

January 9, 2022

*The Baptism of the Lord (C)*

Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 40:1-5, 9-11

Acts 10:34-38 or Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7

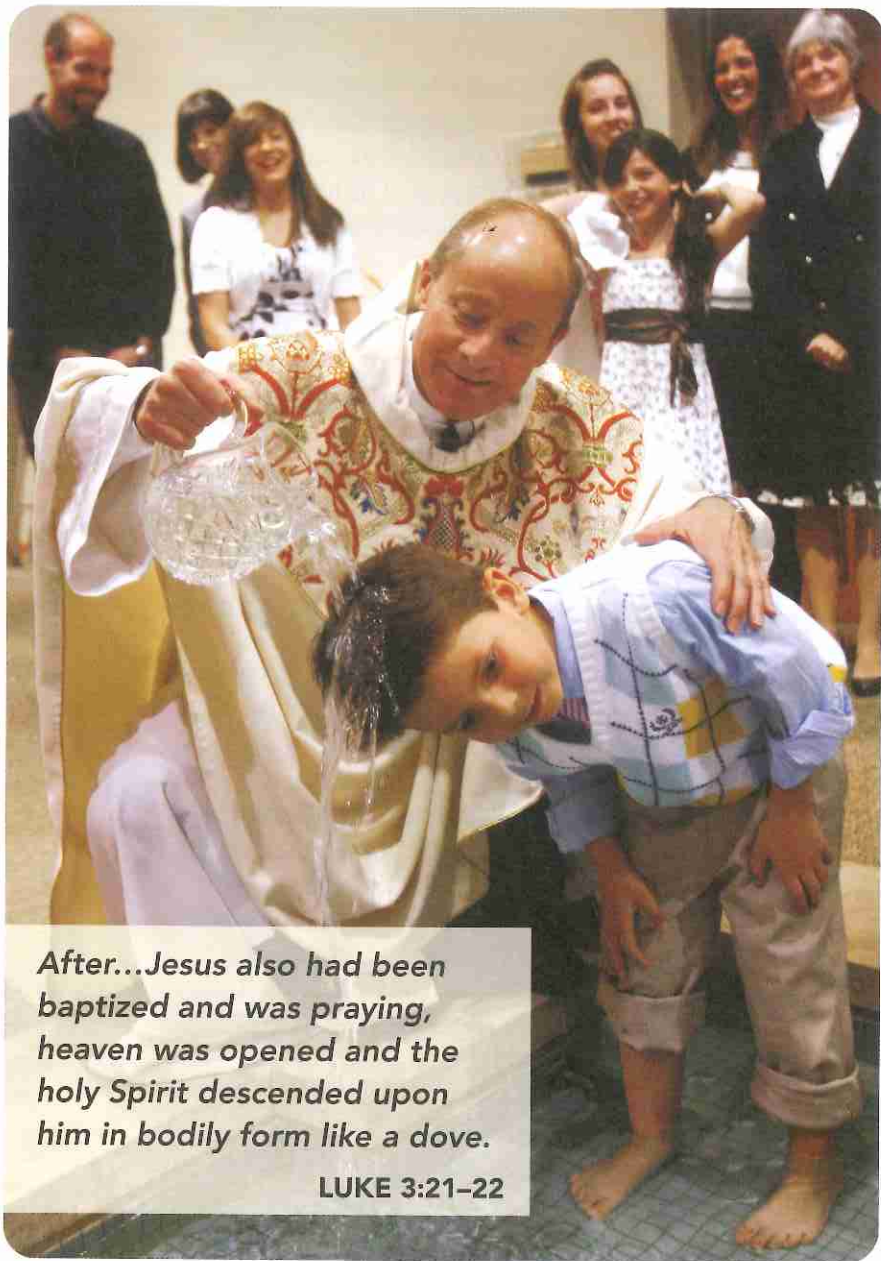
Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

## Taking Up Christ's Ministry

**B**efore the Second Vatican Council, *ministry* was considered by many to be a Protestant word, and the religious leader who did it was called a *minister*. Catholics had priests and bishops who received and administered sacraments. Religious women did the Church's work in schools and hospitals. The council turned our understanding of Church membership inside out. We've come to realize that with baptism—not ordination or religious profession—comes the responsibility of ministry. Catholics and Protestants alike understand their commitment to justice and peace is a genuine ministry that seeks to establish God's reign in our world.

