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Website: www.sttheresecanton.org
Email: sttheresecanton@gmail.com or sttheresesecretary@gmail.com

Vision Statement: The St. Therese Catholic Community is a well-tended rose planted in Canton, Texas, nurtured by the Way, the Truth, and the Life of Jesus Christ according to the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, to bring the fruit of His grace and mercy to the lives of everyone, for the greater honor and glory of God.

Declaración de la Visión: La comunidad católica de Santa Teresa es una rosa bien cuidada plantada en Canton, Texas, nutrida por el Camino, la Verdad y la Vida de Jesucristo de acuerdo con las enseñanzas de la Iglesia Católica Romana, para traer el fruto de su gracia y misericordia a la vida de todos, para mayor honra y gloria de Dios.

January 12th, The Baptism of the Lord

DAILY MASS

Monday - 8:00 a.m.
Tuesday - 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday - 12 Noon
Thursday & Friday - 8:00 a.m.

CONFESSIONS

Every day 30 minutes before
Masses

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday Vigil
5:30 p.m. (English)
Sunday:
7:00 & 9:00 a.m. (English)
11:30 a.m. (Spanish)

Holy Days of Obligation
12 Noon / 6:00 p.m.

DEVOTIONS

ADORATION: On First Fridays
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Kindly Signup in the Narthex.
FIRST SATURDAY MASS: 8:00 a.m.
ROSARY
Tuesday - 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday - 11:30 a.m.
First Saturday after Mass

Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Jesudoss Thomas, S.T.L.
Deacons:
Jim Burkel : Alan Stehsel:
Jon Fadely : Larry Edwards :
Church Secretary: Anna Stephens
Bookkeeper: Sharla Lewis

Office Hours

Horas de Oficina
Monday-Friday /
Lunes al Viernes
9:00 am – 3:00 p.m.
Sunday / Domingo:
10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

January 12, 2025 – The Baptism of Our Lord: Prayer as Conversation (2)

Last week's reflection was focused on the necessary conditions for prayer- conversation. Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J. in his *Theology of Prayer*, pg.21 states the absolute need for prayer-conversation: **Prayer is the sublime conversation we are mysteriously able to hold with the invisible world of God, angels, and saints. It is sublime because that is what we are preparing for during our stay on earth. Prayer is the one activity that will not be interpreted by death, but will continue in heaven, never to end. Of course, prayer on earth requires effort, but that is as it should be, since all other labor in this life has only as much value and as much meaning and is only as pleasing to God as it is enveloped by prayer. Those who pray now will pray in eternity, which is another name for heaven. No one else will get there. Prayer is the indispensable and infallible means of reaching our destiny.** Our prayer conversation is primarily directed toward Triune God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, because he is the source of our life and existence. We come from him, and we go to him. He is the alpha and omega – the beginning and end of all that is created. So, Jesus teaches us how to pray and what we must pray to God for. The Holy Spirit on his part, **comes to the aid of our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit itself intercedes with inexpressible groanings ... and intercedes for the holy ones according to God's will (Romans 8:26-27). Secondly, we must make our prayer-conversation with the angels.** They are spiritual beings created by God and endowed with intelligence and will. They are created to praise and worship God (Hebrews 1:6). They are ministering spirits before God and to men (Hebrews 1:6,14). They always see the face of God (Matt 8:10) and bring the prayers of people before God like the incense offering (Rev 8:4 & 5:8). Each one of us has a guardian angel who protects us from all evil and offer our prayers before God. Therefore, we must have a good prayer-conversation with our guardian angel and all the angels in heaven, especially the Archangels Saint Michal, Gabriel, and Rafael. **Finally, we must also pray to the Saints.** They are men and women like us, God honors their faith, works of love, sacrifices, witness to the gospel by shedding of their blood. They also enjoy the face of God and worship him with angels. God grants certain favors to us through their intercession. They can pray for us and obtain graces for us because of their holiness and nearness to God. Saints are examples of faith, charity, and holiness. **We must never forget that saints and angels are divine providence and assistance on our pilgrimage of hope toward heaven.** — Fr. Jesu

Welcome to Our Visitors and New Parishioners

We joyfully welcome you to our Parish Family. We are blessed by your visit!
If you would like to become a member of our St. Therese Family, please, come by the office after the 9:00 am Mass to register. Thank you and God Bless!



