



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:1-11 (21B)

SECOND READING: 1 John 5:1-9 GOSPEL: Mark 1:7-11

FROM FATHER JUSTUS ALAETO

Why it was necessary for Christ to be Baptized, and what His Baptism means to our faith

The Church this week celebrates the Baptism of the Lord. First of all, by the virtue of Christ being God (the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity), He does not necessarily need Baptism from anyone. However, Christ deemed it necessary that He should be Baptized by John the Baptist in the River Jordan before continuing His earthly ministry. But the point here is why?

Before we get into that answer, it is important to understand once more the meaning and implication of our Baptism. Baptism is among the three Sacraments that welcome us into the Church (namely: Baptism, Holy Eucharist, and Confirmation). They are also known as the three Sacraments of initiation into the Church. Baptism washes away original sin, and because of that, It is the first Sacrament to receive before others. It is the first Sacrament that welcomes us into the Church. The reason is because Baptism not only washes away original sin, but clears the way for other Sacraments in our life. The water used in Baptism symbolizes what Jesus has done for us namely; His life, death, burial, and resurrection. The bath with water symbolizes our own death to sin or former ways of life to new life in Christ. That is why we normally put a new white garment on the newly baptized which symbolizes new creation in Christ, a garment of new life and salvation. The newly baptized at that moment begin to share life in Spirit with Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Baptism is a Sacrament of faith, since it is the Sacrament of entry into the life of Faith (CCC347).

Now, Christ came to make all these good things happen in our life, hence He is the only one that can restore us back from the effects of the loss of friendship with God, which was inherited for us by Adam and Eve as our first parents. For the sake of the crowd, Jesus participated in John's Baptism. Jesus allowed Himself to be baptized by John, in order to establish solidarity with the crowd (and us); and by establishing such solidarity He will show us the way to Eternal life, and ways to Baptism of the Holy Spirit. The baptism of John is not capable of taking away original sin, rather it is a baptism of repentance that prepares the way for the Baptism of Jesus, which is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is therefore the contents of Baptism. The Baptism of Jesus incorporates us into that same relationship Jesus shares directly with the Father, and the Holy Spirit. This fact was made known to us by God the Father Himself during Jesus' baptism when He says: "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased" (Matt. 3:17). Just as Jesus is God's beloved with whom the Father is well pleased, a baptized person automatically becomes God's own Son or Daughter with whom the Father is well pleased. A baptized person at the moment of baptism takes on the responsibility of imitating and resembling the Trinitarian family by walking daily on the paths of the life of Jesus Christ, in freedom as God's children. Any moment we reflect back on our baptism, should be for us a moment of transformation through the action of Christ in our lives. It is a time when we joyfully re-focus intimately towards the life of Christ, because as Baptized people of God, we share the same intimacy with God, through Jesus Christ. The sprinkling of the Holy Water at Mass this week, reminds us of that favor from God!

WELCOME HOME PROGRAM INVITES CATHOLICS BACK

Sacred Heart parish invites those baptized and confirmed Catholics who have been away from the church for any amount of time to come back to the practice of their faith by participating in the Welcome Home Catholics program. Welcome Home Catholics is a free program designed to reintroduce people to their faith in an informational and supportive environment.

The first meeting is Tuesday, Jan. 13th, 6:30 to 8 p.m., at the Parish Office, 517 W. 10th St., Medford.

Sessions will continue on Tuesdays for six weeks. A video/discussion format will be used with guest speakers and others who will share their experiences as returning Catholics. Topics will include faith and doubt; marriage, annulments and sexuality; prayer, Mary and the saints; reconciliation and confession; the Holy Mass and the Eucharist; and living a Christian life.

This program is not a Bible study or forum for debating church doctrine, nor is it an introduction for those seeking to join the Catholic Church for the first time. The decision if and when to return is up to the individual and will be respected. For more information, contact the parish offices at 541-779-4661.

POPE FRANCIS JANUARY INTENTIONS

Universal Intention – Peace

That those from diverse religious traditions and all people of good will may work together for peace.

Evangelization Intention - Consecrated Life

That in this year dedicated to consecrated life, religious men and women may rediscover the joy of following Christ and strive to serve the poor with zeal.

