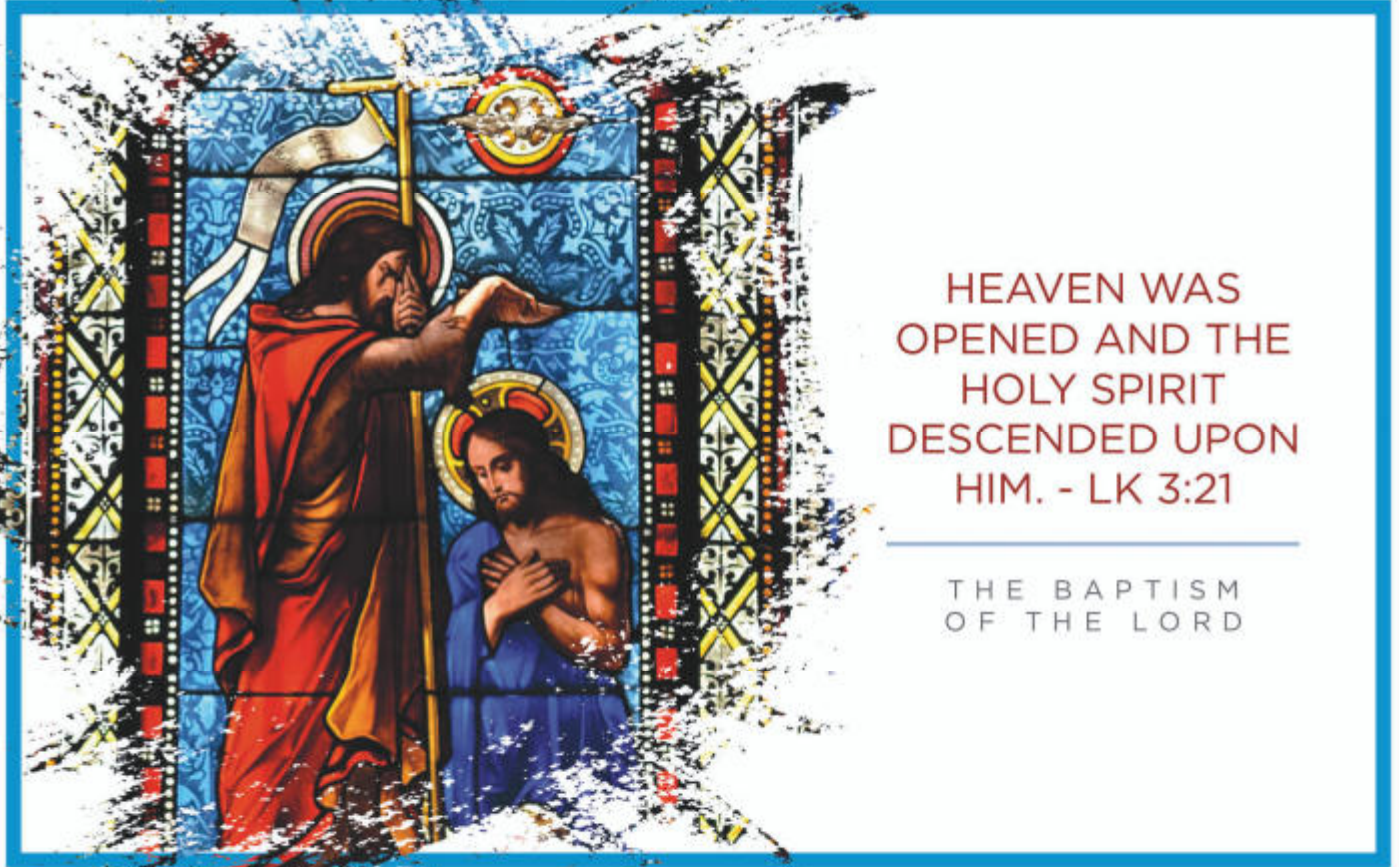


Saint Jerome Catholic Church

January 9, 2022



HEAVEN WAS
OPENED AND THE
HOLY SPIRIT
DESCENDED UPON
HIM. - LK 3:21

THE BAPTISM
OF THE LORD

EXCERPTS FROM THE LECTIONARY FOR MASS ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPI

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Mass Schedule

- ◆ Monday-Friday 8am
- ◆ Saturday vigil 4:30pm
- ◆ Sunday 8:30am,
10:30am, 12:30pm
(Nigerian Community)
- ◆ Holy Days as announced

Sacrament of Reconciliation

3pm to 3:50pm in the Gold
Room, sign up via Flock-
note



JOSHUA 24:15



For the week
of
January 9

Sunday: Francis E. Abbey, Sr.;
Patricia Pryor; Colin Canaan (L)

Monday: Norman DeGarie

Tuesday: Sr. Suzanne Hixsion

Wednesday: Regina Newman

Thursday: Lloyd Vreger

Friday: Tom Miller (L)



The spring 2022 session of the Endow women's ministry will be studying St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein), seeker of the truth. There

will be both a virtual group and in person group.

The virtual group will meet Monday evenings beginning January 31 via Zoom from 8:15pm to 9:30pm.

The in-person group will meet Wednesday mornings beginning February 2 and will meet in the Gold Room from 8:45am to 10:45am.

Please register by January 17.

To register, email helizwright@hotmail.com the following:

- 1) Which group you'll attend (Monday zoom or Wednesday in person)
- 2) Name
- 3) Email
- 4) Phone
- 5) Whether you'll buy a book on your own, or need a book purchased for you (books are \$35, or pay what you can)

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.

