



**January 9, 2022**

**The Baptism of the Lord**

**PARISH PRIESTS AND DEACONS**

Rev. James Bachner.....Pastor  
 Rev. Fernando Torres.....Parochial Vicar  
 Mr. Mark S. Bibro.....Deacon  
 Mr. Richard Longo.....Deacon  
 Mr. Thomas O'Neill.....Deacon  
 Mr. Scott Potter.....Deacon



**Our Website: [www.stteresakolkatapgh.org](http://www.stteresakolkatapgh.org)**

**Parish Office**

**1810 Belasco Avenue  
 Pittsburgh, PA 15216**

Parish Ministry/Office.....412-531-2135  
 Parish Fax .....412-531-8543  
 Parish E-Mail .....STK15216@gmail.com

**Faith Formation Offices and Program Locations**

**Nancy Spinneweber, Director of Faith Formation for Children  
 English Programs (CGS/CCD) STKFFNancy@gmail.com**  
 St. Catherine of Siena School Bldg. / 412-531-2135 ext. 20  
 1810 Belasco Ave, Pgh, PA 15216

St. Pius X School Bldg./ 412-563-0858 2690 Waddington Ave, Pgh, PA 15226

**Marina Osthoff, Director of Faith Formation for Children  
 Spanish Program (CGS) STKFFMarina@gmail.com**  
 St. Catherine of Siena School Bldg. / 412-531-2135 ext. 23

**Patty Schwerin– (English) Director of Evangelization, Adult Faith  
 Formation and Protecting God's Children STKPatty@gmail.com**  
 412-563-0858

**St. Catherine of Siena**  
 1909 Broadway Ave. Pgh, PA 15216

**Resurrection**  
 1100 Creedmoor Ave. Pgh, PA 15226

**St. Pius X**  
 3040 Pioneer Ave. Pgh, PA 15226

**Parish Secretaries:**

Debra Argento  
 Claudia Bazan-Arias  
 Dori Priore

**Parish Organists:**

Juliana Haag (4pm & 9:30am SCS)  
 Bill Scott (1pm SCS Spanish)  
 Jay Zibura (4pm SPX, 8am SPX &  
 11:00am RES)

**Parish Maintenance:**

Mike Kaduck  
 John Ruskin

Comments and concerns can be given to our Parish Pastoral Council at:  
**PPCSTK@gmail.com**

### **St. Teresa of Kolkata Parish**

1810 Belasco Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15216 Beechview

**Centro Parroquial.....412-531-2135**

**Fax.....412-531-8543**

**Oficina de Formación de Fe Hispana: 412-531-2135**

**Ext. 23**

#### **Ministerio Hispano**

**Padre Fernando Torres** 412.531.2135 ext. 21

**Marina Osthoff- Directora del Programa de Formación de Fe para Niños en Español.** 412.531.2135 ext. 23

**Bill Scott-Director de Música Latina**

**Claudia Bazán-Secretaria Bilingüe**

**Latino web-page:** <https://www.stteresakolkatapgh.org/>

### **La Iglesia celebra tres Epifanías**

**Epifanía**, palabra que en griego significa manifestación, en el sentido de que Dios se revela y se da a conocer.

La Iglesia celebra como Epifanías tres manifestaciones de la vida de Jesús:

+ Epifanía ante los magos de oriente: manifestación a los paganos.

+ Epifanía del Bautismo del Señor: manifestación a los judíos.

+ Epifanía de las bodas de Caná: manifestación a sus discípulos.

### **FIESTA DEL BAUTISMO DEL SEÑOR 9 DE ENERO**



Seguimos celebrando este "tiempo de Navidad" que comenzó el 24 de Diciembre y continua hasta el domingo 9 de enero en que celebramos el Bautismo de Nuestro Señor.

En las fiestas de Navidad hemos visto como Jesús se manifestaba a los pastores y a los magos que, llegando desde Oriente, lo adoraron y le ofrecieron sus dones. De hecho, la venida de Jesús al mundo es para manifestar el amor de Dios que nos salva.

Y allí, en el Jordán, se produjo una nueva manifestación de la divinidad de Jesús: el cielo se abrió y el Espíritu Santo, en forma de paloma descendía hacia Él y se oyó la voz del Padre: «Tú eres mi Hijo amado, en ti me complazco» (Mc 1,11). Es el Padre del cielo en este caso y el Espíritu Santo quienes lo manifiestan. Es Dios mismo que nos revela quién es Jesús, su Hijo amado.

