

A Reflection from Fr. Joseph

The feast of the baptism of the Lord marks the end of the liturgical season of Christmas and the beginning of the Ordinary Time. Though, in many ways, it's a rather strange way to end the Christmas season; it is, indeed, a rather strange feast, full stop! I say this because if we were to identify the key things which occurred when one of us was baptised and ask ourselves whether they also occurred in Jesus's baptism, we will discover that they didn't and that they couldn't have.

Just think about it! When we're baptized, we're healed from the guilt of original sin and we're incorporated into the Church. Did any of this happen to Christ? No. And as if that's not enough, John's baptism was unable to forgive sin and to incorporate people into the Church anyway. Those things only became possible after Christ's death and resurrection. So, not only did Jesus' baptism at the hands of John not have the same effect as our baptism did, but nor could it have had. So, what's going on in this feast and how does it relate to the end of Christmastide?

Actually, Jesus's baptism is connected to those aims. God came into the world in Christ to redeem us from sin. Broadly speaking, to achieve this aim three conditions had to be met: firstly, the power to redeem humans had to be present. Secondly, the means to redeem human beings had to be established and thirdly, human beings had to be encouraged to avail of those means.

Take the first condition, Jesus was God so there's no question of him lacking the power to redeem human beings. As to the means of redemption, human beings have to share in the salvific death of Christ, which is accomplished, most effectively, through baptism and incorporation into the Church. However, we must remember that baptism doesn't give us a free pass into heaven, regardless of what we do subsequently. Rather, through baptism we get a fresh start and the chance to live in a way which, if we follow it, will lead to heaven.



It's not enough just to make the means of redemption available though, more needs to be done and that brings us to the third condition: people have to be encouraged to avail of the means of redemption. And the best way to do that is to give people an example, so Christ submitted to John's baptism. In so doing, Christ encouraged all of us to be baptised and he identified himself with sinful humanity, as the one who will act on our behalf to save us.

During Christmas we celebrate God's coming into the world. But He came into the world for the purpose of our redemption. And the baptism of Jesus is the first public event in Christ's mission. He starts to show us how to live and his authority is acknowledged by the Father. So it brings to an end what we have been celebrating at Christmas- God's coming into the world for our salvation- and it sets us up, quite nicely, for ordinary time: follow Christ's example, there we find the way to salvation.

A 2nd collection will be taken up this weekend, at all the Masses, for Notre Dame Loan reduction.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

- Mon. Jan. 14th** - Hebrews 1:1-6; Mark 1:14-20
- Tue. Jan. 15th** - Hebrews 2:5-12; Mark 1:21-28
- Wed. Jan. 16th** - Hebrews 2:14-18; Mark 1:29-39
- Thurs. Jan. 17th** - ST. ANTHONY, memorial
Hebrews 3:7-14; Mark 1:40-45
- Fri. Jan. 18th** - Hebrews 4:1-5, 11; Mark 2:1-12
- Sat. Jan. 19th** - Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 2:13-17
- Sun. Jan. 20th** - 2nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Is. 62:1-5; 1 Cor. 12:4-11; John 2:1-12



ALTAR SERVERS

- Wed. Jan. 16th - 7:30 PM** - Volunteers
- Sat. Jan. 19th - 5:00 PM** - Anna, Henry & Lynn Cao, C.Lee, L.Soliman.
- Sun. Jan. 20th - 9:00 AM** - E.Garrovillas, S & S Lee, K.Tuguinay. **11:00 AM** - A & E Biason, F. Hua, T.Laygo, P.Que. **5:00 PM** - A & J Arias, A.Belnas, Emily, Jaden & Kaitlyn Chan, E.Jarvis, I.Picariello.



PARISH ENVELOPES FOR 2019

Have you picked up your new set of parish envelopes for 2019 from the entrance of the church? If you have recently requested envelopes you will find them at the entrance of the church. Anyone wishing a set please call the parish office.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Sat. Jan. 12 th	5 pm Mass for Alfonso del Mundo, R.I.P.
Sun. Jan. 13 th	9 am Mass for Jose, Louisa & Agatha Choy, R.I.P. 11 am Mass for Siu Ching Law, R.I.P. 5 pm Mass for parishioners
Mon. Jan. 14 th	8 am Mass for Angelo Tutor, R.I.P.
Tue. Jan. 15 th	8 am Mass for Josefina Tutor, R.I.P.
Wed. Jan. 16 th	9 am Mass for Victorina Hamaco, R.I.P. 7:30 pm Novena Mass Novena
Thur. Jan. 17 th	8:00 am Mass for Florence Wallace, R.I.P.
Fri. Jan. 18 th	8:00 am Mass for the int. of John Tan
Sat. Jan. 19 th	9:00 am Mass for the int. of Maria Farina

RCIA & ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Our RCIA program (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adult) has resumed. Interested? Know someone who might be? Come or invite them to join our parish program. The program is suitable for all those interested in learning more about our faith and for Catholics who have not yet received the sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Communion and for those who would like to deepen their faith, whether you were baptized or not. For more info call the parish office (604) 434-6700.



