

Taking Up Christ's Ministry

Before the Second Vatican Council, *ministry* was considered by many to be a Protestant word, and the religious leader who did it was called a *minister*. Catholics had priests and bishops who received and administered sacraments. Religious women did the Church's work in schools and hospitals. The council turned our understanding of Church membership inside out. We've come to realize that with baptism—not ordination or religious profession—comes the responsibility of ministry. Catholics and Protestants alike understand their commitment to justice and peace is a genuine ministry that seeks to establish God's reign in our world.

Many interpreters believe that the account of Jesus' baptism points to the inauguration of his own ministry. The theology expressed is certainly Trinitarian (the voice, Jesus identified as Son, and the dove). However, the revelation of his true identity occurs as he begins preaching and healing. Some say his baptism was meant to strengthen him as he began his public life. Others believe it was meant to strengthen his disciples.

Today we maintain that by baptism we are all children of God. Vatican II has enlightened us as to what this really means. Pope Francis has reminded us that by virtue of our baptism we are missionary disciples (see *Evangelii Gaudium*, 120). In other words, as disciples we follow Jesus, learning from him. As missionaries we go out to spread his Good News to others. It is now for us to take up the ministry where he left off, to be faithful servants with whom God is well pleased.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA



After...Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove.

LUKE 3:21-22

FOR Reflection

- ✱ *How does your life's work make the world better? If it does, then you are a missionary disciple of Jesus.*
- ✱ *Go out of your way to make someone's life a little better this week.*

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF CYCLONE—MARAK

St. Joseph, Cyclone & Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Marak

Pastor: Rev. Ranjan Cletus

Mailing address: 20120 FM 485, Burlington, TX 76519.....**Phone** 254-985-2280

Email: cyclone.marak@gmail.com **Website:** marakchurch.org

Masses: Cyclone: Sat. 5:30PM & Sun. 8:15AM; Weekdays: Tue, Thurs & Friday: 7AM

Marak: Sundays: 10:15AM and Wednesday 5:30PM(unless otherwise stated)

The Sacraments:

Baptism: On Sundays after Mass. Please contact the pastor to schedule a meeting with him; a preparation program may be needed. Parents must be registered parishioners of St. Joseph, Cyclone or Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Marak.

Confessions: Before Mass on the weekend and anytime by appointment.

Marriage: Couples planning to be married should contact the pastor at least six months in advance before you set the date of the wedding. Completion of required paperwork and a preparation program needed.

JANUARY 9, 2022 — FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

The Liturgy last week revealed the mystery of God's plan—that in Jesus all peoples, symbolized by the Magi, have been made "coheirs" to the blessings promised to Israel. This week, we're shown how we claim our inheritance. Jesus doesn't submit to John's baptism as a sinner in need of purification. He humbles Himself to pass through Jordan's waters in order to lead a new "exodus"—opening up the promised land of heaven so that all peoples can hear the words pronounced over Jesus today, words once reserved only for Israel and its king: that each of us is a beloved son or daughter of God (see Genesis 22:2; Exodus 4:22; Psalm 2:7).

Jesus is the chosen servant Isaiah prophesies in today's First Reading, anointed with the Spirit to make things right and just on earth. God puts His Spirit upon Jesus to make Him "a covenant of the people," the liberator of the captives, the light to the nations. Jesus, today's Second Reading tells us, is the One long expected in Israel, "anointed . . . with the Holy Spirit and power."

The word messiah means "one anointed" with God's Spirit. King David was "the anointed of the God of Jacob" (see 2 Samuel 23:1-17; Psalm 18:51; 132:10, 17). The prophets taught Israel to await a royal offshoot of David, upon whom the Spirit would rest (see Isaiah 11:1-2; Daniel 9:25).

That's why the crowds are so anxious at the start of today's Gospel. But it isn't John they're looking for. God confirms with His own voice what the angel earlier told Mary: Jesus is the Son of the Most High, come to claim the throne of David forever (see Luke 1:32-33).

In the Baptism that He brings, the voice of God will hover over the waters as a fiery flame, as we sing in today's Psalm. He has sanctified the waters, made them a passageway to healing and freedom—a fountain of new birth and everlasting life.



1/2: Stewardship: Sunday Offering: \$1,412.00

1/2: First Offering: \$165.00

1/2: Children's Offering: \$3.00

1/2: Solemnity of Mary \$240.00

1/2: Building Fund: \$536.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Bulletin Information: MARAK: Patsy Gaines (254-482-0570) - Email—pagaines2002@yahoo.com

CYCLONE: Nancy Posvar (254-913-2696)

Bulletin deadline: Please call or e-mail info for the bulletin by Wednesday before the weekend!

Ministries for January 16, 2022

Rosary: Julia Motyka

Offertory: KJZT Jrs.

Ushers: KJZT Jrs.

Eucharistic Minister: Kayla Laurence

Lector: KJZT Jrs.

