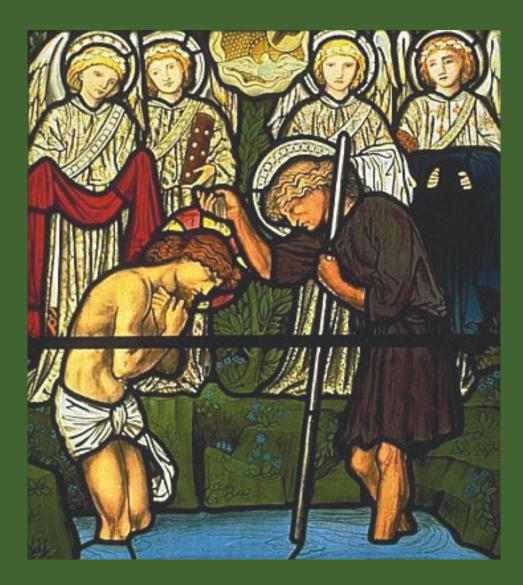


9 January 2022



Confessions Saturday 9-9:45 am in the chapel (in the church on 1st Saturdays) 3:30-4:15 pm in the church Tuesday 6:30-7:30 pm in the church

<u>Masses</u> Saturday 4:30 pm [anticipated] Sunday 8 am, 9:30 am, 11 am

Daily Mass in the chapel Monday-Friday at 9 am Saturday at 10 am (First Saturdays in the church) HOLY HOURS

confessions & eucharistic adoration in the church **Tuesday 6:30-7:30 pm First Saturday 9 am** (followed by Mass at 10 am)

WHY DID JESUS INSIST ON BEING BAPTIZED?

If baptism is necessary for the forgiveness of sins, why did Jesus insist on being baptized by his cousin, John? And if baptism, as St. Peter wrote, "now saves you … through the resurrection of Jesus Christ" (1 Pet 3:21), why would the Messiah deem it appropriate, even necessary, to be baptized? What, was the point of the Lord's baptism in the Jordan River?

These and related questions fascinated and perplexed many of the early Church fathers and theologians. The baptism of Christ, writes Fr. Kilian McDonnell, O.S.B., in his study of the topic, *The Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan: The Trinitarian and Cosmic Order of Salvation* (The Liturgical Press, 1996), "was widely discussed in all the currents of theological reflection" in the early Church, "without doubt partly because of the problems it posed." From this discussion emerged many helpful theological insights.

St. Justin Martyr (d. 165), one of the first great apologists, addressed the baptism in his *Dialogue with Trypho*. He emphasized that the Son had no need to be baptized—just as he had no need to be born, to suffer, or die—but did so in order to reveal himself to mankind; the baptism, in other words, was the messianic manifestation, a sign for the Church first, and then the world.

When Jesus came to the waters, St. Justin wrote, "He was deemed a carpenter," but the proclamation of the Father and the descent of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove showed him to be far more than a mere worker of wood.

In his famous work, *Against Heresies*, St. Irenaeus (d. c. 202) focused on the participation of those who believe in Christ in the anointing of the Savior. The connection between the baptism and anointing—itself an essential Messianic concept—is already evident in the New Testament, as heard in today's reading from the Acts of the Apostles: "...how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power."

This same anointing, St. Irenaeus wrote, is given to those who are baptized into Christ. The Holy Spirit, having descended upon the Son, has become "accustomed in fellowship with Him to dwell in the human race, to rest with human beings, and to dwell in the workmanship of God, working the will of the Father in them, and renewing them from their old habits into the newness of Christ." Others delved into the mystery and meaning of the Jordan River, which was already, at the time of Christ, the site of many key events in the history of Israel. St. Hippolytus (d. c. 236) referred to "the Grand Jordan"; Origen (d. 254) wrote that just as "no one is good, except the one only God, the Father," likewise "no river is good except the Jordan." St. Gregory of Nyssa (d. c. 394), in his treatise, *On the Baptism of Jesus*, wrote, "For Jordan alone of rivers, receiving in itself the firstfruits of sanctification and benediction, conveyed in its channel to the whole world, as it were from some fount in the type afforded by itself, the grace of Baptism."

Just as Joshua had entered the Promised Land by crossing the Jordan, Jesus opened the way to heaven by entering and dividing the same waters.

