

**Saint Christina Parish of Turner County  
PO Box 610 Parker, South Dakota 57053**

**Sunday, January 9, 2022**

**BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

**One of the most epic scenes in the Bible is the crossing of the Red Sea in the Exodus story. If you were to ask the average person on the street to name a story from the Bible, this would probably be one of the most frequently mentioned. There is something so satisfying about the story of a persecuted people, slaves to an imperial power, who are able to make a miraculous escape to freedom. The Israelites escape through the power of God and meanwhile Pharaoh and his chariots are drowned in the Red Sea. I would invite you to reread this story if it's been a while, you can find it in Exodus 14. This moment of the escape from Egypt becomes an identity-making event for the People of Israel. As you read through the rest of the Old Testament, Israel knows itself as God's chosen people because of this moment when God liberated them from slavery and led them to the Promised Land. Even as Israel is consistently unfaithful to God, they are constantly reminded that God is faithful as they look back and remember the moment of the crossing of the Red Sea.**

**Every single Christian has experienced their own crossing of the Red Sea. Do you remember when yours was? Mine was August 25<sup>th</sup>, 1991. This was the day I escaped slavery and was set free by the power of God. I'm referring,**

**of course, to the day of my baptism. Through baptism, Christians “pass through the waters from slavery to liberation. Every single human person comes into the world a slave of sin. This is not an exaggeration. Rather, it is simply an acknowledgment of the reality of original sin that is our common inheritance as members of the human family, caught up by the fall of our first parents, Adam and Eve. Every person is conceived in this state of original sin and we are completely incapable of fixing this situation. In other words, we cannot “get out” of sin by ourselves, we are enslaved to it.**

**This is where the good news of Jesus come in. Jesus is the new Moses who leads his people out of slavery into freedom, This was accomplished in the death and resurrection of Jesus when he defeated sin and death, robbing them of their power. The salvation of Jesus still needs to be given to each individual human person who comes into the world. This is where the sacrament of baptism comes in. In baptism, we are forgiven of our original sin, and we are adopted as sons and daughters of God. So not only are we set free from slavery to sin, but we become an heir to the Kingdom of God. There is no greater moment in our lives, then the moment of baptism. As we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus this weekend, let’s take a moment to give thanks for our liberation. Jesus has led us through the Red Sea into the Promised Land.**

**Fr. Tyler**

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**WEEKLY MASSES—— St. Christina**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 9<sup>th</sup>  
“THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD”  
Holy Mass: 11:00AM**

**++Tuesday, January 11th:  
Confessions 5:00PM  
Holy Mass 6:00PM  
Int: +Alan Marsh**

**++Thursday, January 13th:  
Holy Mass 8:00AM  
Int: +Melissa Leber**

**Sunday, January 16<sup>th</sup>  
Mass 11:00AM**

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**Baptism of the Lord**

**Bud Ozar**

**In today's gospel Jesus was publicly AFFIRMED by his Father: "You are my beloved son, with you I am very pleased." As parents we become so focused on misbehaviors we overlook the good behaviors. Jesus needed AFFIRMATION and so do our children.**

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**St. Christina Church Support 2021: Deposited**  
**Monday, January 3rd, 2022:**

**5 Env. Reg. Giving \$575.00; 1 Env. Fuel Fund \$100.00.  
Thank You for your Generous Treasure.**

**St. Christina Church Support: Deposited**  
**Monday, January 3rd, 2022:**

**30 Env. Reg. Giving \$2269.00; 1 Env. Reg. \$80.00;  
Loose Giving \$26.00; Mass Stipends \$100.00;  
1 Env. Fuel Fund \$100.00; 7 Initial Env. \$102.00;  
Jan. 1, 2022-Holy Day 4 Env. \$60.00.  
Thank You for your Generous Treasure.**

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**If anyone would be available on Monday morning for an hour or hour and a half to assist with counting the Sunday Collection, it would be greatly appreciated.**

**Please call the Parish Office: 297-4983.**

**The time could be flexible and coffee could be provided.  
Thank you for your interest.**

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**THERE ARE STILL MANY ENVELOPES**

**ON THE TABLE IN THE**

**FRONT ENTRY**