

*Come to the water!*

# The Baptism of the Lord



*San Ignacio de Loyola Parish*

*January 11, 2015*

## REFLECTION ON THE WORD

**B**aptism is about who we become through our new relationship with God and each other. The event of Jesus' baptism with water in the Jordan revealed who he already was: the "beloved Son" with whom God was "well pleased". Jesus' baptism



did not change his identity, but revealed who he was. John prophesied that Jesus, however, would bring an entirely different baptism, for he would baptize us with the Holy Spirit. The event of our baptism with the Spirit announces to all present who we become, beloved children with whom God is "well pleased".

Baptism initiates us into a way of living defined by a relationship of identity. Our whole Christian life is a journey of taking ownership of the ownership God has already taken of us. Through baptism God claims us. Our whole Christian life is a journey of keeping our baptismal garment spotless, living the dignity God has bestowed on us, growing in our identity as the beloved of God, allowing God to lay claim on us, being open to the Spirit who dwells within us. By this indwelling—God's very Life—Jesus' life and way of living become our own. Jesus' saving work becomes our own life work.

**Words to reflect upon:**

**Through baptism God claims us**

*O Jesus! Meek and humble of heart, Hear me.  
From the desire of being esteemed, deliver me, Jesus.  
From the desire of being praised, deliver me, Jesus.  
From the desire of being consulted, deliver me, Jesus.  
From the desire of being approved, deliver me, Jesus.  
From the fear of being forgotten, deliver me, Jesus.  
This I ask through the grace of the Living God. Amen*

## LIVING THE PASCHAL MYSTERY

### The Suffering, Death And Resurrection Of Christ And Our Participation In It

We are plunged into the baptismal waters and rise out of those waters a new creation grafted onto Christ. We spend our lives growing into our identity as members of the Body of Christ. We spend our lives appreciating what it means to be God's beloved and the kind of life that relationship requires of us. We spend our lives continuing Jesus' saving mission. We spend our lives being the risen Presence of Christ for others. Being Christlike is what our baptismal identity is all about.

At our baptism we unite ourselves with Christ as his Body (become God's children) and commit ourselves to continue his saving mission. Our lives must be spent being faithful to the relationship with God in Christ through the Holy Spirit which our baptism begins. Our dignity is found in being faithful to our identity and living the Gospel Jesus proclaimed, doing works with which God is "well pleased".

**Words to reflect upon: a new creation grafted onto Christ**

The feast days of **Christmastide** make the full meaning of Christmas clear. In this Child's light we all walk safely through the unknown — with the opening of the heavens on the bank of the Jordan, we all have our first vision of life beyond life.

*First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people,*  
1 Timothy 2:1

**LET US PRAY TOGETHER TODAY** for the chronically ill: Sylvia Tasner, Jerry Vega, Fr. Vega, Rudy & Sonia Méndez, **Maggie Maziarz**, and Peter Fiorito. *Let us continue to pray together this week for all displaced people and refugees, especially the children, and that this painful scourge be removed from the face of God's earth.*



## POPE FRANCIS

### *The Work of a Christian Lifetime*



Pope Francis' simple message of mercy, service and renewal has spread to every corner of the world. Through his gentle demeanor, selfless actions and welcoming call for service to others, Pope Francis has captured the attention of a world longing for an authentic message of hope—we want to hear what he has to say.

What we see in Francis is a subtle intelligence that is nondualistic and contemplative, an amazing courage that could only be sustained by very real prayer and a compassion that has become a challenge and inspiration to all of us.

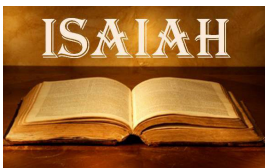
The Gospel cautions us: “Be careful how you listen” (*Luke 11:23*). Pope Francis has emerged as a giant corrective to so much of our small seeing and listening by telling us that the first Christian hearing aid and lens through which we receive the moment must always be nothing less than the ears and eyes of love. It is almost too simple, and yet as we have all learned, it is the hard work of a whole Christian lifetime. Pope Francis appears to be the work of art that emerges after a whole Christian lifetime. The world loves to look at it.

— Richard Rohr, OFM



## Let Peace Fill My Heart!

### PRAYING WITH SCRIPTURE



The responsorial psalm this Sunday is not taken from the Psalter but from the *Book of Isaiah* (*Isaiah 12:2-3*). The verses are part of a song celebrating God's deliverance of Israel from disaster and destruction. Isaiah proclaims God savior and calls all Israel to spread the news of God's saving intervention to “all the earth”. In these verses the mighty Isaiah sings about God's gift of salvation.

*First Reading Isaiah 55:1-1; Second Reading 1 John 5:1-9*

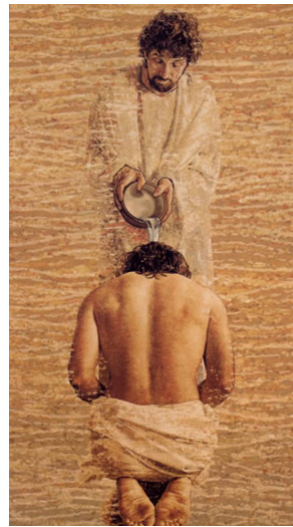
The first and second readings reveal that salvation means our adoption as God's children, our feasting freely at the messianic meal and our communion with one another.

How have you experienced this salvation? How have you enable others to share it?

### —The Liturgical Corner

#### Jesus: Prophet, Priest and King

The Israelites anointed their priests and kings with oil. They spoke of their prophets as being anointed with the spirit. Jesus, known as the Christ, the anointed one, fills all three roles.



**Priest—offering sacrifice** A priest is a mediator, or bridge, between God and human beings. He offers sacrifice to God on behalf of all. Jesus is the greatest high priest. Because he is both divine and human, Jesus is the perfect mediator.

**Prophet--teaching** A prophet is a messenger sent by God, a person who speaks for God. He

or she witnesses to God, calls people to conversion and may also foretell the future. Prophets are often killed for their message. Jesus fits this description perfectly, even foretelling his passion and resurrection.

**King—serving** A king is a person who has supreme authority over a territory. The gospels speak of Jesus as a king. The Magi looked for a newborn king of the Jews. He was arrested for making himself king and the soldiers mocked him as one. The charge against Jesus was “Jesus, the Nazorean, the King of the Jews”. Jesus announced the kingdom of God. His mission was to have God reign in the hearts of all and to have peace and justice in the world. Jesus exercised his royal office by serving.

At your baptism you were marked with oil as a sign that you are consecrated to God and anointed by the Holy Spirit. Your anointing also was a sign that you are joined to Christ and share in his threefold mission as prophet, priest and king.

#### *love poems from God*

God came to my house and asked for charity,  
and I fell on my knees and  
cried, “Beloved,  
what may I  
give?”  
“Just love,” He said,  
“Just love.”

— St. Francis of Assisi