

Our Parish COMMUNITY

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

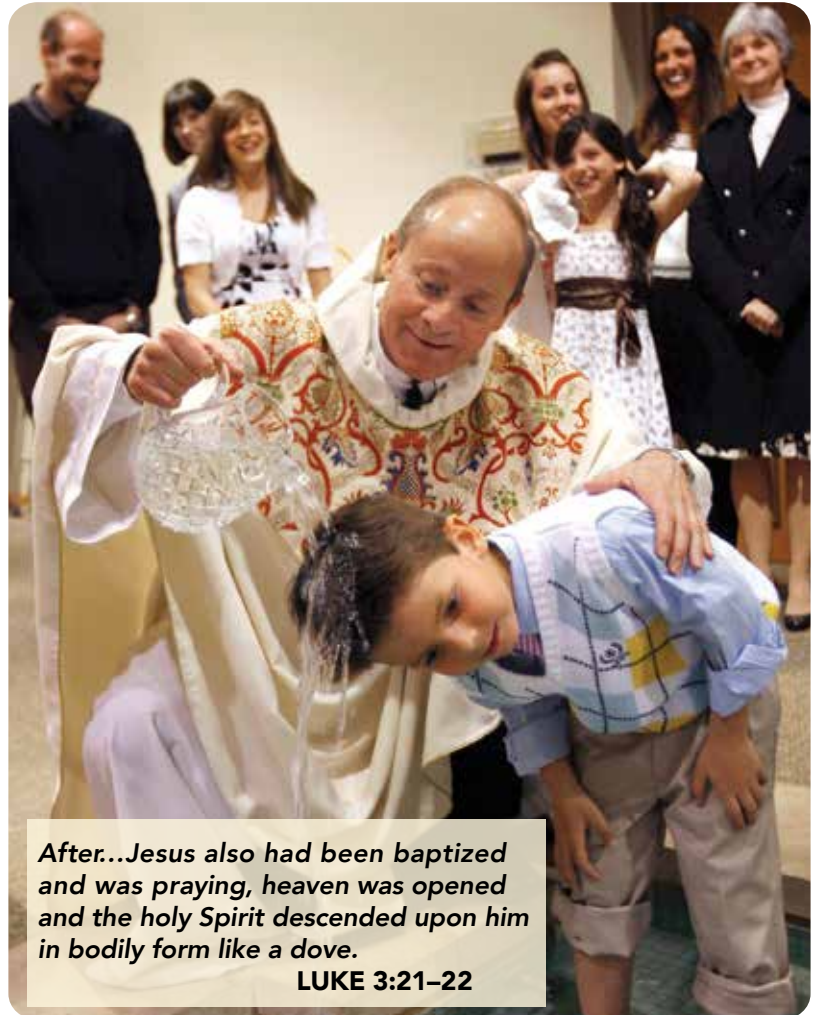
Taking Up Christ's Ministry

Before 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.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA



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.*



ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH

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|-------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Parish Administrator: | Karen Marsh | email: karenmarsh.bda@gmail.com | (c) 799-0842 |
| Pastoral Council Finance Chair: | Robert Mason | email: rjm@logic.bm | (h) 292 3178 |
| Pastoral Council CCD Coordinator: | Patricia Carreiro | email: pcarreiro1976@gmail.com | (c) 737 1047 |
| Community Building Committee Chair: | Grace Lovecchio | email: mglove@northrock.bm | (h) 236-5006 |



Weekend Masses: Vigil: 5:00pm, Sunday: 10:00am

Baptisms: by appointment 3 weeks in advance

Weddings: by appointment 6 months in advance

Vocations: Fr. Toby Collins www.vocationculture.ca



www.facebook.com/stmichaelpaget & "LIKE" us

Diocesan Webpage: www.romancatholicbermuda.bm

We welcome our parishioners and visitors who have come to St. Michael's to worship this weekend. May you be blessed by your presence here today.

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS...

MINISTRIES:

JANUARY 8/9TH - THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

5:00PM Lector: Karen Marsh EM: Peter Marsh
10:00AM Lector: LaVerne Lau EM: Grace Lovecchio
Collection: LaVerne Lau, Pat Robinson

JANUARY 15/16th - THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00PM Lector: Alberta Cannonier EM: Karen Marsh
10:00AM Lector: Jesse Almeida EM: Maura Almeida
Collection: The DeFrias

INTENTIONS:

JANUARY 8/9TH - THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

5:00PM For the Intentions of St. Michael's Parishioners
10:00AM Joan Edwards +
Christine DaCosta (Living)

JANUARY 15/16th - THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00PM Veronica & Herman Tucker ++
10:00AM For the Intentions of St. Michael's Parishioners

You are welcome to attend Morning Masses at
St. Theresa's - 7:30^{AM} Mon.—Fri. | St Anthony's - 8:00^{AM} Tues.—Fri.