Office Staff Secretary: Anna Stephens Bookkeeper: Sharla Lewis Facility Rental: Deacon Larry Edwards Finance Council: Helen Howell Building Maintenance: Ed Lucas DRE: Barbara Cozart Pastoral Council: Ron Veilleux Music Director: Ken Mings CYO High School: JoAnne Henson CYO Jr. High: Sue Watson Liturgy Coordinator: Deacon Jon Fadely		Religious Education / Ministries Faith Formation Coordinator: Barbara Cozart RCIA: Deacon Alan Stehsel Adult Bible Study: JoAnne Henson & Rosemarie Hicks Sanctity of Life Ministry: Deacon Jim Burkel Crisis Pregnancy & Gabriel Project: Educación Religiosa / Ministerios Ministro de Lectores Servidores: Andrea Galvan, Maria Landaverde Ministerio de Coro: Gerardo Ramirez Preparacion de los Sacramentos Y Quinceñeras: Diacono Jon Fadely Sacraments Prep-Children: Jenny Aubert	
Monthly or Weekly Meetings Ladies Guild Holy Name Society Knights of Columbus Sacraments Prep CYO RCIA Daughter's of Mary		Parish Organizations K of C: Jeff Aubert Ladies Guild: Jane Miller Holy Name Society: Mike Perez St. Therese Charity: Kathleen Bulfer Religious Gift Shop: Judy Thurman Scholarship Fund: Sharla Lewis Hospitality Ministry: Linda Lehman	
Mass Intentions and Liturgical Observations			Readings for this Week
Sunday 7:00 am 9:00 am 11:30 am	Jan. 12 Mass Mass Mass	Baptism of the Lord † Hunter Fain Matthew Trojacek by Mike & Susan Trojacek † Helen Martinez Birthday by Greg & Margie Wallace † Luis Herrera & † MaElend Herrera by The Herrera Family	Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 Psalm 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 <u>Acts 10:34-38</u> <u>Luke 3:15-16, 21-22</u>
Monday 8:00 am	Jan. 13 Mass	St. Hilary Bishop and Doctor Thomas Lane Birthday	<u>Hebrews 1:1-6</u> <u>Mark 1:14-20</u>
Tuesday 6:00 pm	Jan. 14 Mass	Bridget Thill	<u>Hebrews 2:5-12</u> <u>Mark 1:21-28</u>
Wed. 11:30 12:00	Jan. 15 Mass	Dennis & Marie Nicholas Anniversary	<u>Hebrews 2:14-18</u> <u>Mark 1:29-39</u>
Thursday 8:00 am	Jan. 16 Mass	† Patricia Ratliffe by The Sewing/Craft Group	<u>Hebrews 3:7-14</u> <u>Mark 1:40-45</u>
Friday 8:00 am	Jan. 17 Mass	Saint Anthony Jayden Nance	<u>Hebrews 4:1-5, 11</u> <u>Mark 2:1-12</u>
Saturday 5:30 pm	Jan. 18 Mass	† George Pitts by Charlene Silva	<u>Hebrews 4:12-16</u> <u>Mark 2:13-17</u>
The Holy Father's Prayer Intention for January			Praying for the Sick
For pilgrims of hope We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope. ***** Para los peregrinos de la esperanza Oramos para que este Año Jubilar fortalezca nuestra fe, ayudándonos a reconocer a Cristo Resucitado en nuestra vida diaria, y que nos transforme en peregrinos de la esperanza cristiana.		Shirley Owens, Mary Buron, Emma Welty, Luis Hernandez, Benito Jr., Lollie Amburn, Shayna Horne, Chris Lyle, John Drane, Bill Crouch, Kathleen Bulfer, Patty Ratliff, John Boyd, Gregory Crouch, Mariln Terra, Kathleen LeBars, Christine Sigle, Jackson Palumbo, Dan Peden, Graciela Peden, Amanda Peden, Nathan Peden, Michele Louise, Margaret Hoefer, Suzie Oreb, Rand Family, Susan Carlos, Honey Roy, Eddie Valdez, Dawson Elmore, Rose Montgomery, Ellery Speight, Sheila Cote, Bryan Davis, Wanda Ray, Scott & Annette Muckelroy, Julie French, Hannah Deprez, Alexis Ranne, Patti Parise, Ann Bradley, Doug Hatton, Jerry & Uethel Burrows, David Haimes, Charlie Bulfer, Willis Abrams, Olivia Aguilar, D. Lane, Carlitos Martinez, Byron Medley Jr., Tom Koller, George Pitts, Manuel Chabarria, Maggie Beall, Naomi Montez, Darryl Rosson, Manuel Clunga, Wanda Ray, Duane & Margaret Musgrave, Jessica Bass, The Duncan Family, the Bailey Family, Linda Wade, Enrique Rojo, Barry Hatton, The Falciani Family, Dolores Rosati, and those who suffer from various illnesses.	