Many interpreters believe that the account of Jesus' baptism points to the inauguration of his own ministry. The theology expressed is certainly Trinitarian (the voice, Jesus identified as Son, and the dove). However, the revelation of his true identity occurs as he begins preaching and healing. Some say his baptism was meant to strengthen him as he began his public life. Others believe it was meant to strengthen his disciples.

Today we maintain that by baptism we are all children of God. Vatican II has enlightened us as to what this really means. Pope Francis has reminded us that by virtue of our baptism we are missionary disciples (see *Evangelii Gaudium*, 120). In other words, as disciples we follow Jesus, learning from him. As missionaries we go out to spread his Good News to others. It is now for us to take up the ministry where he left off, to be faithful servants with whom God is well pleased.



*After... Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove.*

**LUKE 3:21-22**

### FOR Reflection

- ★ *How does your life's work make the world better? If it does, then you are a missionary disciple of Jesus.*
- ★ *Go out of your way to make someone's life a little better this week.*

*Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA*

# Saint Francis Village Catholic Chapel

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Father Ken Robinson, Chaplain

## REFLECTIONS

This weekend we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. It is an unusual and somewhat challenging theological and liturgical event in light of our Christian understanding of the Sacrament of Baptism. Baptism is the initial Sacrament, one which cleanses from sin and incorporates in to the Christian community. Given that theological understanding, it might seem unrealistic to celebrate the Baptism of Jesus, the Son of God. Certainly Jesus was not in need of cleansing from Original Sin; and since he is an integral part of the Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, there is no need for a sacramental action to bring about this inclusion into the Christian community. Why, then, do we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus?

Jesus himself gives us a rationale. Matthew's Gospel indicates that John the Baptist, when asked to baptize Jesus, was reluctant to do so. He says in effect, 'who am I to be baptizing the Son of God?' And yet Jesus insists on John's Baptism of repentance in order "to fulfill all righteousness." In other words, Jesus chooses to be baptized in order to be obedient to God's plan. And of course that rationale is no different for us in embracing discipleship which flows from our Baptism.

In the most general sense, most Catholics do not personally "choose" Baptism, in that they were presented for Baptism as infants before they had any ability to make choice. But parents assumed that responsibility for us and hopefully carried through on that pledge by assuring our faith formation. As we grew in our understanding of God working in our lives, we hopefully came to the point of

personally choosing to follow Christ. The Sacrament of Confirmation is sometimes understood as a personal choosing of Christ once we have reached an age of reason.

But sacramental actions taken by our parents or even chosen by ourselves are only part of the reality. Baptism is the sacrament of initiation, but any beginning must be followed through so that appropriately it will have both a 'middle' and an 'ending'. The 'middle' aspect of Baptism is daily discipleship. Baptism's 'ending' is eternal life with God. In order to attain the 'ending,' we need to daily choose discipleship, taking up our cross and living faithfully the plan of God in our lives. In so doing we imitate Jesus who was baptized "to fulfill all righteousness."

### *From Father Ken*

#### The Beginning



#### The Middle



#### The Ending



## My Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

This week we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. It commemorates the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by John the Baptist. After the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, Ordinary Time begins (on Monday January 10th). We will continue in Ordinary Time through Tuesday March 1st, the day before Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the Lenten Season.

Anointing will take place during Mass on Thursday January 13th at 9:00 AM.

Next Step Women's Center and Mother & Unborn Baby Care thank all of you for the fabulous gifts of baby necessities and cash donations to these most worthy ministries.

Secular Franciscans will meet this Sunday January 9th in the Chapel at 2:00 PM. All are welcome to join them in Evening Prayers.

As a reminder, Adoration is from 9:30 AM to 6:00 PM every Wednesday and again on Fridays from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM. Confessions are heard on Fridays from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM.

A new, large deer has been added to the Pat Harris Memorial Garden on St. Louis Street. Thanks goes out to Alinde Harris for finding and purchasing the sculpture in Granbury, Texas. Lorenzo Mendez is making the deer come to life for us with his artistic talent and we thank him also.