Altar Servers: Pat & Kate



Sanctuary Light: Jan. 10th-16th: Frank Sr. & Annie Plachy by Lynne Hornung

Prayer Chain... Please remember in your daily prayers the faithfully departed, those souls in purgatory, those of our community that are in special need of prayer, those who are homebound or in nursing homes, all those in the military and to all those who have been affected by the Covid-19 Virus and also that the vaccine for the corona virus will help to stop this pandemic & for the following: Adrian Mitcham (Hubnik Family), Anton Vrazel, Paulette Foster, Reenie Hubnik, Carolyn Klecka, Marilyn June Gonzalez, and Doris Matocha. Prayers are powerful!

To be added to the prayer chain:

Please contact: **Merlene Slavik—254-697-1247 or email—Slavik@farm-market.net**

MARAK MASSES —January 9-16, 2022

Date	Time	Mass Intentions
Today—1/9	10:15am	+ Jamie Cecile Newberry by Robin Hubnik Hickerson + Maria Kolarova by Alfred & Bernice Vrazel + Albina Vrazel by Mr. & Mrs. Richard Brenek + Eugene Vaculin by Kevin & Anna Givens
1/12 — Wed.	5:30pm	+ Martha Tomek by Bill & Georgia Kincer + Albert Michalka by Kenneth & Michelle Kostroun + Albina Vrazel by Alice Vrazel + Joe Vansa by Laverne Vansa & Nicole Trubee
1/16—Sunday	10:15am	+ Deceased Members—Henry Litzman & Frank Plachy Families by Lynne Hornung + Eugene Vaculin by Dolly & Bernard Hyzak + Dorothy Vaculin by Margie & Jerry Wade + Annie Mae Hubnik by Katherine Hubnik

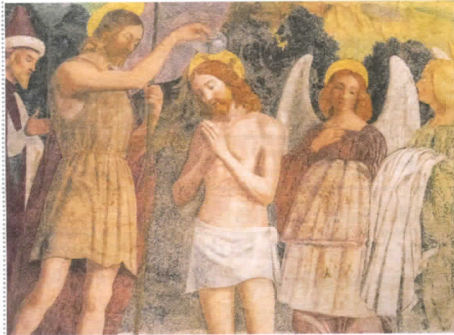
UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

- **END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS:** If anyone would like a statement showing their yearly contributions to the church, please contact Patsy Gaines.
- **JANUARY 12TH:** St. Anne's Altar Society meeting at 9am at the Milam County Museum in Cameron.
- **MEMBERSHIP:** If any parishioner has any changes such as address, phone number, etc. Please contact Patsy Gaines with the updated information for the Membership Directory.
- **VIGIL CANDLE:** 2022 Vigil Candle schedules are located in the church entry. If you would like to schedule a memorial for your love ones, for a special occasion or a special intention, please sign the sheet in the church entry. Cost is \$5.00 per week. Contact Merlene Slavik with the payment which are made payable to the Altar Society.
- **ALTAR SOCIETY:** 2022 Altar Society membership fee of \$5.00 are due in January. All ladies of the parish are encouraged to join. Contact Merlene Slavik for more information.

Dear Padre,

Why did Jesus have to be baptized? Did he have original sin like us or was there another reason to be baptized?

Jesus is God and did not have original sin like us. He is like us in all things except sin. The baptisms John performed did not free people from their original sin. The people who came to John to be baptized were declaring



that they were going to change their ways and reform their lives. They promised to turn away from sin and follow the commandments. The baptism of Jesus was different. When Jesus was baptized, God revealed who Jesus is and commissioned him to begin his mission on earth.

There were three significant components to Jesus' baptism. First, the skies opened above

Jesus. The prophet Isaiah prayed that God would tear open the sky and come down to earth (Isaiah 63). This was a sign to the people that God was coming down to earth. A new era was beginning. God was no longer "locked up" in the heavens.

Second, the Spirit of God, in the form of a dove, descended from the sky and hovered over Jesus and the water. This takes us back to the first moments of creation when the spirit of God hovered over the waters. The Spirit was a sign to the people that a new creation was being made.

Finally, a voice declared that Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus is the new Adam, who will begin the new creation. Let us call the Holy Spirit to be within our hearts and send us forth, as Jesus was sent, to proclaim a new creation founded on the love and peace of our Savior.

Fr. Paul J. Coury, CSsR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

Calendar

Monday

JANUARY 10

Weekday

1 Sm 1:1-8

Mk 1:14-20

Tuesday

JANUARY 11

Weekday

1 Sm 1:9-20

Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday

JANUARY 12

Weekday

1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20

Mk 1:29-39

Thursday

JANUARY 13

Weekday

1 Sm 4:1-11

Mk 1:40-45

Friday

JANUARY 14

Weekday

1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a

Mk 2:1-12

Saturday

JANUARY 15

Weekday

1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a

Mk 2:13-17

Sunday

JANUARY 16

Second Sunday

in Ordinary Time

Is 62:1-5

1 Cor 12:4-11

Jn 2:1-11

**Do you have
a question
for the Padre?**

Go to DearPadre.org
to send your question
and to learn more
about Dear Padre.



A WORD FROM Pope Francis

After these thirty years of hidden life, Jesus' public life begins. And it begins precisely with his baptism in the River Jordan. But Jesus is God; why does Jesus get baptized?... Because he wants to be with the sinners. For this reason, he gets in line with them and does the same thing they do.

ANGELUS, BAPTISM OF THE LORD, JANUARY 10, 2021

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