Sacraments / Sacramentos Baptisms: Please contact the church office at least three months prior to setting a date as a pre-baptismal meeting is required. Marriage: Please contact the church office to visit with your pastor at least six months before setting a date as premarital classes must be attended prior to the wedding. <i>For both of these sacraments you must be a member of our Parish and in good standing. If you belong to another Parish and are seeking the Sacraments you must bring letter from your priest.</i> Bautizos: Se debe contactar a la oficina al menos un mes antes de la fecha de celebración. Una reunión pre-bautismal es necesario antes de configurar la fecha. Matrimonio: el padre debe ser contactado durante al menos seis meses antes de la boda. Recuerda tomar clases antes de fijar la fecha. <i>Para ambos sacramentos debe ser miembro de nuestra parroquia y estar en buena posición. Si pertenece a otra parroquia pero busca los sacramentos, debe traer una carta de su sacerdote.</i> Quinceañera: Si está planeando un quinceañera, asegúrese de comunicarse primero con la oficina de la iglesia, antes de fijar una fecha.	
Your Gift is for God's Work Weekend Mass Collection: \$6,270.00 Attendance for Jan 3 &4: 448 We suggest 10% of monthly income Please Remember St. Therese Church in your Will. <u>Parish Income & Expenses for December</u> Parish Income : \$ 34,955.00 Parish Expenses: \$ 39,777.53 Weekly Building Fund Collection: \$ 6,735.00 Special Thanks to everyone for your offerings. Kindly consider the year-end tax-detectable donations Our Weekly Offering	
Sunday Humor A newly-ordained pastor, in the first days of his first call, was attempting to console the widow of an eccentric man who had just died. Standing before the open casket, the nervous young pastor said, “I realize this must be a very hard blow for you, Mrs. Svenson. Just try to remember that what we see before us is only the husk, the shell of your dear husband—the nut has gone to heaven.”	
FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR THIS WEEK To Honor someone with flowers for the altar, please contact: Martie Brown @ Or contact the church office	Visiting the Sick If you are sick, going for surgery, or in the hospital please contact the priest as soon as possible for your sacramental needs.

LADIES GUILD SERVICE, SPIRITUAL, SOCIAL INTERESTED IN JOINING US please contact: Jane Miller Or call the Church office for contact Information. New members Always welcome!	KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS Meetings are every 3rd Thursday of the month at 6:00 pm Interested in joining please contact: Grand Knight: Jeff Aubert Deputy Grand Knight: Mike Perez Youth Ministry & CYO Grades 6 – 12 meet every Wednesday from 6 pm – 7:30 pm. in the Education Building. Please contact: JoAnne Henson for more information. Diocese Code of Ethics and Integrity Pastor: Father Jesudoss Thomas, STL: Promoter of Justice: Rev. John Gomez: Parish Contact Person: Suzanne Watson Please contact the Church Office for more information.
The St Therese Canton Radio If you are in the listening area, you can tune into KDMI-LP 97.5 FM. We are encouraging everyone to “follow” the Facebook page or listen to the station to stay up to date on things happening at St. Therese. Facebook page @ StThereseCantonRadio. DAILY MASS It helps us to grow in our personal holiness. As we need food everyday, we need Eucharist everyday. If you missed a Sunday Mass, kindly consider attending one of the weekday Masses. Let us pray for our broken world, which needs God’s Mercy and peace. If and when you can attend a weekday Mass, you will receive special graces for your efforts.	
Upcoming Events—Mark Your Calendar Jan. 12th (Sun) - Feast of The Baptism of the Lord Feb. 1st (Sat) - First Saturday Mass at 8:00 a.m. Feb. 2nd (Sun) - Feast of The Presentation of The Lord Feb. 7th (Fri) - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Mar. 1st (Sat) - First Saturday Mass at 8:00 a.m. Mar. 5th (Wed) - Ash Wednesday Mar. 7th (Fri) - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Mar. 9th (Sun) - First Sunday of Lent	
PLEASE BE AWARE OF SCAMS Father Jesu will never ask you for gift cards, money transfers or donations/cash solicited via text messages or email. If you receive anything like this please know it is a scam and do not respond.	