St. Ephrem (d. 373) wrote a beautiful hymn in which he connected the baptism of Jesus with the womb of Mary and the sacrament of the Eucharist: "See, Fire and Spirit in the womb that bore you! See, Fire and Spirit in the river where you were baptized! Fire and Spirit in our Baptism; in the Bread and the Cup, Fire and Holy Spirit!" Christ, the Light of the World, dwelt first in the womb of the Virgin—who was thus "baptized" by her Son—and then in the womb of the Jordan; he emerged from both as the Incarnate Word, the Savior of mankind. Those who are baptized thus become the children of Mary and partakers of the body, blood, soul, and divinity of her Son.



(This "Opening the Word" column originally appeared in the January 10, 2010, edition of *Our Sunday Visitor* newspaper.)

<u>REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS</u> All who are suffering or sick and all caregivers who minister to the sick:

Barbara Jo Russell, Marie Norment, Andy Luther, Paula Luther, Marian Luther, Harold Joyce, Levi Harris, Gary Schenk, Joanne Newsom, Anne Marie Whittaker, Greg and Felicia Yohe, Joe Coleman, John Hogan, Deirdre McQuade, Danny Hart, Amy Howard, Mary Morehead and family, Curtis Bailey, Leondre Massey, Sister Constance Ward, George Cochran, Mark Anthony Turner, Rachel Fisher, Patricia Ransom, Beverly A. Woods, Kerianna Prather, Domingo G., Adrian and Barbara.; D.K.C.,M.M., R.M., K.M., C.M., C.A., E.D., E.G., W.B., J.M., H.G., and J.G.

Please call or email the office to add a name to the prayer list. Before calling, please be sure you have spoken to the person [or a member of his family] about adding the name—we do not want to inadvertently disregard someone's desire for privacy.

Names of those who are sick or suffering will be kept on the list for one month; to keep a name on the list for longer, you must email the parish office.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOSPITALITY MINISTRY

If you would like to support the parish ministry of hospitality by cooking dinner or donating a takeout meal to new mothers, by preparing finger foods for after -service receptions, or by making food for funeral repasts, please contact the parish office at stlukesdcordinariate@gmail.com or office@saint-ig.org; we will give your contact information to our hospitality organizers.

SCHEDULE ADDITIONS

We have added a Holy Hour of confessions and eucharistic adoration in the church every Tuesday night at 6:30 pm and every 1st Saturday at 9 am. Come spend some time with the Lord.

VITA TAX SERVICES

The Catholic Charities Financial Stability Network is again offering free tax preparation services. To register, go to www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/vita-registration. VITA applicants may complete and submit the registration form, and VITA volunteers will begin contacting registrants in mid-January.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

Interested in learning more about Catholic school admissions, enrollment, and tuition assistance?

The Catholic Schools Office will host virtual information sessions on Wednesday, January 12 and Thursday, January 13, 2022 at 7:00PM. Register at www.adwcatholicschools.org

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, 8 January

Anticipated Mass for Sunday [the Baptism of the Lord] 4:30 pm pro populo

Sunday, 9 January

The Baptism of the Lord 8 am Anne Philpott [Maggie Edmonson] 9:30 am special intention [Rosemary Coller] 11 am Kenneth Lewis +

Monday, 10 January Feria

9 am Lorraine LaValley + [Don and Diana Gritz]

Tuesday, 11 January *Feria* 9 am Sandra Bell +

Wednesday, 12 January Benedict Biscop, Abbot 9 am Clifford Schaible + [anniversary commemoration]

Thursday, 13 January *Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church* 9 am Rev. Arthur Woolley + [Jane And Steve Lawrence]

Friday, 14 January Feria

9 am Byron +

Saturday, 15 January Feria 10 am Anne Whelan

Anticipated Mass for the Second Sunday after Epiphany 4:30 pm pro populo

Sunday, 16 January

The Second Sunday after Epiphany 8 am Gene and Shirley Morris + 9:30 am Teresita Bantug [Edwin Smith] 11 am Monica Hayes +

St. Ignatius Finance Council

Jackie Chancio • Deacon Clark Glenn Joseph Somerville • Clifford Woods

> office@saint-ig.org SAINT-IG.ORG 301-567-4740



Rev. John Vidal, pastor Rev. Jason Catania, parochial vicar

Joint Pastoral Council

Joseph Chancio • Rosemary Coller Michael Taylor • James Guinivan Ada Okafor • Elizabeth Shivone Connie Somerville Patrick Delaney - *ex officio* Susan White - *ex officio* St. Luke's Finance Council

Patrick Delaney - *Co-chair* Nicole Crawford • Dave Hoppe David Lewis • Franco Madan

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