Prayer of the Month

Father, we thank you for calling men and women to serve in your Son's Kingdom as sisters, brothers, religious priests, consecrated virgins, and hermits, as well as members of Secular Institutes. Renew their knowledge and love of you, and send your Holy Spirit to help them respond generously and courageously to your will.

--from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

PLEASE PRAY for the sick of our parish especially: Kim George, Victor Eakin, Ramona Rosales, James Herndon, Richard Davidson, Beth Curl, Sgt. Joseph Lowery, Joan Bain, Paul Zeleznik, Carmen Aitken, James Bright, Donna Becker, Lisa Young, Eileen Van Dyck, Pamela Demian, Marie Casilio, John Kuchler, Dick & Beverly Handley, Patti Wittenbrock, Jennifer White, and Shizuka McCue.

Please pray for the deceased of our parish especially: +Maria Rivera, +Kathy Sedwick, and +Jennifer Ferrin Galster



DID YOU KNOW that you can learn more about Sacred Heart Catholic Schools' important and successful ministry at www.shcs.org?

LEGION OF MARY NEWS

Way to go Maria Cooper, Debbie Peerenboom & Georgia Marsh who made a promise to the Legion of Mary this month. 2700 visits allowed Catholics to receive the presence of Jesus, courtesy of the Legion of Mary. We have ten active members. Eucharistic Ministers please consider extending your call to the Homebound parishioners. Please call the Parish Office to volunteer.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL NEWS

The St Vincent de Paul Dining room serves hot meals Monday through Saturday year round. In 2014 over 500 volunteers working over 10,000 hours faithfully served almost 60,000 meals to all those who came to us in Jackson County. We are always in need of volunteers in the kitchen. We can also use volunteers in our thrift store, shower and laundry facility, home visitations and many other areas. Please help serve those in need. Please call [541-772-3828](tel:541-772-3828) Ext 7. We need you."

7:00 a.m. DAILY MASS INTENTIONS

M. Jan. 12: +Michael Golden
T. Jan. 13: Dan Sakraida
W. Jan. 14: +Paul Boland
Th. Jan. 15: John Martin
F. Jan. 16: +Steve Rayburn

8:30 a.m. DAILY MASS INTENTIONS

M. Jan. 12: Fr. Martin Tavares
T. Jan. 13: +Jane Schiller Becker
W. Jan. 14: Sick & Homebound
Th. Jan. 15: Fr. Ken Sampson
F. Jan. 16: +Howard Rapp
S. Jan. 17: +Jack Walker

TIME TO *RESERVE YOUR SEATS* FOR THE

2015 Magdalene Home Angel Banquet!
Saturday, February 7, 2015, 5:30 pm
Sacred Heart Parish Hall

Tickets \$50/person
*Doors open 5pm with champagne,
hors d'oeuvres, raffles, and silent auction
6pm - full buffet dinner by Rosario's,
followed by live auction*

For reservations, leave name(s), phone #(s),
and address(es) of all guests with:
Dave Paradis (541) 772-7123 (weekdays)
or Connie Moyer (541) 773-8736
Reserve soon, as we have **SOLD OUT**
the past several years!

PATRICIANS

Join us Monday, January 19 in the Parish Hall at
9:30. Come enter our discussion on a Catholic
topic. Father Justus is our Spiritual Advisor.

To convert somebody go and take them by
the hand and guide them." ~ St. Thomas Aquinas



ATTENTION PARISH ENTREPRENEURS !

This is your chance to put your talents to work for
a great cause and get your business name and prod-
ucts the attention they deserve! Before we know it
the St. Patrick's Day Dinner will be upon us, and
the Catholic Daughters of Sacred Heart are in need
of your help to put together the best gifts baskets
for our auction. The dinner benefits Magdalene
Home and St Vincent DePaul and we want to make
this our best year ever. Your company's items for
the basket auction can be dropped off at the Parish
office or contact Vice Regent, Ingrid DeCarlow at
541 601-7609 and we will arrange pick up. We are
looking forward to seeing you and your products
on proud display March 14th!