Announcements

- ⇒ Our next Bible Study, “**Mary, a Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother**” begins on **Monday, January 27th at 9:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.** Cost is \$30.00. **Deadline to register is today.**
- ⇒ **It’s time to renew your Bulletin Ad or purchase a new Ad for your business!** Ads are \$150.00 each and are displayed each week in the bulletin and online for an entire year! **Please stop by the church office to reserve your spot today!**
- ⇒ **Please pick up your contribution envelopes as you exit the church today.** They are in alphabetical order. **Please contact the church office if you do not have envelopes and we will issue some for you.**
- ⇒ **The Poinsettias are in the Parish Hall and are available to take home first come, first serve.** If you would like to make a donation for the poinsettia, please use the flower envelopes in the Narthex.
- ⇒ **Please consider signing up for various ministries,** we would like to have more ushers, lectors, and members for linen care ministry. Kindly see one of the hospitality ministers to sign up.
- ⇒ Please join us **next Sunday** after the 9:00 a.m. Mass for the Holy Name Society’s **delicious country breakfast.**



Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Already in 300 AD, the Eastern Church celebrated the Epiphany and the Baptism of Jesus on 6 January. In the Western Church, this feast was mentioned in the Liturgy of the Hours. With the reform of the liturgy in 1969, the date for this Feast was set on the Sunday after the Epiphany. When the Feast of the Epiphany is not celebrated on 6 January, it is celebrated on the Sunday between 2 and 8 January, and the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord is celebrated on the Monday following the Epiphany. The Christmas Season concludes with the celebration of this Feast, even though a “window” is left open until 2 February, the day on which the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple is celebrated. The latter feast is also known as Candlemas since Christ is proclaimed as the “light for the gentiles”.

The people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. John answered them all, saying, “**I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.**” After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “**You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased**” (Lk. 3:15-16, 21-22).

It is interesting to note that the Evangelist Luke recounts that Jesus’ baptism was an experience of the people: “After all the people had been baptized”. By being in the midst of the people, Jesus manifests profound solidarity with His sinful people, giving from the very beginning a certain “stamp” to His mission. Jesus reveals that He is the One who has come to “get His hands dirty” so as to bear the sins of humanity.

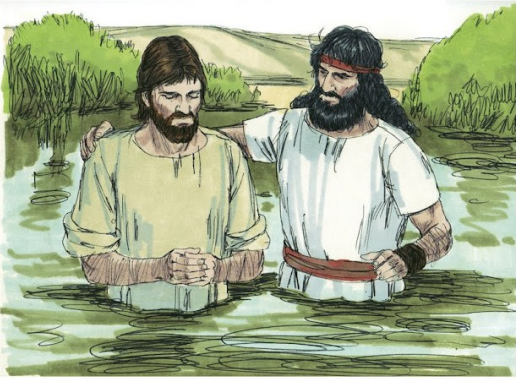
Unlike the other evangelists, Luke does not dwell on the baptism, but leaves it in the background, using a simple phrase: “**Jesus also had been baptized**”. What the evangelist highlights is Jesus’ behavior: “**He was praying**”. This is a particularly dear theme for Luke that he repeats often in his Gospel. In this climate of prayer, Jesus receives the gift of the Spirit and is confirmed by the Father who recognizes him to be “the beloved” and that He is “well pleased” with Him, or that He has placed His trust in Jesus. This is a way of indicating that Jesus’ way of drawing near to the people, of being in solidarity with them, is the reason why He was sent.