ST. THERESA'S & ST. ANTHONY'S
Masses are live streamed via the Diocesan Website
and their Facebook Page



STEWARDSHIP

JANUARY 1/2ND COLLECTION: \$809.00

JANUARY APPEAL: \$6,500.00

NB: \$2300/week or \$9200/month in the collection is needed to break even each month.

ELECTRONIC CONTRIBUTIONS FOR YOUR WEEKLY COLLECTION

are welcomed. Consider making a weekly, monthly or quarterly transaction.

When making your online transaction, be sure to include your name and "collection" as your memo on your banking transaction."

ST. MICHAEL'S uses your regular collection contributions to support the day-to-day operations of our Parish.

Thank you to those parishioners who continue to answer our call for stewardship to St. Michael's.

Online donations can be made to St. Michael's Church's

BNTB Account # 2000 6060 081824 100.

WORD FROM *Dope 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

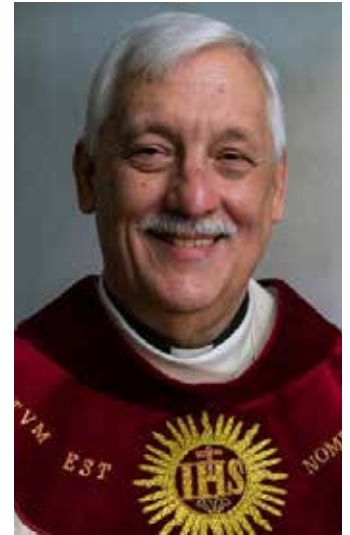
The Bishop's Corner



Dear Fellow-Catholics,

Superior General of the Jesuits, Fr. Arturo Sosa, shared his reflections on the end of the year and the future. He noted that the current pandemic situation is an opportunity to reassess what is important in life and to live differently. As he stated, "We are faced with the challenge of accepting change as a grace and an opportunity to renew our lives, instead of feeling compelled to accept unwanted limitations." He recalled the memorable image of Pope Francis walking alone in St. Peter's Square a year and a half ago, which, according to him, became "a symbol of difficulties, and at the same time of the possibility of opening up to the grace of finding space for hope and solidarity in the midst of so many people's fear and political turmoil".

Fr. Sosa pointed out that the great changes that have affected the world in the last twenty years have also changed the entire world. The attack on the World Trade Center in 2001 was the onset of a new phase of terrorism, which threatened the progress of interreligious and intercultural dialogue. The 2008 financial crisis showed us the fragility of the capitalist system and the threat of democracy with populism. Currently, the pandemic, which has disturbed social cohesion in each country and the international balance, has forced us to face the fact that we are mortal, so that "we can no longer pretend that death is not part of our personal, family or social life" and hide from the "false hope of salvation". Our relationships require nurturing and caring. "We recognize our human wounds and the need for gentle and patient treatment, which requires overcoming resistance and learning a lot of new things. I pray that 2022 will be a year of adventure, vision, imagination and concrete action," said Fr. Sosa at the end of his interview.



Have a restful weekend and a blessed week!

+ Wes Jurvelice

Bishop Wes



SUNDAY READINGS – THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God, who, when Christ had been baptized in the River Jordan and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him, solemnly declared him your beloved Son, grant that your children by adoption, reborn of water and the Holy Spirit, may always be well pleasing to you.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

FIRST READING – Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7

Thus says the Lord: Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased, upon whom I have put my spirit; he shall bring forth justice to the nations, not crying out, not shouting, not making his voice heard in the street. A bruised reed he shall not break, and a smoldering wick he shall not quench, until he establishes justice on the earth; the coastlands will wait for his teaching.

I, the Lord, have called you for the victory of justice, I have grasped you by the hand; I formed you, and set you as a covenant of the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM – Psalm 29:1-4, 9-10

R. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Give to the Lord, you sons of God, give to the Lord glory and praise, give to the Lord the glory due his name; adore the Lord in holy attire. **(R)**

The voice of the Lord is over the waters, the Lord, over vast waters. The voice of the Lord is mighty; the voice of the Lord is majestic. **(R)**

The God of glory thunders, and in his temple all say, "Glory!" The Lord is enthroned above the flood; the Lord is enthroned as king forever. **(R)**

SECOND READING – Acts 10:34-38

Peter proceeded to speak to those gathered in the house of Cornelius, saying: "In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. You know the word that he sent to the Israelites as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all, what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him."

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia.

The heavens were opened and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, listen to him. *Cf. Mk 9:7*

Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL – Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

The people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. John answered them all, saying, "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."

