

January 11, 2015

Baptism of the Lord (B)



From The Desk of Msgr. Corrigan:

“We can change the world!” These words capture well the optimism of the 1960’s. Pope John XXIII spoke of “a new dawn”. The civil rights movement sang “We Shall Overcome”. As a student in Rome and then as a newly ordained priest in Harlem I was caught up in these two historical moments in history. Everything seemed possible in 1964 and 1965. Great things happened in those years. Then came the experience of how difficult it is to change things, summarized in the phrase “the intractability of life”.

I thought of Jesus at his baptism by John the Baptist. What joy must have filled his heart as he looked forward to heralding the Kingdom of God. Then he encountered the intractability of life. I do not believe that Jesus foresaw all that was going to happen. He didn’t know at his baptism that he would be killed in less than three years. He was filled with enthusiasm and the Spirit of God.

As we celebrate the feast of “the Baptism of the Lord” try to understand how Jesus felt at this moment and how when things turned bad he remained true to his mission.



COLLECTION:

The collection for last Sunday, January 4, 2015 was \$3,122.00

The second collection this Sunday, January 11, 2015 will be for the Catholic Communications & Catholic University.

The second collection next Sunday, January 18, 2015 will be for the Organ Renovation.



Food Collection: Thanks to your generosity on January 4, 2015 we were able to fill 21 bags of food for the needy in our community. Once again thank you.

Baptism of the Lord:

We often think about baptism in terms of the washing away of sin. Sometimes we speak of it as dying and rising with **Christ**. This way of thinking and speaking about what happens in baptism are true and important. But reflection on the event of **Jesus’** baptism opens up new perspectives on our own baptism. In baptism we, like **Jesus**, are anointed with **God’s Spirit** and declared to be **God’s** beloved sons and daughters, with whom **God** is well pleased. In baptism too we see the heavens torn open and the way of **God** made manifest to us. In baptism we too conquer the world through faith.

Also in baptism we, like **Jesus**, are given a commission. The **Spirit** anoints us as priests, prophets and kings; in these roles we are called to lives of prayer, proclamation, and service. We are called, as the prophet Isaiah exhorts us to “seek the **Lord** while he may be found’ and to “call on him while he is near”. In other words, in our baptism we are given a share in the saving work of **Jesus**.

In the first reading, (Isaiah 55:1-11): Isaiah describes the character of someone who serves the **Lord**. Such a servant will be a light to the nations.

In the second reading, 1 John 5:1-9; we hear that **Jesus** came through water and blood. The water of baptism revealed him as **God’s Son**; by shedding his blood on the cross, he conquered evil and enabled us to become **God’s** children.

In the Gospel, Mark 1:7-11; **Jesus** is baptized by **John**. The divine identity of **Jesus** as **God’s Son** is revealed by **God’s** voice from heaven.

Today’ Focus: Sharing in Christ’s Work: As his own baptism propelled him to his work in the world, our baptism into **Christ** gives us a share in that work today.



Praying with the Word

May the heavens be torn open and may you, **O Holy Spirit** of **God**, descend on us in your power, so that we might be faithful followers of **Jesus**.



Question of the Week:

How do I concretely share in Jesus’s ministry of prayer, proclamation and service? Do I rely on the Spirit to help me in fulfilling the call I received in baptism to share in the ministry of Jesus?



Jesus came to save us: let us not reject this marvelous gift!

Open enrollment ends February 15

NYS Affordable Health Care Open Enrollment:

If you do not have health insurance you can get information on different plans, costs and subsidies on the **New York State official Affordable Care Act health plan marketplace** website: www.nystateofhealth.ny.gov.

The marketplace’s open enrollment period ends on February 15th. **You can also get information by calling 1-855-355-5777.**

If you purchased health insurance on the State’s marketplace you should have received information in October about renewing and changing plans.

If you have not renewed or changed plans and need information call the above phone number.