In the context of prayer, **Jesus receives the gift of the Holy Spirit.** This detail suggests that every time we pray, when we are speaking one on one with God (*Saint Teresa of Avila*), **it is possible to experience the Holy Spirit.** To pray is to return to Him, to remain with Him. It is the breath of our being children of God which we were introduced to in our own baptism. **Only in prayer can our lives as God’s children be nourished.** In moments of prayer, we allow God to say over us: “**You are the beloved**”, “**You are important for me**”.

In Jesus, the Father’s chosen Son, each of us is “**the Lord’s beloved child**”, with whom God “**is pleased**”. This is true for me, but it is also true for every brother and sister, independently of our condition of being sinners. In baptism, what happened at Christmas happens again: God descends, He enters within me so that I might be reborn in Him as a new creature. But we are asked to bear witness to this “new life” (cf. Is. 43:19) so that just as Jesus could say, “those who have seen me have seen the Father” (Jn. 14:9), so too can other people say of us, “**I see Jesus in you**”. Humanly this is impossible, certainly. But “nothing is impossible with God” (Lk. 1:37).

Anuncios

- ⇒ **El Estudio Bíblico (solo en español) comienza el martes 7 de enero a las 6:45 p.m. en el Edificio de Educación. Por favor hable con Andrea Galván (469) 260-2231 si desea inscribirse.**
- ⇒ **¡Es hora de renovar su anuncio en el boletín o comprar un anuncio nuevo para su negocio!** ¡Los anuncios cuestan \$150.00 cada uno y se muestran cada semana en el boletín y en línea durante todo un año! **¡Pase por la oficina de la iglesia para reservar su lugar hoy!**
- ⇒ **Por favor recoja sus sobres de contribución al salir de la iglesia hoy.** Están en orden alfabético. Comuníquese con la oficina de la iglesia si no tiene sobres y le entregaremos algunos.
- ⇒ **Considere inscribirse en varios ministerios;** nos gustaría tener más ujieres, lectores y miembros para el ministerio de cuidado de la ropa blanca. Por favor consulte a uno de los ministros de hospitalidad para registrarse.
- ⇒ **Las Poinsettias están en el Salón Parroquial y están disponibles para llevarse a casa por orden de llegada.** Si desea hacer una donación para la flor de pascua, utilice los sobres de flores que se encuentran en el Narthex.



Fiesta del Bautismo del Señor

Ya en el año 300 d.C., la Iglesia Oriental celebraba la Epifanía y el Bautismo de Jesús el 6 de enero. En la Iglesia occidental, esta fiesta se mencionaba en la Liturgia de las Horas. Con la reforma de la liturgia en 1969, la fecha de esta Fiesta se fijó en el domingo posterior a la Epifanía. Cuando la Fiesta de la Epifanía no se celebra el 6 de enero, se celebra el domingo entre el 2 y el 8 de enero, y la Fiesta del Bautismo del Señor se celebra el lunes siguiente a la Epifanía. El tiempo navideño concluye con la celebración de esta Fiesta, aunque se deja una “ventana” abierta hasta el 2 de febrero, día en el que se celebra la Fiesta de la Presentación del Señor en el Templo. Esta última fiesta también se conoce como Candelaria ya que se proclama a Cristo como la “luz de los gentiles”.

La gente estaba llena de expectación y todos preguntaban en sus corazones si Juan sería el Cristo. Juan respondió a todos, diciendo: **Yo os bautizo en agua, pero viene uno más poderoso que yo. No soy digno de desatar las correas de sus sandalias. Él os bautizará en Espíritu Santo y fuego**”. Después que todo el pueblo fue bautizado y Jesús también fue bautizado y estaba orando, se abrió el cielo y el Espíritu Santo descendió sobre él en forma corporal como una paloma. Y vino una voz del cielo: “**Tú eres mi Hijo amado; en vosotros tengo complacencia**” (Lc. 3:15-16, 21-22).