Pero no era una revelación sólo para Juan y los judíos. Era también para nosotros. El mismo Jesús, el Hijo amado del Padre, manifestado a los judíos en el Jordán, se manifiesta continuamente a nosotros cada día. En la Iglesia, en la oración, en los hermanos, en el Bautismo que hemos recibido y que nos ha hecho hijos del mismo Padre.

Preguntemonos, pues:

+¿Reconozco su presencia, su amor en mi vida?

+¿Vivo una verdadera relación de amor filial con Dios?

Dice el Papa Francisco: «Lo que Dios quiere del hombre es una relación “papá-hijo”, acariciarlo, y le dice: ‘Yo estoy contigo’».

### **CASA SAN JOSE : Centro de Recursos para Inmigrantes Latinos en el Suroeste de Pennsylvania**

Dirección: 2116 Broadway Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15216

Atención telefónica: 412-343-3111

Emergencias Migratorias: 412-736-7167

Directora: Mónica Ruiz

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/casasanjoseph/>

Correo electrónico: [office@casasanjose.org](mailto:office@casasanjose.org)

Horario de atención: lunes a sábados de 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

**SANTO ROSARIO:** acompañenos a rezar el Santo Rosario todos los domingos a las 12:15 pm en la iglesia de St. Catherine antes de la Misa en español.

**VIRGEN PEREGRINA:** Si desean que nuestra virgen los acompañe a su casa por una semana para orar con ella, favor de anotar su nombre y número de teléfono en una hoja que se encuentra a la entrada de la iglesia.

### **INFORMACION SOBRE VACUNAS CONTRA EL**

**COVID 19:** TODOS LOS VIERNES DE 12PM A 4PM UPMC

Children's Hospital Primary Care Center y Falk Pharmacy tendrán clínicas de vacunación contra el COVID19 para niños y adultos mayores de 12 años. Pfizer vaccine. NO SE NECESITA CITA PREVIA. La clínicas serán en el UPMC Children's Hospital Primary Care Center 3420 Fifth Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15213. También puede llamar en español a la Casa San José de lunes a viernes de 9 am a 5 pm al 412-343-3111, o al Latino Community Center – Pittsburgh al 412-335-7446 opción 6.

**SCS-MISA EN PORTUGUES:** Se celebra el segundo y cuarto domingo del mes a las 6:00 PM. Puede unirse virtualmente: [Facebook.com/ Católicos em Pittsburgh, PA](https://www.facebook.com/Catolicos-em-Pittsburgh-PA)

### **NUEVO HORARIO de MISAS**

#### **St. Catherine of Siena**

Sábado 4:00 PM

Domingo 9:30 AM

**Domingo 1:00 PM (español)**

#### **Resurrection**

Domingo 11:00 AM

#### **St. Pius X**

Sábado 4:00 PM

Domingo 8:00 AM

### **Horario de Misas entre semana:**

8:00 AM St. Pius X: Lunes, Viernes, y también Miércoles a las 7:00PM

8:45AM St. Catherine of Siena: Lunes a Viernes

8:00 AM Resurrection: Martes, Jueves, y Sábado

### **CONFESIONES**

En St. Catherine Siena: SABADOS de 12:00 a 12:30 PM y DOMINGOS de 12:15 a 12:45 PM.

**\*Confesiones en español son el primer sábado del mes.**

En St. Pius X: MIERCOLES de 6:15 a 6:45 PM.

**BAUTISMOS**—Se requiere que los padres y padrinos reciban una plática bautismal si es la primera vez; para registrarse e informes comunicarse con Marina Osthoff 412-531-2135 ext. 23/stkffmarina@gmail.com, o con el Padre Fernando Torres.

**Sacrament of Baptism:**

A Baptism preparation session is required for first time baptisms. Please call 412-531-2135 to make arrangements. Call the Parish Office to request a church site, time, and date to schedule Baptism.

**Sacrament of Marriage:** The Sacrament of Matrimony requires a time of spiritual preparation. Arrangements should be made at least six months before the date by meeting with the priest and before any social plans are made.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation (CONFESSIONS):**

Tuesday at Resurrection 7:15-7:45am  
Wednesday at St. Pius X 6:15-6:45pm  
Saturday at St. Catherine Noon-12:30pm

**Becoming a Catholic:** We do have a program to instruct those who are interested in becoming Catholic. RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) Please contact Patty at 412-563-0858 or email [stkpatty@gmail.com](mailto:stkpatty@gmail.com).