After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

Dear Padre,



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

Jesus 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

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR PARISH

RCIA AND BIBLE STUDY WILL NOT BE STARTING THIS MONTH ,DUE TO THE UPTAKE IN COVID TRANSMISSION. WE WILL PROVIDE UPDATES WHEN IT IS DEEMED SAFE

PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING US AT MASS IN CHURCH!

MASSES are held Saturday, at 5PM and Sunday, at 10AM.

Masks MUST be worn at all times. Upon entering the Church from the verandah entrance, track and tracing sign up sheets, temperature checks, and hand sanitizing must be done. Please continue to physically distance, at all times.

Communion is under one species. Please approach the Altar in single file, maintaining one pew between you and the person in front of you.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

ST. THERESA'S GIFT SHOP: is closed and will reopen at 10:00am on Tuesday, February 1st, 2022.

Thank you for your continued patronage.

12:10PM MASS at the Cathedral. This mass is celebrated by Bishop Wes on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Join Us!

LECTIO DIVINA: Every Monday at 7pm via Zoom. If you want to join, contact Franz Wohlmuth at Fgwohlmuth@logic.bm. Franz will send you the link to join zoom.

It is not too late to make a financial contribution/or financial gift, to St Michael's Parish, your Parish for the upcoming New Year!

St Michael's needs the help of all of our parishioners, to maintain our day-to-day financial obligations. That would include expenses related to, but not limited to: Utility bills, cleaning chemicals, church cleaning, communion hosts, communion wines, missal orders and administration services to name but a few. Contributions can be made in a variety of ways, either directly to the priest, directly into the collection or deposited directly into our BNTB account # 2000 6060 081824 100. You may then email Stmichaelsbermuda@gmail.com with the amount of your donation.

Pastor Joseph Morley is extremely grateful for any and all donations for the day - to - day running of our Parish.

Thanks very much for your ongoing support of our Parish community.

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

The mystery of Christ's baptism in the Jordan by St John, the Precursor, proposes the contemplation of an already adult Jesus. This mystery is infinitely linked to the Solemnities of the Lord's birth and the Epiphany that we have just celebrated, as in some ways it takes up and represents their significance to us.

At Christmas we have contemplated the human birth of the Word incarnate by the Virgin Mary. In the 4th century, the Fathers of the Church deepened the understanding of the faith with regard to the Christmas mystery in the light of Jesus' Humanity. They spoke of the Incarnation of the Word already working like the 'Christification' of that humanity that he had assumed from His mother. Or put in simpler terms: Jesus is the Christ from the first instant of conception in Mary's spotless womb because He Himself, with His Divine Power, consecrated, anointed and 'Christified' that human nature with which He became incarnate.

In the mystery of the Epiphany, we then meditated on Christ's manifestation to all nations that was represented by the Magi, the wise men from the East, who came to adore the Child.

Now, in the mystery of Christ's Baptism in the Jordan River, we again encounter and represent the truth of the Lord's incarnation and His manifestation as the Christ. Jesus' Baptism is in fact His definitive manifestation as the Messiah or Christ to Israel, and as the Son of the Father to the entire world. Here we find the dimension of the Epiphany which was His manifestation to all nations. The Father's voice from heaven shows that Jesus of Nazareth is the eternal Son and the descent of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove shows the Trinitarian nature of the Christian God. The true and unique God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, shows Himself in Christ, through Him, with Him and in Him.

The Baptism in the Jordan returns to the great Christmas theme of 'Christification,' Jesus of Nazareth's spiritual anointing, His presentation as the Anointed One par excellence, the Messiah or the

One sent by the Father for the salvation of mankind. The Spirit that descended on Jesus shows and seals in an incontrovertible way the 'Christification' of Jesus' humanity that the Word had already fulfilled from the first moment of His miraculous conception by Mary. Jesus, from the very beginning, was always the Lord's Christ, He was always God. Yet, His one, true humanity, that which is perfect in every way, as the Gospel records, constantly grew in natural and supernatural perfection. 'And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and with men' (Lk2:52). In Israel at 30 years of age, one reached full maturity and therefore could become a master. Jesus came of age and the Spirit, descending and remaining on Him, definitively consecrated His whole being as the Christ.



The same Spirit, that descended on the water of the River Jordan wafted over the waters during the first creation (Gen 1:2). Therefore, the Baptism in the Jordan presents yet another truth: that Jesus has started a new creation. He is the second man (1 Cor 15:47) or the last Adam (1 Cor 15:45), that comes to repair the first Adam's guilt. He does this as the Lamb of God that takes away our sins. 'Looking at the events in light of the Cross and Resurrection, the Christian people realised what happened: Jesus loaded the burden of all mankind's guilt upon His shoulders; he bore it down into the depths of the Jordan. He inaugurated his public activity by stepping into the place of sinners' (Joseph Ratzinger, Jesus of Nazareth, Bloomsbury 2007, p 18).

Excerpted from the Congregation for the Clergy