Es interesante notar que el evangelista Lucas relata que el bautismo de Jesús fue una experiencia del pueblo: “Después de que todo el pueblo había sido bautizado”. Al estar en medio del pueblo, Jesús manifiesta una profunda solidaridad con su pueblo pecador, dando desde el principio un cierto “sello” a su misión. Jesús revela que Él es Aquel que ha venido a “ensuciarse las manos” para llevar los pecados de la humanidad.

A diferencia de los demás evangelistas, Lucas no se detiene en el bautismo, sino que lo deja en un segundo plano, utilizando una sencilla frase: “**También Jesús fue bautizado**”. Lo que destaca el evangelista es el comportamiento de Jesús: “**Estaba orando**”. Este es un tema particularmente querido para Lucas y que repite a menudo en su Evangelio. En este clima de oración, Jesús recibe el don del Espíritu y es confirmado por el Padre que lo reconoce como “el amado” y que está “complacido” con Él, o que ha puesto su confianza en Jesús. Esta es una manera de indicar que la manera de Jesús de acercarse al pueblo, de ser solidario con él, es la razón por la que fue enviado.

En el contexto de la oración, Jesús recibe el don del Espíritu Santo. Este detalle sugiere que cada vez que oramos, cuando estamos hablando uno a uno con Dios (*Santa Teresa de Ávila*), **es posible experimentar el Espíritu Santo.** Orar es volver a Él, permanecer con Él. Es el aliento de nuestro ser hijos de Dios que fuimos introducidos en nuestro propio bautismo. **Sólo en la oración podemos alimentar nuestra vida de hijos de Dios.** En los momentos de oración permitimos que Dios diga sobre nosotros: “**Tú eres el amado**”, “**Tú eres importante para mí**”.

En Jesús, el Hijo elegido del Padre, cada uno de nosotros es “**el hijo amado del Señor**”, en quien Dios “**se complace**”. Esto es cierto para mí, pero también lo es para cada hermano y hermana, independientemente de nuestra condición de pecadores. En el bautismo vuelve a suceder lo que pasó en Navidad: Dios desciende, entra en mí para que yo renazca en Él como una nueva criatura. Pero se nos pide que demos testimonio de esta “vida nueva” (cf. Is 43,19), para que así como Jesús pudo decir: “los que me han visto, han visto al Padre” (Jn 14,9), así También otras personas pueden decir de nosotros: “**Veo a Jesús en ti**”. Humanamente esto es imposible, ciertamente. Pero “nada es imposible para Dios” (Lc. 1:37).

Announcements

- ⇒ Our next Bible Study, “**Mary, a Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother**” begins on **Monday, January 27th at 9:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.** Cost is \$30.00. **Deadline to register is today.**
- ⇒ **It’s time to renew your Bulletin Ad or purchase a new Ad for your business!** Ads are \$150.00 each and are displayed each week in the bulletin and online for an entire year! **Please stop by the church office to reserve your spot today!**
- ⇒ **Please pick up your contribution envelopes as you exit the church today.** They are in alphabetical order. **Please contact the church office if you do not have envelopes and we will issue some for you.**
- ⇒ **The Poinsettias are in the Parish Hall and are available to take home first come, first serve.** If you would like to make a donation for the poinsettia, please use the flower envelopes in the Narthex.
- ⇒ **Please consider signing up for various ministries,** we would like to have more ushers, lectors, and members for linen care ministry. Kindly see one of the hospitality ministers to sign up.
- ⇒ Please join us **next Sunday** after the 9:00 a.m. Mass for the Holy Name Society’s **delicious country breakfast.**



Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Already in 300 AD, the Eastern Church celebrated the Epiphany and the Baptism of Jesus on 6 January. In the Western Church, this feast was mentioned in the Liturgy of the Hours. With the reform of the liturgy in 1969, the date for this Feast was set on the Sunday after the Epiphany. When the Feast of the Epiphany is not celebrated on 6 January, it is celebrated on the Sunday between 2 and 8 January, and the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord is celebrated on the Monday following the Epiphany. The Christmas Season concludes with the celebration of this Feast, even though a “window” is left open until 2 February, the day on which the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple is celebrated. The latter feast is also known as Candlemas since Christ is proclaimed as the “light for the gentiles”.