COFFEE & DONUTS hosted by:

January 11

7:00 & 8:30 - Altar Society

January 18

7:00 - Debbie Peerenboom / Paul Stancel

8:30 - The Jones Family

January 25

7:00 - Anne and Michael Carpenter

8:30 - The Seniors



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Christmas season ends January 11th with the
baptism of Jesus. On Monday, January 12th,
all the Christmas decorations must be taken
down, put away and cleaned up. We will start
at 9:30 a.m. and with ten or more volunteers
should finish in an hour. Please contact BJ Bux-
ton at 541-772-8292 if you are able to help.
Thank you to all who have already volunteered!

ALTAR SOCIETY NEWS

Happy New Year! Hope all goes well for you
this year. Please join us Monday, January 12 at
10:30 in the Parish Hall for our meeting. Please
bring snacks.

SECULAR FRANCISCAN MEETING

The Secular Franciscans wish everyone a blessed
and joyous New Year! We will meet Sunday,
January 18th with prayer and study of the third
chapter of *The Joy of the Gospel* by Pope Francis.
God bless you all!

LIGHTHOUSE CATHOLIC MEDIA

Check out our new Kiosk With dozens of CDs,
Books & Pamphlets on many aspects of our
Catholic Faith. New titles available weekly! It is
available in the foyer of the church on Sundays, dur-
ing Coffee and Donuts and also during Father Ken's
Bible Studies. Start the year filling your hearts and
minds with literature that is uplifting.

BIBLE STUDY with Father Ken

Genesis to Jesus:

A Survey of the New Testament with
Father Ken Sampson

Thursdays -- 1:30-2:30 or 7:00-8:00PM
In the Parish Hall Drop ins welcome!



SAVE THE DATE!

The Knights of Columbus will host a
Fiesta Dinner on Saturday, February 28!
Will there be enchiladas? I hope so!
More info to come.

Thank you Advertiser of the Week
PAPA JOHN'S PIZZA

Please thank our Advertisers with your patronage.

Commemorating 42 Years of
Standing for Life

1973 ~ 2015

Thursday, January 22nd at 7:00 PM

First Baptist Church
649 Crater Lake Avenue Medford Oregon

What is a believer's role in society today?

How shall we respond to immoral government
edicts and laws?

What does God's Word say about the issue of life?

How do we apply to our daily lives what the Scriptures
say — for our society in general, and for our children?

How do those of us who have been involved in abortion
find help, healing, and forgiveness — even years afterwards?

Join hundreds of other Christians as we come together to learn what God's
Word teaches on this difficult issue. It will be an uplifting evening of learn-
ing, reflection, healing, and a call to action for all Christians.

Scheduled Speakers:

Patrick Doyle, Veritas Counseling

Pastor Greg Spires, First Baptist Church

Perry Atkinson, The Dove

There will be an opportunity to speak with counselors following the program.

Presented by: Jackson County Right to Life

www.jacksoncountyprolife.org

**You are invited to come,
pray the rosary at
8:00 a.m. Monday - Saturday.**

**Or you are welcome to pray
the Divine Mercy Chaplet
after morning Mass.**

Pray before, after, or both!



SACRED HEART YOUTH MINISTRY

To obtain Sacred Heart Youth Ministry

Information Contact: Whitney Compton at wcompton@archdpdx.org, For Whitney's' cell # please e-mail her for her Mobil number.

ADOPT A CONFIRMANDI!

If you would like to adopt a Confirmandi and pray for them throughout the year please contact Whitney Compton for the name of youth you can adopt!

YOUNG ADULTS AGE 18-35:

Our January e-mail has gone out and our first social event is planned for January 16th, 2015! If you're interested in joining our Young Adult Program and desire to receive our e-mail informing you of Young Adult Social and Spiritual events and opportunities please contact Whitney Compton via e-mail.

YOUTH GROUP (Middle School and High School):

NEXT WEEK WE KICK OFF OUR SPRING 2015 SEMESTER! January 11th 2015 we will resume our usual youth group meeting times have a Kick Off party for our Edge and Lifeteen semesters.

Middle School: 9:45a-11:00a

This semester we will be learning about THE CREED!

High School – After Youth Mass from 6:15p-7:30p

Semester Content: MORALITY!

CONFIRMATION:

This week Confirmation Classes will resume. On January 14th Group B will have Class 6.

On January 21 Group A will have Class 7.