**Religious Education:** Children of the parish are expected to receive Religious Education in a Catholic school or Faith Formation program. For information or to register, please contact Nancy in the Faith Formation Office at 412-531-2135 / ext. 20, or email [stkffnancy@gmail.com](mailto:stkffnancy@gmail.com).

**Catholic Schools:** updates and information  
Ave Maria Academy <https://avemariapgh.org>  
Seton LaSalle Catholic High School [www.slshs.org](http://www.slshs.org)

**Hospitalized Parishioners and Shut-Ins:** Please call the Parish office if someone in your family is hospitalized or a shut-in. If a parishioner is not able to attend Mass, the priest and/or Eucharistic Ministers can bring Communion to the home.

**Parish Registration:** New parishioners are asked to register as are newlyweds and single young adults even if registered before with their families. A registration form can be found on page 5 of this bulletin.

**FOOD PANTRY:** Food pantries serve certain boundaries:

—**The Brookline Food Pantry** is located at 1036 Brookline Blvd. 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of Month 9:00-11:00am.

—**The St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry** is located in the St. Catherine School Building on the corner of Crosby and Pauline Avenues. 2nd Saturday and 4th Saturdays 9:30am-11:00am.

**Beechview Manor:** Manager can be reached at 412-571-2999 or 1926 Pauline Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15216.

**Creedmoor Court:** Manager can be reached at 412-344-1540 or 1050 Creedmoor Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15226.



**St. Vincent de Paul Society:** Our parish has an active St. Vincent de Paul Society that helps those in need. Please call 412-342-8836 if you need assistance. We also need volunteers; please contact the Parish Office.

**Parish Share**

**2021 Goal: \$186,052.00**

Collected: \$204,538.52 (As of December 13, 2021)

*All monies collected over the goal stay in the parish*

**Capital Campaign**

Goal \$700,000 (5 year goal started June 2020)

Collected \$98,354.14 (As of December 13, 2021)

*This campaign will help with major projects at all three of our Church Locations. Please be generous so that we can improve each church site.*

**Offertory Collection Report****September 2021**

Mailed/ dropped off Collections \$44,232.12

OLG (Online Giving) \$ 9,109.00

Total September \$53,341.12

(4 Sundays averaged \$13,335.28 per week)

**October 2021**

Mailed/ dropped off Collections \$43,030.46

OLG (Online Giving) \$10,706.00

Total October \$53,736.46

(4 Sundays averaged \$13,434.12 per week)

**November 2021**

Mailed/ dropped off Collections \$53,864.83

OLG (Online Giving) \$ 8,394.00

Total November \$62,333.83

(5 Sundays averaged \$12,466.77 per week)

**December 2021 (As of December 14)**

Mailed/ dropped off Collections \$24,905.84

OLG (Online Giving) \$ 4,862.00

Total December \$29,767.84

(2 Sundays averaged \$14,883.92 per week)

Thanks to all who have continued to support our Church!

**Please consider leaving 10% of your Will to  
St. Teresa of Kolkata Parish**

**Want to donate thru online giving?**

<http://www.osvhub.com/saint-teresa-of-kolkata/funds>

**Diocesan Victim Assistance Hotline**  
**1-888-808-1235**  
**Coordinator: 412-456-3093**  
**Child Abuse Hotline 1-800-932-0313**

**300 CLUB WINNER**

**Week 1 #013 Ed Malecki \$250**

# Mass Schedule

## MONDAY January 10

SPX 8:00am Living and Deceased Members of the Melzler and Hoffman Families (Keenan Family)  
SCS 8:45am Elsie Jean Verbonach  
(Christian Women's Guild)

## TUESDAY January 11

RES 8:00am Rick Knouff (Mom and Dad)  
SCS 8:45am Anthony H. Arzenti (son, Rick)

## WEDNESDAY January 12

SCS 8:45am John McCormick (Family)  
SPX 7:00pm Sean Lyons (Mum and Dad)

## THURSDAY St. Hilary, Bishop January 13

RES 8:00am Albert Nous (Elizabeth Vesely)  
SCS 8:45am Anna Marie Lendl (Dori Priore)

## FRIDAY January 14

SPX 8:00am Adam Barbarow (Eileen)  
SCS 8:45am Theresa V. Kelly (Family)

## SATURDAY January 15

RES 8:00am Richard M. Rouse (Ellwood Family)

## VIGIL

SCS 4:00pm Jack O'Toole  
(Joyce, Ken, Emilee and Alex Dzadovsky)  
SPX 4:00pm William, Sr. and Rose Sturm (Family)

