

January 9, 2022

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THE BAPTISM *of the Lord*

"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

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

The Catholic Ministry Appeal

Its as easy as 1,2,3 Many have asked about what to do about this new Appeal.

Its as easy as 1,2,3.

1. Read the letters you will receive from Father Paul and the Bishop during this month, and the Bulletin articles,
2. Listen to the presentations from the altar during the weekends in January,
3. Determine how you wish to allocate your Parish giving for the year, between General Collection, Building Fund, and Ministry Appeal ,and then donate accordingly, pledging or giving an amount to the Ministry Appeal during February Commitment Weekends.

Leaving a Legacy: Wills, Trusts and Estate Planning

If you would like to name St. Luke Catholic Church as one of the beneficiaries of your will, life insurance policy or IRA account, please ask your lawyer to use the following form: "I give devise, and bequeath (amount, article, stock, etc.) to Gregory Parkes, as Bishop of the Diocese of St.Petersburg, and his successors in office, a Corporation Sole, for the use of St.Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, Palm Harbor." Consider leaving a legacy for the good of the Church and for the future of our parish family!

The 12th Annual Tampa Bay Men's Conference

Featuring Fr. Larry Richards and Dr. Ray Guarendi ~*Celebrating Mass* Bishop Gregory Parkes
Saturday, February 26, 2022 ~ Higgins Hall at St. Lawrence Catholic Church, Tampa For tickets or more information visit SuncoastCatholicMinistries.com

Knights of Columbus

To our current and future members of our council, meetings are on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 7pm. Any questions please contact Bill Gargiulo 727-902-0176, or Dennis Deperto 727-785-0426

Care Givers Meeting

1st & 3rd Tuesday of Every Month 10AM-Noon. Bays End Manor Clubhouse 3432 State Road 580 Safety Harbor. For Information, Contact Cathy 727-771-9018.

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The Baptism of the Lord

The Stage for the Baptism of Jesus was set by John the Baptist, who preached judgement and repentance. People were filled with expectation that he was the Christ. Then out of obscurity Jesus walked in, and was baptized by John. He was revealed to be God's beloved son "After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove and the voices of the Father thundered; This is my beloved son, with whom I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:16-17). The early followers of Jesus realized that Jesus' own ministry began after he was baptized by John. The Gospel of Mark, the first to be written, states that John preached baptism as atonement for our sins.

But why did Jesus, who is without sin submit to baptism by John? Each Evangelist has his own take on it, Matthew says it was to fulfill all righteousness (Matthew 3:15). Luke places the baptism of Jesus in the passive voice "After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized (Luke 3:21). John's Gospel does not say Jesus was baptized by John. John the Baptist saw Jesus coming towards him and said "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.. "Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God." (John 1:29-34). None of the other New Testament writers mention Jesus being baptized. So do we have an answer as to why Jesus, the sinless one, had to receive baptism? Was Jesus identifying himself with the rest of humanity? There is no clear cut answer to satisfy our curiosity.

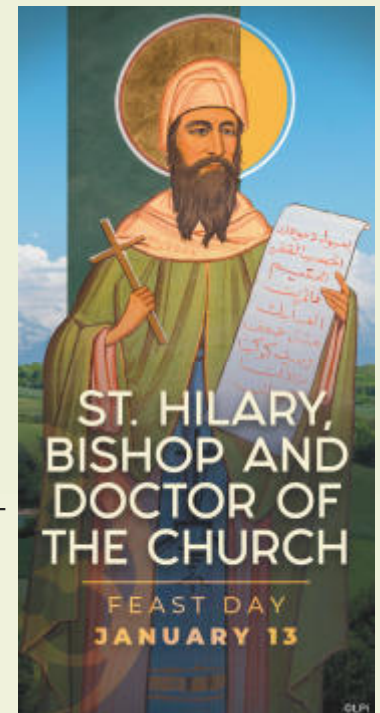
One thing that is clear is the ministry of Jesus that began shortly after His baptism. The Holy Spirit was active at the time of His baptism. Luke also shows that Jesus was at prayer during this event.

Baptism is fundamental to Catholics. Through Baptism we enter into the church, who imparts us to all the rights, privileges and responsibilities. Baptism is a moment of Joy for the parents and the wider family of the Church. Adult baptisms are done at Easter Vigil, but children's baptisms are ideally done at the celebration of the weekend Masses. It makes no sense to say to the child that we welcome you in our community of faith but we are not here to support them. So let us realize the importance of performing baptisms within the celebration of our weekend Masses. It will be a journey back in time when we ourselves were brought into our local parishes for our own baptisms.

The feast of the baptism of the Lord officially marks the last day of this year's Christmas Season. As we enter into the Ordinary time we all need to hear the voice of God "You are my beloved son/ daughter; with you I am well pleased".

Promoting Vocations to Priesthood and Religious Life

Priests and religious are ordinary people. They are called to do extraordinary tasks, with God's own amazing grace and power. These days there are shortages of priests and religious. What are you doing to encourage and promote vocations? Is there someone you know who has an appreciation for serving the church? Can you ask those to step up for the service of the Lord and the people? Do you pray for an increase in vocations to Religious Life and priesthood?



