

Bulletin

Sacred Heart Parish

Mass: 4:00 pm - Saturdays  
Fr. John Yake, I. V. Dei  
(902) 535-2053 – Fax: 535-3127

January 8, 2022  
Feast of the Baptism of the Lord



Removing the Christmas  
Decorations today Saturday  
January 8th

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

Collections:

Jan 01, 2022

Envelopes	\$105.00
Loose	\$15.00
Initial Offering	\$35.00
Christmas	\$500.00
	\$655.00

Jan 02

Envelopes	\$140.00
Loose	\$5.00
Initial Offering	\$10.00
Christmas	\$20.00
Jan 01st	\$30.00
	\$205.00

## Notices:

**1: De-Decorating for Christmas:** The Christmas decorations will be taken down on Saturday Jan 08, following the 4:00 pm mass.

**2: Adult Sewing/Handicraft** - The Johnstown sewing/knitting and needlework group are welcoming crafters to bring their projects to this informal class. Participants are asked to bring any unfinished project you need help with, or to start a new project. Kindred spirits alike will learn a new skill and or grow your exciting skill. A sewing machine is available for use. District 10 Fire Hall, Red Islands  
Thursdays, for 14 weeks, starting January 13  
1:00 – 3:30 pm, Fee: \$20.00  
Instructor: Rita Campbell

**3: Gentle Yoga Flow** – Postponed until mid-February

**4: Skating Party** – Outdoor Pond behind District 10 Volunteer Fire Department Hall, Red Islands  
Saturday, February 12, 2:00 - 4:00 pm Sponsored by: District 10 Volunteer Fire Dept.  
Contact: Debbie Johnston, 902-304-0558  
grammiedebbie1998@hotmail.com

**5: Information** - Sacred Heart Parish Council was approached this week by District 10 Fire Department. They are interested in the Parish Council approaching the Diocese of Antigonish with the purpose of putting a new Fire hall/Community Hall on the site of the current Parish Hall. The Parish Council were supportive of this request. At this time the Fire Department will need to provide the Parish Council with a detailed proposal and motion from District 10; once that is received the Parish Council will discuss the next steps.

### **BEFORE YOU SAY ANOTHER WORD (anonymously written)**

Food for thought at the beginning of a New Year:

If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep ... You are richer than 75% of the world's population.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace ... You are among the top 8% of the worlds wealthy.

If you woke this morning with more health than illness ... You are more blessed than the million who will not survive this week.

If you never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation ... You are ahead of 500 million people around the world.

If you can attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death ... You are more blessed than three billion people in the world.

If your parents are still alive and still married ... You are very rare, even in North America.

If you can hold up your head with a smile on your face and are truly thankful ... You are blessed because the majority can, but most do not.

If you can hold someone's hand, hug them, or even touch them on the shoulder ... You are blessed because you can offer a healing touch.

If you can read this message, then you have just received a double blessing that someone was thinking of you, and furthermore, you are more blessed than over two million people in the world who cannot read at all.

Have a good day, count your blessings, and pass along this to remind everyone else how blessed you are.