## SUNDAY January 16

SPX 8:00am Fred Gumina (Children)  
SCS 9:30am Ann and Elmer Dott (Dott Family)  
RES 11:00am Donald B. King (Family)  
SCS 1:00pm For the People of the Parish  
SCS 6:00pm Portuguese Mass

Facebook: [Facebook.com/STK15216](https://www.facebook.com/STK15216)  
YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/SaintTeresaofKolkataParish>  
Twitter: @STKolkataPgh

[WWW.STTERESAKOLKATAPGH.ORG](http://WWW.STTERESAKOLKATAPGH.ORG)

**St. Hilary of Poitiers** was dubbed the "Athanasius of the West" because, like the great doctor from Alexandria, he worked tirelessly to uphold the truth of the divinity of the Son of God in an age dominated by the Arian heresy. Only three years after being elected bishop of Poitiers, France, Hilary was sent into exile in Phrygia, present-day Turkey, because he refused to condemn Athanasius. There Hilary composed his great doctrinal work *On the Trinity*. He returned to Poitiers and died in 367. Hilary was hailed by Saint Augustine as "the most illustrious doctor of the churches."  
St. Hilary, pray for us!



*"Christ is baptized, not to be made holy by the water, but to make the water holy, and by his cleansing to purify the waters which he touched."* - Saint Maximus of Turin

**Key to listings:** RES—Resurrection  
SCS—St. Catherine of Siena SPX—St. Pius X

## Eucharistic Adoration:

SCS—1st Friday of the month after 8:45am Mass until 10:00am (unless there is a funeral)  
SPX—Last Wednesday of the month after 7:00pm Mass until 8:00pm  
RES—First Saturday of the month after 8:00am Mass until 9:15am

## Miraculous Medal Novena:

SCS—Mondays after 8:45am Mass  
SPX—Mondays after 8:00am Mass  
RES—Tuesdays after 8:00am Mass

## St. Anthony Novena:

SPX—Fridays after the 8:00am Mass (except 1st Fridays)  
SCS—Tuesdays after the 8:45am Mass

## Sacred Heart:

SPX—First Friday after 8:00am Mass

## Rosary:

SCS—Every Monday through Friday at 8:15am, before the 8:45am Mass  
SPX—Every Monday and Friday before the 8am Mass, Wednesday at 6:35pm & Sunday at 7:30am  
RES—Every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 7:30am, and Sunday at 10:00am

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Sm 1:1-8; Ps 116:12-19; Mk 1:14-20  
Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Mk 1:21-28  
Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Ps 40:2, 5, 7-10; Mk 1:29-39  
Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11; Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25; Mk 1:40-45  
Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Ps 89:16-19; Mk 2:1-12  
Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a; Ps 21:2-7; Mk 2:13-17  
Sunday: Is 62:1-5; Ps 96:1-3, 7-10; 1 Cor 12:4-11; Jn 2:1-11

## Rest in Eternal Peace

**Anthony R. Zorzi**

Our prayers and sympathy are extended to the family and friends of those who have passed away recently.

## PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

In the spirit of St. Teresa of Kolkata, we honor Christ by coming together as one faith community with the pledge to reach out to the lonely and less fortunate. Our mission is to engage in unselfish acts of kindness and compassion, sharing our blessings with a humble heart.

## MISION PARROQUIAL

En el espíritu de Santa Teresa de Kolkata, honramos a Cristo unidos como comunidad de fe, con el compromiso de extender la mano a los más desafortunados y solos. Nuestra misión es dedicarnos desinteresadamente en actos de compasión y amabilidad, compartiendo nuestras bendiciones con un corazón humilde.

## PARISH OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES



The *Second collection* for this weekend of January 8/9 will be for **Capital Campaign**.

Next Sunday's second collection on January 16 will be for St. Anthony School Programs, and DePaul School for Hearing and Speech.

Operation Safety Net



The next opportunity to prepare lunches for Operation Safety Net will be on Wednesday, **January 12**, in Resurrection Church hall at 9:30 am.

**Operation Safety Net** is part of the Pittsburgh Mercy health and social service outreach to the homeless population of Pittsburgh. Their Street Outreach services find people where they are – for basic medical care, food and water, clothing, and referrals to services. Here at Saint Teresa of Kolkata Parish, we prepare 60 bag lunches for the Street Outreach program every second Wednesday of the month.

Teresa's Table



Teresa's Table meals will be available on Saturday, **January 15**, after the 4pm Mass at St. Pius X.