I recently came across a nationwide pew survey that I'd like to share with you:

**60% of Americans identify themselves as Christians.**  
**56% of Evangelical Protestants attend church services at least once a month.**  
**35% of Catholics stated they attend Mass at least once a month.**  
**29% of U.S. adults now describe themselves as religious "nones", meaning they identify as atheists, agnostics, or "nothing in particular".**

The article went on to say Protestants suffered the greatest decrease in affiliation as Catholics held steady. Catholics comprise 21% of the U.S. adults identified in the 2014 poll.

May Christ's will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

*God Give You Peace,  
Mike Pierson*



### Mass Intentions

- Jan. 9, 2022 For the Intentions of all SFV Catholic Chapel Parishioners
- Jan. 10, 2022 Rest of the Soul of Leola Boudreaux  
By Jack & Genie Kearney
- Jan. 11, 2022
- Jan. 12, 2022 Rest of the Souls of Jonathan & Devin Massey  
By Mel & Julie Miller
- Jan. 13, 2022 Intention of Cathy Lewis  
By Brian Foster
- Jan. 14, 2022 Rest of the Soul of Rose Donahue  
By Pat Donahue
- Jan. 15, 2022 For the Intentions of all SFV Catholic Chapel Parishioners ( 9:00 AM Mass)
- Jan. 15, 2022 For the Intentions of all SFV Catholic Chapel Parishioners (5:00PM Vigil)

# Dear Padre,

## Why did Jesus have to be baptized? Did he have original sin like us or was there another reason to be baptized?

**J**esus is God and did not have original sin like us. He is like us in all things except sin. The baptisms John performed did not free people from their original sin. The people who came to John to be baptized were declaring



that they were going to change their ways and reform their lives. They promised to turn away from sin and follow the commandments. The baptism of Jesus was different. When Jesus was baptized, God revealed who Jesus is and commissioned him to begin his mission on earth.

There were three significant components to Jesus' baptism. First, the skies opened above

Jesus. The prophet Isaiah prayed that God would tear open the sky and come down to earth (Isaiah 63). This was a sign to the people that God was coming down to earth. A new era was beginning. God was no longer "locked up" in the heavens.

Second, the Spirit of God, in the form of a dove, descended from the sky and hovered over Jesus and the water. This takes us back to the first moments of creation when the spirit of God hovered over the waters. The Spirit was a sign to the people that a new creation was being made.

Finally, a voice declared that Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus is the new Adam, who will begin the new creation. Let us call the Holy Spirit to be within our hearts and send us forth, as Jesus was sent, to proclaim a new creation founded on the love and peace of our Savior.

Fr. Paul J. Coury, CSsR  
[Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org](mailto:Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org)

## Calendar

**Monday**  
JANUARY 10  
Weekday  
1 Sm 1:1–8  
Mk 1:14–20

**Tuesday**  
JANUARY 11  
Weekday  
1 Sm 1:9–20  
Mk 1:21–28

**Wednesday**  
JANUARY 12  
Weekday  
1 Sm 3:1–10, 19–20  
Mk 1:29–39

**Thursday**  
JANUARY 13  
Weekday  
1 Sm 4:1–11  
Mk 1:40–45

**Friday**  
JANUARY 14  
Weekday  
1 Sm 8:4–7, 10–22a  
Mk 2:1–12

**Saturday**  
JANUARY 15  
Weekday  
1 Sm 9:1–4, 17–19; 10:1a  
Mk 2:13–17

**Sunday**  
JANUARY 16  
Second Sunday  
in Ordinary Time  
Is 62:1–5  
1 Cor 12:4–11  
Jn 2:1–11

**Do you have a question for the Padre?**  
Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about Dear Padre.

### A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

*After these thirty years of hidden life, Jesus' public life begins. And it begins precisely with his baptism in the River Jordan. But Jesus is God; why does Jesus get baptized?... Because he wants to be with the sinners. For this reason, he gets in line with them and does the same thing they do.*

ANGELUS, BAPTISM OF THE LORD, JANUARY 10, 2021

