

PARISH OF ST GEORGE

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THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

12 JANUARY 2025

READINGS: LUKE 3:15-16, 21-22

Scripture Lessons:



The Baptism of the Lord is the great event celebrated by the Eastern churches on the feast of Epiphany because it is the occasion of the first public revelation of all the Three Persons in the Holy Trinity, and the official revelation of Jesus as the Son of God to the world by God the Father. Hence, it is described by the four Gospels. It marks the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. The Christmas season, celebrating the Self-revelation of God through Jesus, comes to an end with the feast of the Baptism of Our Lord.

Jesus presents himself for John's baptism in today's Gospel, not because He is a sinner, but to fulfill the word of God proclaimed by His prophets. He must be baptized to reveal that He is the Christ ("anointed one") "In Baptism, all are anointed with that same Spirit, made beloved sons and daughters of God. Indeed, we are Christians - literally "anointed ones." (Scott Hann).

Life Messages:

The baptism of Jesus reminds us of our identity and mission. First, it reminds us of who we are and Whose we are. By Baptism we become the adoptive sons and daughters of God, brothers and sisters of Jesus, members of his Church, heirs of Heaven and temples of the Holy Spirit. We become incorporated into the Church, the Body of Christ, and made sharers in the priesthood of Christ [CCC #1279]. Hence, "Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit and the door which gives access to the other Sacraments" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1213). Most of us dipped the fingers of our right hand into the holy water font and blessed ourselves when we came into Church today. Why? This blessing is supposed to remind us of our Baptism. And so when I bless myself with Holy Water, I should be thinking of the fact that I am a child of God; that I have been redeemed by the Cross of Christ; that I have been made a member of God's family; and that I have been washed, forgiven, cleansed and purified by the Blood of the Lamb.

Exegesis: Origin of baptism:

Neither John nor Jesus invented baptism. It had been practiced for centuries among the Jews as a ritual equivalent to our Confession. Until the fall of the Temple in 70 AD, it was common for Jewish people to use a special pool called a Mikveh -- literally a "collection of water" -- as a means of spiritual cleansing, to remove spiritual impurity and sin. Men took this bath weekly on the eve of the Sabbath; women, monthly. Converts were also expected to take this bath before entering Judaism. The Orthodox Jews still retain the rite. John preached that such a bath was a necessary preparation for the cataclysm that would be wrought by the coming Messiah. Jesus transformed this continuing ritual into the one single, definitive act by which we begin our life of Faith. In effect, He fused His Divine Essence with the water and the ceremony.

MASS TIMES FOR THIS COMING WEEK

Saturday 11 January St Silvanus of Amiens <i>He must grown greater, and I must grow smaller.</i>	6:30pm	Hazel Spencer
SUNDAY 12 JANUARY THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD <i>He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.</i>	9:30am 11:00am	Departed members and in-laws of Gorman family. Edwina O'Connor
Monday 13 January St Hilary, bishop and doctor St Kentigern(Mungo), bishop <i>Proclaim the wonders of the Lord among all the peoples.</i>	No Mass	-----
Tuesday 14 January St Felix of Nola <i>He taught them with authority.</i>	No Mass	-----
Wednesday 15 January St Ita, virgin St Arnold Jansen <i>The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.</i>	No Mass	-----
Thursday 16 January St Fursa, abbot and missionary <i>O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts'.</i>	No Mass	-----
Friday 17 January St Anthony, abbot <i>Never forget the deeds of the Lord.</i>	No Mass	-----
Saturday 18 January St Prisca, virgin and martyr <i>Your words are spirit Lord, and they are life.</i>	6:30pm	Souls in Purgatory
SUNDAY 19 JANUARY 2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME <i>He let his glory be seen, and his disciples believed in him.</i>	9:30am 11:00am	Parishioners Parishioners

Prayer to the Holy Name - St. Bernardine of Siena



Jesus, Name full of glory,
grace, love and strength!
You are the refuge of those
who repent,
our banner of warfare in this
life,
the medicine of souls, the
comfort of those who morn,
the delight of those who
believe,
the light of those who preach
the true faith,
the wages of those who toil,
the healing of the sick.
To You our devotion aspires;
by You our prayers are
received;
we delight in contemplating
You.
O Name of Jesus, You are the
glory
of all the saints for eternity.
Amen.

**NB: The month of January
is dedicated to the Holy
Name of Jesus**

Readers: 12 January 2025

Sat 6:30	Sun 9:30	Sun 11:00
Hazel Spencer	Guy Churton	Anne Carr

Weekly Collection:

To be announced

We wish to thank you for your ongoing generosity in the upkeep of the parish.

Our Parish Safeguarding representative is Helen Clarke

**Confession is before or
after Mass or at any
convenient time
you want.
Arrange
with the
Parish Priest.**