**Teresa's Table** is our meal ministry for the parishioners that provides nutritious meals and soups. Meals are frozen and made available for delivery to the homes of those who may be coming home from the hospital, who are grieving the loss of a loved one, who are recovering from an ordeal, who are needing some companionship, or who are just struggling in some way. If you or a parishioner you know needs a little help from our kitchen, contact Patty Schwerin at 412-563-0858, and she will get in touch with our meal team and delivery team. Just reheat and relax, and know that you are loved!

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT TABLE – 2022

**JANUARY 12<sup>TH</sup>, FEBRUARY 16<sup>TH</sup>, MARCH 16<sup>TH</sup>**

**Saint Teresa of Kolkata Parish** prepares and serves dinner Wednesday at St. Mark Lutheran Church monthly. Dinners are available for those in need and those in the community simply desirous of fellowship. **Volunteers are always needed the week prior to each meal** to help purchase & prep food, cook, serve, and/or clean-up. Volunteer for all afternoon, or for just part of the day. Please call or text 412-583-3443 if you would like to join the meal team.

## PARISH SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES

**BIBLE STUDY** every Tuesday at 7PM at St. Pius X Gym. We are using “The Chosen” Videos as our discussion. Video will be shown on the wall of the Gym (like we did for movie nights). Come watch, discuss, learn!

January 11 (Season 2 Episode 1)  
January 18 (Season 2 Episode 2)  
January 25 (Season 2 Episode 3)  
February 1 (Season 2 Episode 4)  
February 8 (Season 2 Episode 5)



### FAMILY HOLY HALF-HOUR UPDATES

We moved the Family Holy Half-Hour to the **3rd Wednesdays**. The next Adoration half hour is scheduled for Wednesday, **January 19**, after the 8:45am Mass at **St. Catherine of Siena**. All are welcomed to attend. This is a great opportunity to show your children the power of Jesus in the Eucharist and spend time in prayer together.

**PARISH ROSARY**—We pray as a group of parishioners on Zoom every day at 6:00PM (except **Saturdays**). Please join us this month. You can easily access the link via the parish website or contact the parish office email at STK15216@gmail.com to email you the link.

## SACRAMENTS

### Baptism

**PRE-BAPTISM CLASS** is required for first-time parents. Parents are asked to call Patty Schwerin at 412-563-0858 to register and arrange for a scheduled time for this class.

**BAPTISM SCHEDULING**—Baptisms can be scheduled on Sundays at the 3 locations—SCS, RES, SPX—after the last Sunday Mass.

**GETTING MARRIED**—The Sacrament of Matrimony requires a time of spiritual preparation. Arrangements should be made at least six months before the date by meeting with the priest and *before any social plans are made*.

## St. Teresa of Kolkata Parish Membership Form

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one:

☐ New Registration ☐ Change of Address ☐ Moving out of Parish ☐ Wants Envelopes

**Please drop Membership Form into the offertory basket or mail to Parish Office**

## PARISH NEWS

### "UN-DECORATING" THE CHURCHES

We will be taking down the Christmas decorations from our churches and would appreciate any help you can provide. Below are the times.

**RES— Monday, January 10 at 6:30PM**

**SPX— Wednesday, January 12 after 7PM Mass**

**SCS— Thursday, January 13 at 6:00PM**

Thank you in advance for giving generously of your time!

### DONUT SOCIAL

Join us the weekend of Jan 15/16 after all Masses for coffee, donuts, cake, cookies, or other goodies we may be serving.



**PARISH EXERCISE GROUP** will NOT be meeting for the next 4-6 weeks. We will update you when exercise sessions resume again.

### ST. TERESA OF KOLKATA BOOK CLUB

The next Book Club meeting will be on **Thursday, January 27, at 7 PM** at the St. Pius X School. The title of the book is "West with Giraffes" by Linda Rutledge. We will be meeting at the RCIA room on the 1st floor. Any questions, please call Kathleen Blassey 412-563-1847.



### END-OF-YEAR TAX STATEMENTS

If you need tax statements for your 2021 donations to St. Teresa of Kolkata Parish, please call the parish office at 412-531-2135.

### A NOTE FROM THE WOMEN'S GUILD

There will be no Women's Guild meeting in January. The next meeting will be on February 16th. More details to follow.

