

Dear Padre,

We are told that we are baptized into Jesus’ death and resurrection, and that baptism is necessary for our salvation. But why was Jesus baptized?

Jesus was baptized, not because he needed saving, but so that others might be saved. By accepting baptism, he established this act as the normative path for salvation. Saint John Chrysostom addressed this question: “Though [Christ] needed not baptism for his own sake, yet carnal nature in others had need thereof.” Or as St. Gregory Nazianzen said more poetically: “Christ was baptized that he might plunge the old Adam entirely in the water.”

Another reason Jesus accepted baptism is suggested by St. Augustine. He said our Lord was baptized “because he wished to do what he had commanded all to do.” This is true servant leadership—not asking of others what one is not willing to do oneself. Or as St. Ambrose said, “This is justice, to do first thyself that which thou wishest another to do, and so encourage others by thy example.”

Perhaps as we launch into a new year, we might try to remember our baptismal promise to “put on Christ” and imitate Jesus in this way: to not ask of anyone—our children or parents; employers or employees; teachers or students; principals or pastors; or even presidents—what we do not ask of ourselves, especially when it comes to honesty, dedication, civility, and charity.

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](#) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
January 13	January 14	January 15	January 16	January 17	January 18	January 19
Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	St. Anthony, Abbot	Weekday	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Heb 1:1–6	Heb 2:5–12	Heb 2:14–18	Heb 3:7–14	Heb 4:1–5, 11	Heb 4:12–16	Is 62:1–5
Mk 1:14–20	Mk 1:21–28	Mk 1:29–39	Mk 1:40–45	Mk 2:1–12	Mk 2:13–17	1 Cor 12:4–11
						Jn 2:1–11



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A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Let us thank the Lord for baptism. Let us also thank him for the parents who brought us to the font, for those who administered the sacrament...for the community in which we received him....
Do I acknowledge, in my life, the light of the presence of God, who sees me as his beloved son, his beloved daughter?

ANGELUS, ROME, JANUARY 7, 2024

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Our Parish COMMUNITY

January 12, 2025
The Baptism of the Lord (C)
Isaiah 42:1–4, 6–7 or Isaiah 40:1–5, 9–11 / Acts 10:34–38
or Titus 2:11–14; 3:4–7 / Luke 3:15–16, 21–22



[John said,] “I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming.... He will baptize you with the holy Spirit and fire.”
LUKE 3:16

Spirit-Trained

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

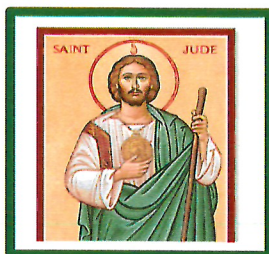
The Spirit that descended upon Jesus is the same Spirit with which we have been baptized. In one way or another, it calls us out into the world, into the lives of others. At times, that call is a passionate desire that burns like fire “eager to do what is good,” as Paul wrote to Titus (Titus 2:14). It shows itself as a call to the work we do in life—perhaps parenting, teaching, medical work, or creating jobs through business. The Spirit beckons us into making the world a better place in which to live.

Sometimes, however, the Spirit’s voice echoes with calls made to us by others. Teachers are urged to become principals. Employees are recognized as potential managers and supervisors. People receive requests to volunteer in community or school projects. At other times, the Spirit calls us through the needs of life. A child may need to care for an aged parent. A family may have a child with special needs. One-sided relationships may call for a listening ear that saps our patience.

Saint Paul wrote to Titus that, in all of this, we are being trained by God’s Spirit to live life as follows: temperately, with a sense of balance, perhaps between giving and receiving; justly, because life is not all about us; and devoutly, for there is a power greater than ourselves (Titus 2:12). It may help to realize that those in training do not always perform their work perfectly. It is the nature of being trained. Trust the Spirit to train you well. ●

Reflect
How is the Spirit training you to make the world a better place?

January 12, 2025 – Baptism of the Lord



ST. JUDE PARISH

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WEEKLY MASS CALENDAR: Confession: Thursday Mornings after Mass CELEBRANT:

Sunday	Jan. 12, 2025	9:30 a.m.	Mass	Fr. Schmidt
Thursday	Jan. 16, 2025	9:00/10:30 a.m.	Adoration/Mass	Fr. Creagan
Sunday	Jan. 19, 2025	9:30 a.m.	Mass	Fr. Creagan
Thursday	Jan. 23, 2025	9:00/10:30 a.m.	Adoration/Mass	Fr. Creagan

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS:

Sunday	Jan. 12, 2025	Casey Ziemba	By: St. Jude Parish
Thurs.	Jan. 16, 2025	William Schmidt	By: Frank & Diane Hanchak
Sunday	Jan. 19, 2025	Mary Laughlin	By: St. Jude Choir
Thursday	Jan. 23, 2025	Jack Killeen	By: Frank & Diane Hanchak

TODAY: SUNDAY, 1-12-2025 NEXT SUNDAY: SUNDAY, 1-19-2025

Reader	Ellen Brown	Reader	Jennifer Price
EO Ministers	K. Boyer & D. Hanchak	EO Ministers	Tony & Jenny Karsen
Servers	Alexa, Elise, Lydia, Noah	Servers	Bo, Rocky, Emma, Alanah

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Holy Day	Jan. 1, 2025	Target	\$ 1,300	Offered	\$ 925.00	\$ 375.00
Sunday	Jan. 5, 2025	Target	\$ 1,600	Offered	\$ 2235.00	\$ 635.00
Year to Date		Target	\$ 54,000		\$ 54,529.85	\$ 1429.85
Attendance		171	Year To Date Attendance			3497

God seeks out the sinner and loves us unconditionally.

