

My Son, My Daughter

Who was not asked, at the dawn of young adulthood, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" Today there are so many options for girls and boys. How does one decide? Money and security are very tempting, as are fame and reputation. And then there is the other side of the story when, in the quiet of our thoughts, we wonder if we became everything we might have been. Did we choose the right path or the easy one? Did we rise to the occasion when life challenged us, or did we stay where it was comfortable? Did we really grow up, or did we just get older?

Today we cross the threshold of Christmastime and into Ordinary Time, when the readings focus on discipleship. What kind of disciple do we want to be? Regardless of the past, today we have a chance to start anew. Today's Gospel

passage places Jesus before us as a model to follow. He is at the threshold of his ministry. Stepping out of the waters of the Jordan, he is told: "You are my beloved Son." As Son, his role is to bring God's goodness to the world. Through baptism and profession of faith, we too are filled with God's spirit. We too are beloved sons and daughters of God, called to bring God's goodness to the world. What does this mean for us? To what kind of lives does this call us? What do we want to be when we grow up?

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

- * What can you do to make your part of the world a better place?
- * Look deep within yourself. To what might God be calling you?



And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." MARK 1:11



ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH

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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
Parish Administrator:	Karen Marsh	email: karenmarsh.bda@gmail.com	(c) 799-0842

Weekend Masses: Vigil: 5:45pm, 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 Sunday. May you be blessed by your presence here today.

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS...

January 9nd/10th - THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

5:45PM Lector: Karen Marsh
10:00AM Lector: Pat Robinson
Counters: The DeFrias

January 16/17th - THE 2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:45PM The Parishioners of St. Michael's
10:00AM

January 9nd/10th - THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

5:45PM Lector: Alberta Cannonier
10:00AM Lector: Pat Robinson
Counters: The DeFrais

January 16th/17th - THE 2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:45PM Lector: Karen Marsh
10:00AM Lector: Jesse Almeida
Counters: The DeFrias

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



STEWARDSHIP

The overall financial well-being of the parish is so important at this time.

**COLLECTION TALLY: \$1,283.00
(INCLUDING JAN. 1ST)**

ELECTRONIC CONTRIBUTIONS FOR YOUR WEEKLY COLLECTION are welcomed.
Consider making it a quarterly, monthly or even weekly transactions.

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

"Please note, that we are charged \$20 for US\$ checks drawn on a US Bank."

ST. MICHAEL'S uses your regular collection contributions to support Parish Operations.

Thank you to those parishioners who have answered our call for stewardship to St. Michael's.

YOUR SUPPORT IS VERY MUCH APPRECIATED.

Direct Deposit to Butterfield Bank (BNTB) to:
"The Ordinary of the Roman Catholic Church,
St. Michael's" Acct # 2000-6060-081824 -100

WORD FROM Pope Francis



To baptize a child is an act of justice toward them. Why? Because at baptism we offer a treasure, at baptism we offer a pledge: the Holy Spirit. Baptism endows the child with the strength of the Holy Spirit: the Spirit that will defend and assist each of them throughout life.

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD,
JANUARY 12, 2020

The Bishop's Corner



Dear Friends,

Last year Pope Francis established a third Sunday in Ordinary Time as a Sunday of the Word of God. Francis issued this directive as a result of his intention to set aside "a Sunday given over entirely to the Word of God, so as to appreciate the inexhaustible riches contained in that constant dialogue between the Lord and his people."

This year the Sunday of the Word of God occurs on the 24th of January. As I was reflecting about how we could celebrate it, taking into consideration the present situation of COVID-19, I thought that it would be interesting and beneficial to organize a Bible Marathon.

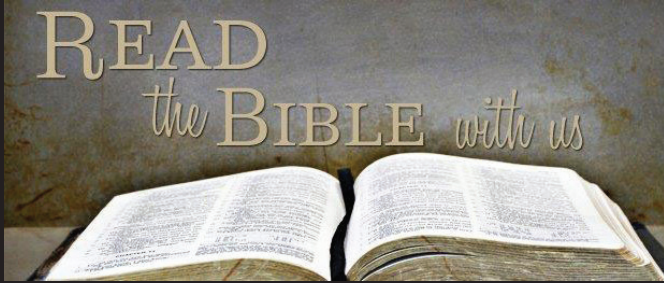
On Saturday, 23rd of January 2021, at St. Patrick's Church in Smith's, from 8:00am to 4:00pm there will be a continuous reading of the books of the New Testament. We will begin with the Gospels, i.e. the Gospel of Matthew, and will continue until time will allow us. Every person who would volunteer to join the initiative will be asked to read for 15 minutes, beginning at the point in which his/her predecessor in reading would end. The entire reading will also be live-streamed on our Facebook.