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION



*"O come, let us adore Him"*

Join our parish family in Eucharistic Adoration each month:  
Every First Friday – St. Catherine after 8:45AM Mass  
Every First Saturday – Resurrection after 8AM Mass  
Every Third Wednesday – St. Catherine after 8:45AM Mass  
Every last Wednesday – St. Pius X after 7PM Mass.

### Churches are open for prayer during the day

SCS— M-F 8AM-3PM and Saturday 9AM-5PM

SPX— M&F 7:15AM– 2:30PM and W 9AM-7:30PM

### CHRISTMAS FLOWER INTENTIONS AND DONATIONS

—The list of the Christmas flower intentions and donations is on our parish website under 'what's new this week'. Please be sure to see it if you have not already.



**STK COOKBOOKS AND T-SHIRTS** —We still have some extra parish cookbooks and t-shirts available for sale. Cookbooks are \$20.00 each and t-shirts are \$10 each. Please see a priest after Mass if you are interested in purchasing any of these items or call the parish office.

### THE GLOBAL SYNOD:

#### **Reflect on your Catholic Experience**

To prepare for participation in the worldwide Synod, ponder how you have experienced "journeying together" in your parish or Catholic community. What joys, obstacles, or insights did you receive from this journey? As you reflect, consider where you are hearing the voice of the Holy Spirit. What is the Spirit asking of us as a Church? What paths are opening? Synodal sessions will be held throughout the Diocese of Pittsburgh in early 2022. For more information text "Synod2021" to 84576 and go to [www.diopitt.org/journeying-together](http://www.diopitt.org/journeying-together) to download your Participant Guide. The Participant Guide can also be found on the main page of our parish website.



**FAITH FORMATION (CCD/CGS) NEWS:** Our Faith Formation Program returns to classes on Sunday, January 9<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>. Welcome back everyone!

If you have any questions regarding the Faith Formation Programs, please contact Nancy at 412-531-2135/ext. 20 for more information.

**BLESSINGS TO ALL FOR A VERY HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR!!!**

*God's blessings, Mrs. Nancy Spinneweber, Director of Faith Formation*



## Approaching the Unapproachable One

"In my mercy, I was overcome by my compassion and came to my creature, stretching out my hands to embrace you. So do not be ashamed in front of me; for your sake, naked as you are, I am stripped naked and baptized. Already the Jordan opens for me, and John prepares my ways in the waters and in minds." The Savior spoke thus to humankind, not in words but in deeds, and came, as he said, drawing near to the river on foot and to the Forerunner as the *unapproachable Light*.

When John saw the river in the desert and Christ in the Jordan, he was troubled by fear, as his father had trembled at Gabriel (Lk 1:12), for at that moment something happened, greater than any moment; for at that moment the Master of the angels had come to a slave wishing to be baptized.... "I am not asking, Baptist, that you overstep your bounds. Simply baptize me in silence and expectation of what will follow the baptism. Because in this way you will gain a dignity which does not belong to angels, for I will also make you greater than all the prophets. Not one of them saw me clearly, but only in types and shadows and dreams. But as he stands before you by his own will, you see, you grasp the *unapproachable Light*..."

Heaven rejoice and earth be glad, springs of water be hallowed, for by appearing he has filled all things with blessing, he enlightens all mankind, the *unapproachable Light*.

(cont.)

At the divine command, Zechariah's offspring raises his mind on high, and stretching out his palm places it on the King, washes in the streams, then leads back to land the Lord of land and sky, whom the One who cried *this is my beloved Son* pointed out from heaven by a voice. To the Father himself then and to the Son who was baptized and to his Spirit I cry, "Crush those who afflict my soul; end my errors, my Redeemer, the *unapproachable Light*." -Saint Romanos the Melodist. St. Romanos the Melodist († c. 565) was a deacon in Constantinople who composed several chanted sermons. (Magnificat January 2022, vol. 23. no. 11)

## BAPTISMAL DEATH AND RESURRECTION

As we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, we also honor our own baptism as our initiation into the Christian life and community. In the Gospel, the baptism of Jesus, with his immersion and then emergence from the water, points to his later submission to God at his death, and his emergence from the grave at his resurrection. This pattern of death and resurrection is our path too, as followers of Jesus. Throughout life, often in small ways, we learn to surrender our limited and self-centered agendas. This surrender often feels like death. The sacrament of Baptism ritually enacts this pattern to remind us of Jesus' death and resurrection, so that we too might embrace the deaths and resurrections of our own lives. As Jesus emerged from the water, he encountered his Father and the Holy Spirit. Like Jesus, we can know we are God's beloved, empowered by the Spirit. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



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