

REFLECTION for the Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord

Fr. Don.

Jesus, being the Son of God and fully divine, did not need to be baptised by John in the Jordan River. Yet He chose to do so. And as with every action He performed there is a message in this Scriptural episode for us. It points us to the essence/crucifix of our own baptism.

Like Jesus when we are baptized we are named and claimed for God making us children of God. We may not see the dove or hear those voices from heaven but the effects of our baptism are just as powerful. We become members of a faith community- in our case Roman Catholics. We are anointed as Priest, Prophet and King. Yes, we are all priests and prophets so why not shout it from the rooftops. This is truly an awesome gift from God. We too are called beloved by our God.

Our baptism means we are called to reach out and minister to others just as Jesus did and just as countless Christians have done down through the ages. We are called to spread the Good News. We are called to be both leaders and servants, to be both givers and receivers, and to both see Jesus in ourselves and see Jesus in others. Let us throw off our feelings of unworthiness, let us become true disciples of Jesus. The 'how to' has been given us, the power has been given us, and the WAY to live has been shown to us by our Lord and Savior. Baptism equips us for actualizing our Christian dignity- *to be all we are meant to be.*

The question is, how do we answer our baptismal call to leadership and service? If we allow the graces of our baptism to guide us we quickly come to realize that on our own we cannot do this; we must follow that much stated saying '*work as if everything depends on us, pray as if everything depends on God.*' Humility is a word that comes to mind- humility in following our Abba.

Baptism is perhaps the most important of all the sacraments. It is the gateway sacrament; it is the first one we receive and opens the possibility of receiving all of the others.

Baptism fills us with gifts, graces, and blessings beyond our wildest dreams. Let us take time to consider some other effects of baptism: *We have the Original sin (from Adam and Eve) and all of our personal sin (the sins that we have committed ourselves) remitted. We are given an infusion of special grace into our souls and minds in the form of sanctifying grace- yes, we are made holy. And the gifts just keep on coming.*

We receive the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit-wisdom, understanding, counsel, knowledge, fortitude, piety, and wonder and awe (previously called fear of the Lord). We receive the three theological virtues- faith, hope, and love. We become a part of Christ by becoming a part of the Church- the Mystical Body of Christ on earth. In Catholicism we have the aid of the seven sacraments which mysteriously sustain us in our living out of our call to be true Christians. Given the opportunity we should receive them whenever possible. But BAPTISM is special, BAPTISM gets us started on the right foot- BAPTISM orients us to Jesus.

Sacred Heart Parish

A Stewardship parish in love with Christ.

Parish Information

Parish Administrator: Fr. Don Leonard
Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

465 Curling Street
Corner Brook, NL A2H 3K8
Tel: (709) 785-5025

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Liturgical Celebrations

Weekend Masses:

Saturday - 4:30 pm
Sunday - 11:00 a.m.

Weekday Masses this Week:

Mon 10 am, Wed-7 pm, Thurs and
Fri 10 am

Holy Hour of Adoration:

Third Sunday of each Month
2:00 p.m.

Reconciliation

Wed after Mass,
or by request

Marriages:

Six-month notice is required.
A year's notice is recommended.

Baptisms:

Celebrated at Weekend Mass
after preparation session.

January 10, 2016

The Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord

RECEIVED WITH THANKS

Collection New Yr. Eve & Day	\$1,514.20
Jan. 02, 03	1,285.10
Building Fund [all collections]	130.00
Dues [all collections]	390.00
Mass Stipends	340.00
Advent Folders	155.00
Parish Insurance	5.00
Votive Candles	191.90

AGAIN, we thank you for your continued financial support.

MASS INTENTIONS

Jan 11	John & Florence King (60 th anniv)
Jan 12	No Mass
Jan 13	Theresa Tompkins
Jan 14	Bill & Dale Brake
Jan 15	+ Carroll/Baker/Wilcott
Jan 16	Bernadette/Anthony George
Jan 17	Parish Community

BINGO

Our next parish bingo is this **Sunday, JAN 10, at 2pm**. Please come out for an afternoon of fun and support our parish.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

All Finance Committee members are asked to attend the next quarterly meeting at the parish house on **Thursday, Jan. 14 at 7 pm**.

CONGRATULATIONS

John and Florence King are celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary with a Mass of Thanksgiving on Monday morning at 10 am. We join with all their family and friends in wishing them continued blessings.

CONFIRMATION

Classes begin for reception of this sacrament very soon. We have some youth registered. If you know of any not registered, please inform them and their parents that the classes are being offered. The sacrament will be conferred by the Bishop at 11 am Mass on Sunday April 24.

JUBILEE YEAR of MERCY

The Jubilee Year of Mercy formally began with the opening by Pope Francis of the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. On Sunday, December 13th, 2015, the remaining six permanent Holy Doors as well as all of those temporarily designated in all of the Dioceses of the world will be opened. Our Diocese has two Holy Doors – one at the Cathedral in Corner Brook and one at the Basilica in Labrador City. *The faithful of the Diocese are invited to consider making a pilgrimage to one of the Diocesan Holy Doors during this Jubilee Year of Mercy.*

PARISH COUNCIL

Our next monthly meeting will be on **Monday Jan 11 at 7 pm in the parish house**. All members are urged to attend.

MARY'S KITCHEN

This the last time we will print this notice. Immaculate Heart of Mary School is planning to offer a meal to the poor/hungry each Friday from 5-6 pm at the school. They are seeking volunteers to help them in this corporal work of mercy during this Year of

Mercy. If you wish to help in this effort, please phone the school

WEEKLY SESSIONS HONORING MARY

Our Liturgy Committee is planning to offer a four-week series of presentations focusing on Holy Mary and the Rosary. Each session will be an hour or so long. It will feature Prayer, Hymns, a 15 min DVD on Mary's role in salvation history, and recitation of the Scriptural Rosary. Of course a tea/coffee social is included. Full details will follow soon.

BIBLE STUDY

We will begin a Bible study group on **Monday Jan 18 at 7 pm in the parish house**. If this is of interest to you and you plan to attend please let Fr. Don know. We will determine if this night is good for meeting or if any other time and day is more suitable. Please consider attending. This is an initiative of the parish in celebration of the Year of Mercy.

4Youth

Today we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus, the event which began the public life of Jesus. His baptism is an outward sign that Jesus is God's own Son. Through our own Baptism in Jesus' name, we are made children of God, the brother or sister of Jesus and members of the family of God along with all others who have been baptised. At our Baptism, our parents and godparents rejected Satan and affirmed

belief in the Holy Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – on our behalf. Perhaps now is a good occasion for us to make those promises for ourselves, as we did at Confirmation and as we do every year at Easter. It's a good New Years' resolution for us to try living our lives as Jesus taught us.

NEXT HOLY HOUR

Next **Sunday, Jan 17 at 2pm** we will gather to celebrate with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, a period of silent adoration, Recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and Benediction. Please plan join us for this Year of Mercy liturgical celebration.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

This week begins on Jan 18 and ends on Jan 25. Please pray for this cause in your daily prayers. Jesus often expressed His hope that all would be one as He and the Father were one. Christian unity must be our ultimate goal as true followers of Jesus; are not we all Christians- one in the Spirit?

PRAYER FOR YEAR of MERCY

Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

JUST A REMINDER

Please pray the Pope's Prayer for the Holy Year of Mercy, copies are still available at the back of the church.

MERCY BEGINS FROM WITHIN THE SOUL.