The people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. John answered them all, saying, “**I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.**” After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “**You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased**” (Lk. 3:15-16, 21-22).

It is interesting to note that the Evangelist Luke recounts that Jesus’ baptism was an experience of the people: “After all the people had been baptized”. By being in the midst of the people, Jesus manifests profound solidarity with His sinful people, giving from the very beginning a certain “stamp” to His mission. Jesus reveals that He is the One who has come to “get His hands dirty” so as to bear the sins of humanity.

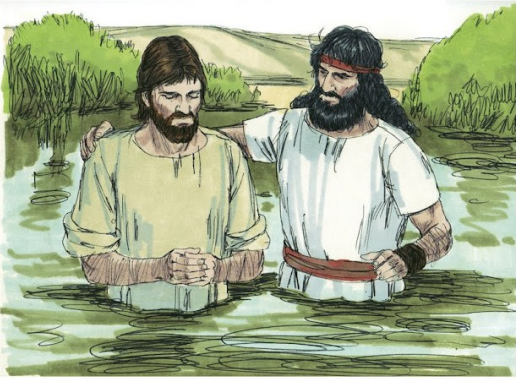
Unlike the other evangelists, Luke does not dwell on the baptism, but leaves it in the background, using a simple phrase: “**Jesus also had been baptized**”. What the evangelist highlights is Jesus’ behavior: “**He was praying**”. This is a particularly dear theme for Luke that he repeats often in his Gospel. In this climate of prayer, Jesus receives the gift of the Spirit and is confirmed by the Father who recognizes him to be “the beloved” and that He is “well pleased” with Him, or that He has placed His trust in Jesus. This is a way of indicating that Jesus’ way of drawing near to the people, of being in solidarity with them, is the reason why He was sent.

In the context of prayer, **Jesus receives the gift of the Holy Spirit.** This detail suggests that every time we pray, when we are speaking one on one with God (*Saint Teresa of Avila*), **it is possible to experience the Holy Spirit.** To pray is to return to Him, to remain with Him. It is the breath of our being children of God which we were introduced to in our own baptism. **Only in prayer can our lives as God’s children be nourished.** In moments of prayer, we allow God to say over us: “**You are the beloved**”, “**You are important for me**”.

In Jesus, the Father’s chosen Son, each of us is “**the Lord’s beloved child**”, with whom God “**is pleased**”. This is true for me, but it is also true for every brother and sister, independently of our condition of being sinners. In baptism, what happened at Christmas happens again: God descends, He enters within me so that I might be reborn in Him as a new creature. But we are asked to bear witness to this “new life” (cf. Is. 43:19) so that just as Jesus could say, “those who have seen me have seen the Father” (Jn. 14:9), so too can other people say of us, “**I see Jesus in you**”. Humanly this is impossible, certainly. But “nothing is impossible with God” (Lk. 1:37).

Anuncios

- ⇒ **El Estudio Bíblico (solo en español) comienza el martes 7 de enero a las 6:45 p.m. en el Edificio de Educación. Por favor hable con Andrea Galván (469) 260-2231 si desea inscribirse.**
- ⇒ **¡Es hora de renovar su anuncio en el boletín o comprar un anuncio nuevo para su negocio!** ¡Los anuncios cuestan \$150.00 cada uno y se muestran cada semana en el boletín y en línea durante todo un año! **¡Pase por la oficina de la iglesia para reservar su lugar hoy!**
- ⇒ **Por favor recoja sus sobres de contribución al salir de la iglesia hoy.** Están en orden alfabético. Comuníquese con la oficina de la iglesia si no tiene sobres y le entregaremos algunos.
- ⇒ **Considere inscribirse en varios ministerios;** nos gustaría tener más ujieres, lectores y miembros para el ministerio de cuidado de la ropa blanca. Por favor consulte a uno de los ministros de hospitalidad para registrarse.
- ⇒ **Las Poinsettias están en el Salón Parroquial y están disponibles para llevarse a casa por orden de llegada.** Si desea hacer una donación para la flor de pascua, utilice los sobres de flores que se encuentran en el Narthex.