KIDS CORNER

Pastor: Fr. Paul Kochu

Associate Pastor:

Fr. Camilo Simoes SAC

Deacon: Joe Reid

Bulletin Ph: (813) 230-6412

bulletin@stlukealderman.org

Family Apostolate: Lynn Kilbride

FamilyApostolate@StLukeAlderman.org

SHARING THE GOSPEL

Your Dad says, "Wash your hands, please. It is almost time to eat." After you wash your hands really well, your Dad smiles. He says, "That's my boy. You did a good job!" In today's Gospel, it was time for Jesus to be baptized.

After his baptism, Jesus talked to God his Father in prayer. Jesus did everything his Father asked. God was happy with his Son and said, "I'm pleased with you."

PRAYER

God, I want to make you and my parents happy.

MISSION FOR THE WEEK

Find out what makes God happy. As a family, read John 15:9-12.

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

JOHN
MESSIAH
BAPTIZING

WATER
POWERFUL
SANDALS

HOLY SPIRIT
FIRE
JESUS

A J T U A R B Y W E N
H O L Y S P I R I T O
E H A I T O S U F A M
J N E G Y W A T E R E
I Y B E H E U P L M S
H S I N U R M O A Y S
J U P A W F I R E C I
E M O Z T U Y M S U A
S A N D A L S E O T H
U D Y T O E A N G E D
S O B A P T I Z I N G

Catholic School Scholarships are Available!

Have you thought about sending your child to a Catholic school? Now might be the time! You could receive a scholarship to cover most or all of the tuition, thanks to @StepUp4Students. Find out if you qualify at www.SUFS.org/Catholic.

Building Fund

Urgently Needed to Complete our Renovation Work. Your help is greatly needed to continue with the up-keep and improvement of our facilities. Your generosity is gratefully appreciated.

Dear Parishioners,

Advent prepares us to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Savior of the world. As a parish family, let us be well prepared that He will be born in our hearts, in our homes and in our neighborhoods. This is my prayer for you and your loved ones this Christmas.

Amid the trouble in the world and discontent in our nation, the only source for peace and joy is still the Word Made Flesh – Our Infant Savior. True peace on earth flows from our recognition and praise of God in our lives. Take some time to count your blessings.

A year-end Christmas gift is one chance to go beyond your generous sacrifices to the Church throughout the year. As your pastor, I am humbled by your generosity and try my best to be a meticulous steward of your treasure.

Again, this year, I request that each family donate an additional \$150.00 for the good of our parish. For some this might be a huge amount. Others may be able to go beyond it because of the blessings you have received. Your sacrifice is what counts, and I thank you in advance for your generosity and prayerful consideration.

We wish you and your dear ones a very Blessed Christmas and a Christ-filled New Year, 2022.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Father Paul Kochu, Pastor

Father Camilo Simoes, Associate Pastor



WHY DO WE DO THAT?
Catholic Life Explained:

Question:

At my grandson's Baptism, the priest put a bib on the baby. I do not remember seeing this before. Why is this done? Is it something new?

Answer:

When an adult is baptized, there is a part in the ceremony when the newly baptized is vested in a white garment. It is symbolic of the changes that baptism brings in the life of the baptized as they are freed from the bonds of sin and brought into the saving grace of Christ. Realities that are so profound are symbolically presented so that we might better grasp and understand them.

Infants are often dressed in a baptismal dress, which is the baptismal garment. In some places, the bib is used as a kind of baptismal garment. At the place in the ceremony where the investiture takes place, the bib is used. Some are poncho-like and fit over the baby's head. Others are simply placed on the baby's chest. If the baby is dressed in a white garment, nothing else is needed. The prayer says it all: "See in your white garment the outward sign of your Christian dignity ... bring that dignity unstained into the everlasting life of heaven." In baptism, we are given our purpose and goal in life as believers, and this is symbolized by the white garment.

	<i>Time</i>		<i>Intentions</i>	<i>Office</i>
Sat, 1/8	4pm	+	Stephen Weber	Closed
		+	Irene Praulx	
Sun, 1/9	8am	+	Joan Pipia	Closed
	10am		Parish Family	
	4pm		For Driver's Ministry Members	
Mon, 1/10	8am		Kathy Abernethy Daniel & Isabelle Pendergart	8:30am-12:30pm
Tues, 1/11	8am		Betty Ann Catanzaro Frank Gallagher Sr	8:30am-12:30pm
Wed, 1/12	8am		Living & Deceased Family of John O. Mercado	8:30am-12:30pm
		+	Carlos Varela	
Thur, 1/13	8am	+	Juanita Ward	8:30am-12:30pm
			Elizabeth Bastas	
Fri, 1/14	8am		Mia & Michael Sipos	8:30am-12:30pm
		+	Mary Meade	
Sat, 1/15	4pm	+	Eugene Wittmann	Closed
		+	Mary Ann Breault	

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. ©LP

Reminder—Please do not staple or tape your envelope.

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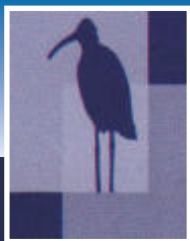
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Board Certified Civil Trial Lawyer

Trial Practice - Personal Injury and Wrongful Death

Attorney Tim Ingram Jr.

Graduated from the UF Levin College of Law
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