SCHOOL NEWS

- School Mass: This Wednesday at 9 am. Join us!
- Kindergarten Sibling Registration:

St. Jude School is starting to field registration questions from interested new families. In order for us to know how many spots we have available, we need to hear from our existing families that have children who will be entering kindergarten. So, if you have a child who will be entering kindergarten this September 2019, we ask that you please email Ms. Goh at the school - office@stjude.ca. Please also include the child's name and date of birth in the email.

Notre Dame News

Open House: Notre Dame Regional Secondary School will be hosting an Open House on Thursday, Jan. 17th at 6:00 pm. Learn more about the many great programs and facilities Notre Dame has to offer! Placement Exam :will be on Friday, Jan. 19th at 11:30 am.

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

Up-Coming Events

Stewardship Reflection

“John answered them all, ‘I baptize you with water; but he who is mightier than I is coming...he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit...’ ” (Luke 3:16)

The Catholic Catechism states that *“Jesus’ immersion in the water is a sign for all human beings of the need to die to themselves to do God’s will.”* In other words, as baptized Catholics there is only one gift that we need to give to Jesus – the gift of ourselves. Surrender yourself to God, place your trust in Him and allow the Holy Spirit to work through you for the greater glory of God.

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Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Jan. 18-25

The 2019 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity has the theme *“Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue”* (Dt. 16:18-20) and was prepared by churches in Indonesia. Join with brothers and sisters of various churches in prayer, song, and witness to unity as followers of Christ. For a schedule of services please visit <https://rcav.org/christian-unity>

Creation Care: Have we gone too far or not far enough?

What is our Catholic responsibility to care for creation, and how does that affect our daily lives and spiritual journeys? How can caring for creation enliven our faith and relationships? Come learn some spiritual lessons from a saint and a pope. Which saint, and which pope? You’ll have to come to find out! Presenter: Sister Damien Marie Savino, FSE. Friday, Jan. 18, 7–8:30 p.m. at John Paul II Pastoral Centre, Vancouver. <https://rcav.org/event/creation-care>

Winter Institute

Archdiocesan Institutes are dedicated to the Church's mission of lifelong faith formation. Our one-day courses equip Catholics with the knowledge, skills, and spiritual foundation necessary for active participation in the life of the Church. With Winter Institute approaching, take this opportunity to prepare yourself and your catechists for the start of the new year. *Basics of the Faith* and *Discovering the Gospels* are great courses to renew, refocus, and refresh yourself for 2019. Saturday, Jan. 19, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Notre Dame High School, Vancouver. Cost: \$40 per person, includes lunch. Register at <https://rcav.org/winter-institute>

Talking About the Really Tough Topics – Addressing the Clerical Sexual Abuse

We live in a world where the news is overwhelming – political polarity/animosity, stories of violence, human suffering, sexual harassment and assault. With the recent and past clerical sex abuse scandal with the Church, many people are asking “How do I talk about this?” This workshop will provide tips to help navigate through these difficult times/topics. Learn how to have those difficult conversations, while keeping the faith. Saturday, Jan.19, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Notre Dame High School, Vancouver. Cost: \$40 per person, includes lunch. Register at <https://rcav.org/winter-institute>.

Inspiring Dominican Saints: St. Agnes of Montepulciano

Mysteria Lucis Lay Dominicans invite you to join us for lively discussions on Dominican Saints – Who were they? What can they teach us? How can we apply this in today’s world? On Jan. 19, meet St. Agnes of Montepulciano, a 13th-century contemplative nun and mystic. Join us in the rectory basement at St. Mary’s Parish, Vancouver, on the third Saturday of each month until June. Meetings begin with Morning Prayer of the Liturgy of the Hours at 9:15 a.m. followed by information and discussion then an optional potluck lunch. Please bring your own breviary if you have one. For more info call Cathy at 604-874-8037.

Quo Vadis – Men’s Discernment Events

Join us for a Discernment Evening with Fr. Nick Meisl - Hearing God’s Call in the Bible on Wednesday, Jan. 23 at 7 p.m. at St. Patrick’s Parish, Vancouver. Open to single Catholic men ages 18+ who want to answer the question: What is God calling me to do with my life? Please register at least one week in advance by contacting the Vocations Office at vocations@rcav.org or call 604-443-32.