Fiesta del Bautismo del Señor

Ya en el año 300 d.C., la Iglesia Oriental celebraba la Epifanía y el Bautismo de Jesús el 6 de enero. En la Iglesia occidental, esta fiesta se mencionaba en la Liturgia de las Horas. Con la reforma de la liturgia en 1969, la fecha de esta Fiesta se fijó en el domingo posterior a la Epifanía. Cuando la Fiesta de la Epifanía no se celebra el 6 de enero, se celebra el domingo entre el 2 y el 8 de enero, y la Fiesta del Bautismo del Señor se celebra el lunes siguiente a la Epifanía. El tiempo navideño concluye con la celebración de esta Fiesta, aunque se deja una “ventana” abierta hasta el 2 de febrero, día en el que se celebra la Fiesta de la Presentación del Señor en el Templo. Esta última fiesta también se conoce como Candelaria ya que se proclama a Cristo como la “luz de los gentiles”.

La gente estaba llena de expectación y todos preguntaban en sus corazones si Juan sería el Cristo. Juan respondió a todos, diciendo: **Yo os bautizo en agua, pero viene uno más poderoso que yo. No soy digno de desatar las correas de sus sandalias. Él os bautizará en Espíritu Santo y fuego**”. Después que todo el pueblo fue bautizado y Jesús también fue bautizado y estaba orando, se abrió el cielo y el Espíritu Santo descendió sobre él en forma corporal como una paloma. Y vino una voz del cielo: “**Tú eres mi Hijo amado; en vosotros tengo complacencia**” (Lc. 3:15-16, 21-22).

Es interesante notar que el evangelista Lucas relata que el bautismo de Jesús fue una experiencia del pueblo: “Después de que todo el pueblo había sido bautizado”. Al estar en medio del pueblo, Jesús manifiesta una profunda solidaridad con su pueblo pecador, dando desde el principio un cierto “sello” a su misión. Jesús revela que Él es Aquel que ha venido a “ensuciarse las manos” para llevar los pecados de la humanidad.

A diferencia de los demás evangelistas, Lucas no se detiene en el bautismo, sino que lo deja en un segundo plano, utilizando una sencilla frase: “**También Jesús fue bautizado**”. Lo que destaca el evangelista es el comportamiento de Jesús: “**Estaba orando**”. Este es un tema particularmente querido para Lucas y que repite a menudo en su Evangelio. En este clima de oración, Jesús recibe el don del Espíritu y es confirmado por el Padre que lo reconoce como “el amado” y que está “complacido” con Él, o que ha puesto su confianza en Jesús. Esta es una manera de indicar que la manera de Jesús de acercarse al pueblo, de ser solidario con él, es la razón por la que fue enviado.

En el contexto de la oración, Jesús recibe el don del Espíritu Santo. Este detalle sugiere que cada vez que oramos, cuando estamos hablando uno a uno con Dios (*Santa Teresa de Ávila*), **es posible experimentar el Espíritu Santo.** Orar es volver a Él, permanecer con Él. Es el aliento de nuestro ser hijos de Dios que fuimos introducidos en nuestro propio bautismo. **Sólo en la oración podemos alimentar nuestra vida de hijos de Dios.** En los momentos de oración permitimos que Dios diga sobre nosotros: “**Tú eres el amado**”, “**Tú eres importante para mí**”.

En Jesús, el Hijo elegido del Padre, cada uno de nosotros es “**el hijo amado del Señor**”, en quien Dios “**se complace**”. Esto es cierto para mí, pero también lo es para cada hermano y hermana, independientemente de nuestra condición de pecadores. En el bautismo vuelve a suceder lo que pasó en Navidad: Dios desciende, entra en mí para que yo renazca en Él como una nueva criatura. Pero se nos pide que demos testimonio de esta “vida nueva” (cf. Is 43,19), para que así como Jesús pudo decir: “los que me han visto, han visto al Padre” (Jn 14,9), así También otras personas pueden decir de nosotros: “**Veo a Jesús en ti**”. Humanamente esto es imposible, ciertamente. Pero “nada es imposible para Dios” (Lc. 1:37).