repentance from sin? He had no sins to renounce or repent of. In being baptized, Christ renounced not His own sins, but the sins of mankind.

As John himself said, Jesus is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. Our sins are taken away when God forgives us for them. And one condition for God to forgive us our sins is that we atone for them, or pay for them. Christ atoned for our sins by His death on the Cross. But there is another condition for our sins to be forgiven. We have to repent of them.



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