Today, with the feast of the Baptism of our Lord, we come to the end of the Christmas season. The vestment colors will change, and we will return to Ordinary Time. But before we do, the Church gives us this feast, a wonderful end to the Christmas season. Today's feast offers us one more moment of revelation (an epiphany, if you will) as to who Jesus Christ truly is, and it serves as a good transition into Ordinary Time, as this event signals the end of Jesus' hidden years and the transition into his public ministry.

Let us ponder two insights from today's feast.

First, Jesus had gone out to the Jordan River to seek baptism by John. If we recall, John was preaching a baptism of repentance. Even though Jesus was not a sinner and was therefore not in need of repentance, he chose to go where such people were. He chose to join them, to become one with them. This seeking out of sinners and identifying himself with them is one of the hallmarks of Jesus' ministry. In fact, a complaint leveled against him was that he broke bread with sinners. This is who Jesus is; this is who God is. God is the one who goes out in search of the sinner and helps him to carry his burden.

This is wonderful news communicated throughout the Scriptures, especially during the Christmas season. It is a truth that offers great comfort. We can know with certainty that any time we stray, the Lord, who knows the weight of sin, will seek us out. We can know with certainty that if our loved ones have strayed, the Lord is seeking them as well.

Then we have this wonderful moment after the Baptism when Jesus is praying and the heavens open. **The Holy Spirit descends upon him in the form of a dove, and a voice from heaven speaks those powerful words: You are my beloved Son; with you, I am well pleased.** These are words we long to hear from our parents. They are words that reflect unconditional, total love. The good news is that, in our own baptism, the Father speaks these words to us. In our baptism, we are united to Christ and, through that union, to the blessed Trinity. By grace, we receive what is Christ's by nature: we are unconditionally loved and united to the Father.

As we move forward with our day and our week, let us do so comforted by these truths: God seeks out the sinner, bears our burdens with us, and loves us unconditionally.

FROM THE DRE:

Classes have resumed.

Please make an extra effort to get your students to class each week.

If for some reason you cannot make it, please let me know.

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL: Brian Laughlin, Julie Haley, Steve Klein, Pete & Barb Percival, Joan Rumery, Margie Burris, Lillian B. Wheeler, Frances Parsons, David Vana, Sonny Laughlin, Donna Murphy, Jack Secondi, Mary Heinz, Vicki Clark, Brett Middleton, and those on our prayer chain.

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE - In today's gospel Jesus was publicly AFFIRMED by his Father: "You are my beloved son, with you I am very pleased." As parents, we can become so focused on misbehaviors that we overlook the good behaviors. Jesus needed AFFIRMATION and so do our children.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR JANUARY - Jell-O, pudding, cleaning supplies, personal hygiene supplies. If someone is 60 years of age and over, and their monthly income is \$1580 a month for one person, they can apply to receive CSFP/Senior Commodities each month. If you have any questions, feel free to call 269-501-0224.

SENIORS TOGETHER—Join us for the rescheduled "Christmas" lunch on Thursday, Jan. 16, 11:30 a.m., at the St. John Bosco Parish Center. Chinn Chinn will provide a nice lunch buffet. The cost is \$15/person. Please RSVP and submit your payment as soon as possible.

DID YOU KNOW? The Anointing of the Sick is a sacrament that provides spiritual and physical healing through the grace of God. It is intended for anyone who is seriously ill, facing surgery or is elderly or frail. The Anointing of the Sick provides comfort, peace, courage, and forgiveness of sins. It can also lead to physical healing, if it is God' will.

A SPECIAL WAY TO REMEMBER A LOVED ONE – Here at St. Jude, you can sign up to have a loved one remembered by having the Sanctuary Candle lit for one week in their name (which will be announced in the bulletin). Donations are \$10.00. If you are interested, please call the office at 269-628-2219.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN: As Deacon Jim stated, our building project is on hold until after the 1st of the year. We will still take any donations that anyone wants to give, as any project we want to do will take additional funds. Look for future meetings after January 1st in the bulletin and Flocknote messages.

CHALKING THE DOOR: AN EPIPHANY TRADITION

"Bless this house and all who inhabit it.

Fill us with the light of Christ, that our concern for others may reflect your love."

What Is Chalking the Door? This short liturgy is a way of marking our homes, usually at the front or main entrance, with sacred signs and symbols as we ask God's blessing upon those who live, work, or visit throughout the coming year. In Exodus, the Israelites marked their doors with blood so that the Lord would pass over their homes; but in this service, we mark our doors with chalk as a sign that we have invited God's presence and blessing into our homes In Deuteronomy 6:9 God tells the people of Israel: "These words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house... You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates." Chalking the door is a tangible way to honor God in our lives.

What Do the Numbers and Letters Mean? The first and last numbers simply refer to the current year. The letters C M B come from the traditional names for the three kings: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. Some also suggest "Christus Mansionem Benedicat" which means, "May Christ bless this dwelling!"

How To Do It - 1. Mark your calendar: Epiphany is on January 6th, twelve days after Christmas. In Great Britain, chalking the door takes place on Twelfth-Night, January 5th, the eve of Epiphany. Many families gather in their homes to celebrate with friends, food, singing, and gifts... and to chalk the door. 2. Find some chalk: Any color will do! 3. Gather your household: Everyone should be involved. For those who live alone, consider inviting a friend or neighbor. Or gather at your church to chalk the church entrance. 4. Pray: Use the prayers and liturgy below. 5. Write the inscription: Using the chalk, and taking turns, make the following inscription above the outside of your door. 20 + C + M + B + 25.

FROM THE DIOCESE

Anyone aware of child sexual abuse should report the matter to the appropriate law enforcement agency and make a report to the Michigan Department of Attorney General at 844-324-3374.