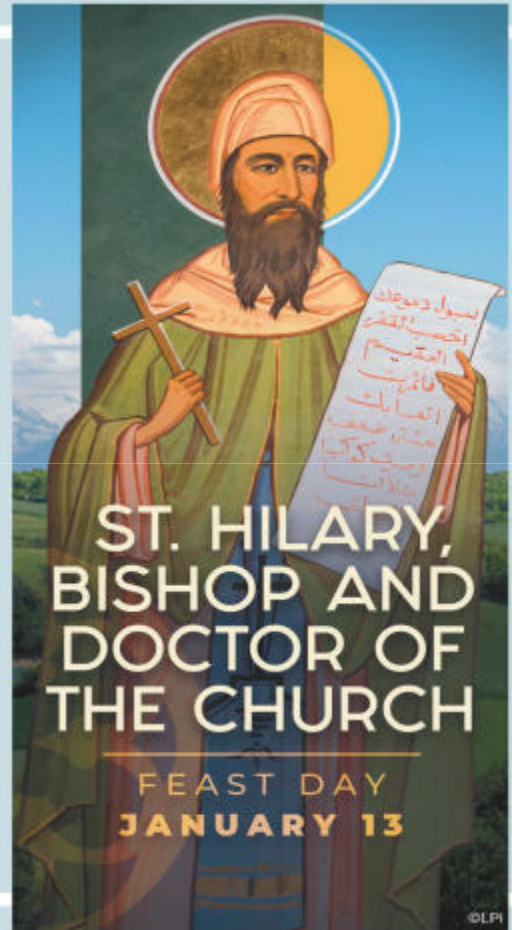
Let's examine our lives in the light of their relativity to Christ. How do we prepare the way? When Christ comes to us, what do we do? How do we leave ourselves open to be actors in God's plan?

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

LIVE THE LITURGY

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Jesus stood in line with everyone else and was baptized. There is something incredibly humbling about how this must have played out. Then, God did something truly awesome and inspiring. Through a very gentle and simple action he let the world know about the special relationship He shares with Jesus. That's exactly what is so incredible about our baptisms as well! Through those holy waters God announces to the world the special place we also occupy in His heart. We no longer have to wonder about the purpose of our lives or struggle to find our way. We do not need to fumble around, tripping over ourselves and wondering why we are even here. The answer has been given. All we have to do is live out the vocation we have received, to live the Gospel in fidelity to our Creator. There is nothing to fear and worry has no place. Standing in line with other sinners, we have our anchor and God is very pleased.



Saint of the Week

Born a pagan, St. Hilary (c. 315 – c. 367) studied philosophy and the meaning of life, eventually making his way through the bible. He became a convert and was appointed bishop of Poitiers in 353. Sometimes referred to as the Hammer of the Arians, St. Hilary defended the Nicene Creed against a popular heresy, Arianism. He was exiled to Phrygia for opposing Roman emperor Constantius II, who preferred the heresy which denies Christ's divinity. From Phrygia St. Hilary fought with his pen, zealously writing against the heresy.

Eventually he was allowed to return to Poitiers, but did so by a circuitous route, preaching against Arianism all the way. St. Hilary was likely the first writer of hymns in the West, his writings on the Trinity, Psalms and Gospel of Matthew survive today. St. Hilary was created Doctor of the Church, a title given to those who provided important contributions to theology and doctrine, in 1851 by Pope Pius IX.

GOSPEL MEDITATION

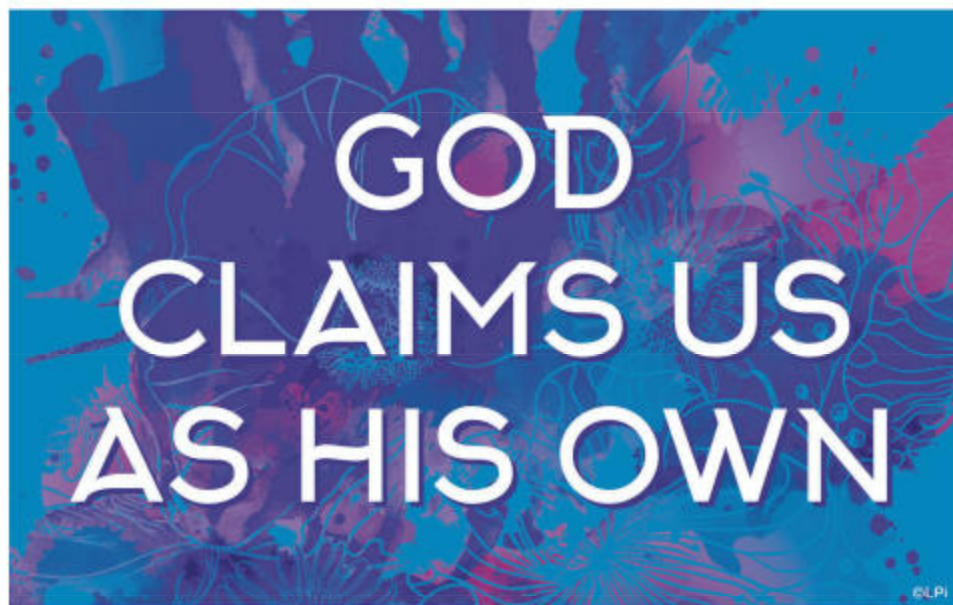
ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

"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 tumble 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.

*"I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."
- Lk 3:16bc*

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