On Monday, the 11th of January, a Sign-Up list will be made available on-line and announced on our Facebook page.

I hope that this initiative will be of interest and will encourage us to know better our Holy Book as well as to be inspired by the Word of God.

+ *Wesley*

Bishop Wes



PARISH REGISTRATION FORM Moved house, had a baby, changed your contact data?

Please help us to keep the Diocesan database up to date! Log on to our Website, click on your Parish Page and either download or print the Parish Registration Form. Complete and drop the form into either the Collection basket, at your Rectory Office or email it to diocesancentre@northrock.bm. Thanks for your assistance and God bless.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Hamilton in Bermuda website has been updated. Please take the time to review the website, it has a great deal of information of what is happening in and around our Diocese is www.romancatholicbermuda.bm.

SUNDAY READINGS

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

FIRST READING: *Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 (or Isaiah 55:1-11)*

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*

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 (or 1 John 5:1-9)*

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."

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.

OR

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA.

John saw Jesus approaching him and said: Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Cf. Jn 1:29

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA.

GOSPEL: *Mark 1:7-11*

This is what John the Baptist proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

AN ANCIENT BAPTISTERY

One of the most ancient and enduring sites for baptism in Rome is the church of San Giovanni in Fonte. This church is in fact a baptistery, and houses the font for the Lateran Basilica, the cathedral of Rome. The Emperor Constantine sponsored its construction in the year 315, and it is therefore the oldest baptistery in the world. It is the model for nearly all later baptisteries, including perhaps the font in your own parish church.



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

WATER

It may seem obvious that the theme for the Baptism of the Lord is "water," but when one spends time with the readings today, one can see many different connotations for that water and its power. Isaiah calls the poor who are thirsty and tired to come to the water and take the spiritual food and drink that will be provided if we but seek the Lord. Here, God is both destination and consolation. The responsorial psalm follows suit with the image of drawing water from the springs of salvation. 1 John takes us to the reality of Christ as eucharist: not only Jesus' birth and baptism, but his death, as we hear that Jesus came "by water and by blood." The Gospel depicts John baptizing Jesus with water, and the Spirit baptizing Jesus. We experience both the humanity and the divinity of Christ. Indeed, water has much power to save us.

BEING THE MESSENGER

When we go to a pop music concert, there is often an opening act. Usually they are a young group on their way up, or older musicians who are past their prime and still hang-ing on in the business. This is indeed a hard job. In the comedy world it is the same thing. You have to warm up the crowd. You are not who they are coming to see, and audiences may be unresponsive, come in late, or not pay a lot of attention. Yet John had no problem being the opening act, the messenger, the harbinger of faith for Jesus. He was very devoted in his faith and knew what his role was. Many Jews were actively seeking a messiah, and he was quick to let them know that he was not the one for whom they were waiting. "I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." Yet he conducted his ministry with faith and hope.

BEING THE MESSAGE

As John humbly carried out his mission and Jesus accepted this simple baptism by John, the Holy Spirit indeed came down upon Jesus, and God proclaimed for the first time, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." Thus Jesus began his formal ministry. There must have been much that he already knew, but also much that he uncovered each day in his encounters with the disciples and the crowds. As he responded "yes" to the Father over and over, his thirst was quenched and his spirit strengthened.

How many times do we witness baptisms in the parish? The priest ministers with simple elements of water and oil, but the Spirit is called down each time. Every time we participate, we are experiencing the message, experiencing the call again. How many times have we blessed ourselves with holy water, or participated in a sprinkling rite? Yet in these days, when church fonts are empty due to safety precautions, we need to remember those other times, trust in God, and sing the prayer of Isaiah in our hearts about drawing the water joyfully. We must trust in the message. We must become the message of God's saving action through our baptism and our lives.

Diocese of Hamilton in Bermuda

Bishop Wes will be taping the Saturday evening Mass each week at the Cathedral and will post it for viewing on the websites below.

Please visit,

www.romancatholicbermuda.bm

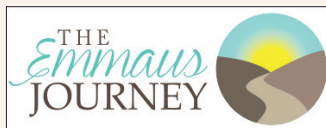
Click on "Bishop Wes, CR – Gospel Reflection
or

www.facebook.com/CatholicDioceseBermuda

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR PARISH

1. EMMAUS JOURNEY (EJ) is a Catholic evangelization and discipleship ministry that is conducted primarily in and through Catholic parishes. EJ has embraced Goal One of Go and Make Disciples, "To bring about in all Catholics such an enthusiasm for their faith that, in living their faith in Jesus, they freely share it with others."