If you have not yet turned in your Mass journal don't forget to bring them into class that day. Also please turn in your Service Project Forms to Whitney Compton in the Church office.

NET Ministries

NET Ministries will be coming to put on our Confirmation Retreat February 14, 2015 in the parish hall from 9a-5p. Registration is now open for High School Youth who are not currently in Confirmation. Retreat Cost (to non registered confirmation youth) is \$23.00! Space is limited; sign up now! Please begin to pray for the Netters, Confirmandi, and any High School youth that may be attending as the retreat draws near.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Sacrament Preparation children will receive the gift of their First Reconciliation on Wednesday January 14th at 6:00 p.m. in the church. Any questions?? Call Mary Stallard (541-779-4661)

TO THE MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH

The presence of children is a gift to the Church! The children are members of our parish community, and a reminder that our parish is growing. *Please welcome our children and give a smile of encouragement.*

LEGION OF MARY NEWS

Thank you Religious Education Students for the Christmas Cards for the homebound. Your drawings and good wishes were very much appreciated.



BOX TOPS AND CAMPBELL'S SOUP LABELS.

Did you know that it's easy to help out Sacred Heart School. In the back of the church there is a large envelope on the SHCS bulletin board where we collect Box Tops and Campbells Soup Labels. It's amazing how many items we have purchased with Box Tops and soup labels, including 25 playground balls, dozens of jump ropes, sidewalk chalk and several other items to be used on the playground. Any donated Box Tops or soup labels would be greatly appreciated. Thanks!

MARRIED COUPLES – WANT TO GIVE A GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING?

Register for the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend – it's the best gift you'll ever give to each other and your marriage! Enjoy a **World Wide Marriage Encounter** weekend at Mt. Angel Abby Feb. 13-15th, 2015 and fill your holiday celebrations with even greater blessings. For more information call 503-853-2758 or apply on-line at www.rediscoverthespark.org. Other dates also available.

Financial Report

	12/31/2014	12/31/2013
Offertory Received -Year to Date	\$465,370.03	\$483,118.71
Needed for Budget	\$471,749.99	\$469,437.53
Over (under) Budget	(\$6,379.96)	(\$13,681.18)

God gives it all, then calls us to share. Thank you for sharing! On-line giving is now available. If you are interested, please see information in this bulletin or call the office.

WELCOME TO WESHARE – ONLINE GIVING!

We are grateful for your support of Sacred Heart Church and our many ministries. Online giving allows you to make contributions to our church without writing checks or worrying about cash donations. The WeShare website allows you to set up automatic contributions and change the timing or the amount of your gift at any time.

Frequently Asked Questions about Online giving:

What is Online giving? Online giving through WeShare is a direct payment program whereby your contribution is debited automatically from your checking, savings, or credit card account into Sacred Heart’s bank account. There is NO cost to you, the parishioner, to participate.

What are the advantages of Online giving? It makes it easy to fulfill stewardship commitments, even when you can’t attend church. It is convenient – you never have to bring cash or checks to church. No more worry about “forgetting your envelope”. Giving electronically also helps Sacred Heart Church by stabilizing the flow of offertory contributions.

How are my contributions automatically deducted from my account? Once you complete the registration at <https://sacredheartmedford.weshareonline.org>, the contribution amount you specify will automatically be transferred from your bank account to the church’s bank account.

When will my contribution be deducted from my account? Your electronic contribution will be debited from your account on the date you specify on the website.

If I do not write checks, how do I keep my checkbook balance straight? Since your contribution is made at a pre-established time, you simply record it in your check register on the appropriate date. When you set up your account profile, you indicate if you want to receive an email prior to the contribution being withdrawn, so you are reminded that the amount will be coming out of your account.

Can I put different amounts in offerings to different collections? Yes, you specify which collection your contribution is for. Second collections that are taken up throughout the year will be added to the website prior to the collection date.

What if I try Online giving and don’t like it? You can cancel your authorization at any time by deleting accounts and donation dates on the website.

I like the idea of putting something in the collection basket – what do I do with Online giving? You can still put an envelope in the basket and just note “I give electronically” on the envelope. Future orders of envelopes will have that option on them.

I still have questions – who do I contact? Please call Marie Chandler, Director of Administration at the Parish Office 541.779.4661 or mchandler@archdpdx.org.