You are invited to St. Michael's Parish Hall from 7:30 - 8:30 pm on each Tuesday. We will be physically distanced, please bring a mask, hand sanitisation and "track and trace" sign up sheet will be available. This particular bible study is based upon the upcoming Sunday readings. It is FREE OF CHARGE with all of the material provided by Fr. Joe. Invite someone else, as you learn and grow together in your faith on an ongoing basis.



2. ROSARY, ADORATION, BENEDICTION - Saturdays after the 5:45 pm Mass starting at 7:00 pm in St. Michael's Church. We will be physical distancing, mask wearing, hand sanitisation and "track and trace" sign up sheet and finishing at 8:00 pm sharp. All are invited to attend as you enhance your ongoing personal spirituality.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

ST. THERESA'S GIFT SHOP: Opening hours - 10:00am to 2:00pm on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Christine DaCosta at 292-0607 Ext 2 or by email: sttheresas@northrock.bm

SISTERS NEW CONTACT INFORMATION:

Sister Judith Marie Rollo's New Address:

Marillac Residence - Room 106
125 Oakland Street
Wellesley Hills, MA 02481
Tel# 781-997-1106. Ext: 294
Rollo10jan@gmail.com

Sister Dolores Sullivan's New Address:

Marillac Residence - Room 103
125 Oakland Street
Wellesley Hills, MA 02481
Tel# 781-997-1103 Ext 253
Sully26june@gmail.com (not registered with gmail as yet)

SECONDHAND CAR WANTED: There is a 6'4" male that is interested in acquiring a second hand van/station wagon type vehicle for about \$2,000. If you know of anyone who could help this person please phone Fr. Joe at 705-0236

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Through the centuries, artists and craftspeople have depicted Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River by John. At first in mosaics and frescoes, and later in tapestries, stained glass, and paintings, the scene is familiar. Jesus is standing waist high in flowing water. Above him, standing on dry land, John the Baptist pours water over Jesus. The first artists to depict this were sketching from memory. This is exactly how most people were baptized in the early days: as adults, standing or kneeling in the water, with water poured over their heads.

This method of baptizing, called immersion, is the favored way today. An adult enters a font, or an infant is lowered a bit into the water supported by a parent's hand, and water is poured or splashed over them. The treasures of baptismal art attest that submersion, or plunging beneath the water's surface, is not really in our tradition, and that "infusion," the mere pouring of a few drops of water, yields too narrow an understanding of what it means to be plunged into Christ's life. Jesus Christ has gone before us into the water, and waits for us there with abundant gifts. No wonder the tradition calls for abundant symbols!

Dear Padre,

My fiancée was baptized in the Lutheran Church. If she becomes Catholic, will she be baptized again?

A person can be validly baptized only once, whether in or out of the Catholic Church. Catholics believe three things are necessary for a valid baptism: baptizing in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; flowing water; and the intention of the "minister" to baptize using the form (words of the Trinitarian formula) and matter (flowing water) needed for a valid baptism.

Orthodox and most Protestant baptisms are recognized by the Catholic Church. However, the Catholic Church does not recognize as valid baptisms performed by Christian communities that don't believe in the Trinity—Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons, for example. These communities

may use the same matter (flowing water), but they don't have the same form (Trinitarian formula) or intention in their baptism. If your fiancée decides to become Catholic, she will need to attend Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults sessions, make her first Communion

and reconciliation, and be confirmed, but she has already been validly baptized and will not need to be baptized again.

Fr. Scott Katzenberger, CSsR Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



SWEET MARSHMALLOW/SHUTTERSTOCK

FEAST OF FAITH

The Sign of the Cross

At the beginning of our prayer, we make the sign of the cross together. This sign, simple and powerful, operates on many levels. We trace the sign of the cross over our bodies, reminding ourselves that the cross of Christ has become our source of resurrection, life, and grace. With this sign, we also profess our faith in the Trinity: the presider does not say "in the names," but "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit"—three persons, one God. The sign of the cross is also a baptismal reminder, for every sign of the cross echoes the words spoken over us at our baptism, which marked our entry into the saving mystery of Christ. This many-layered sign is also our primary sign of blessing: the cross is traced over people, places, and things upon which we ask God to impart divine benediction.

In blessing ourselves with the sign of the cross at the beginning of Mass, we acknowledge the mystery that has gathered us together: that Christ, the crucified and risen One, is living, and that we are members of his Body. Our response, our Amen, is our yes to all this, our first profession of faith.

ST. THERESA'S CATHEDRAL:
Weekday Morning Mass 7:30am & 12:10pm Mass
— Wednesday, Thursday & Friday