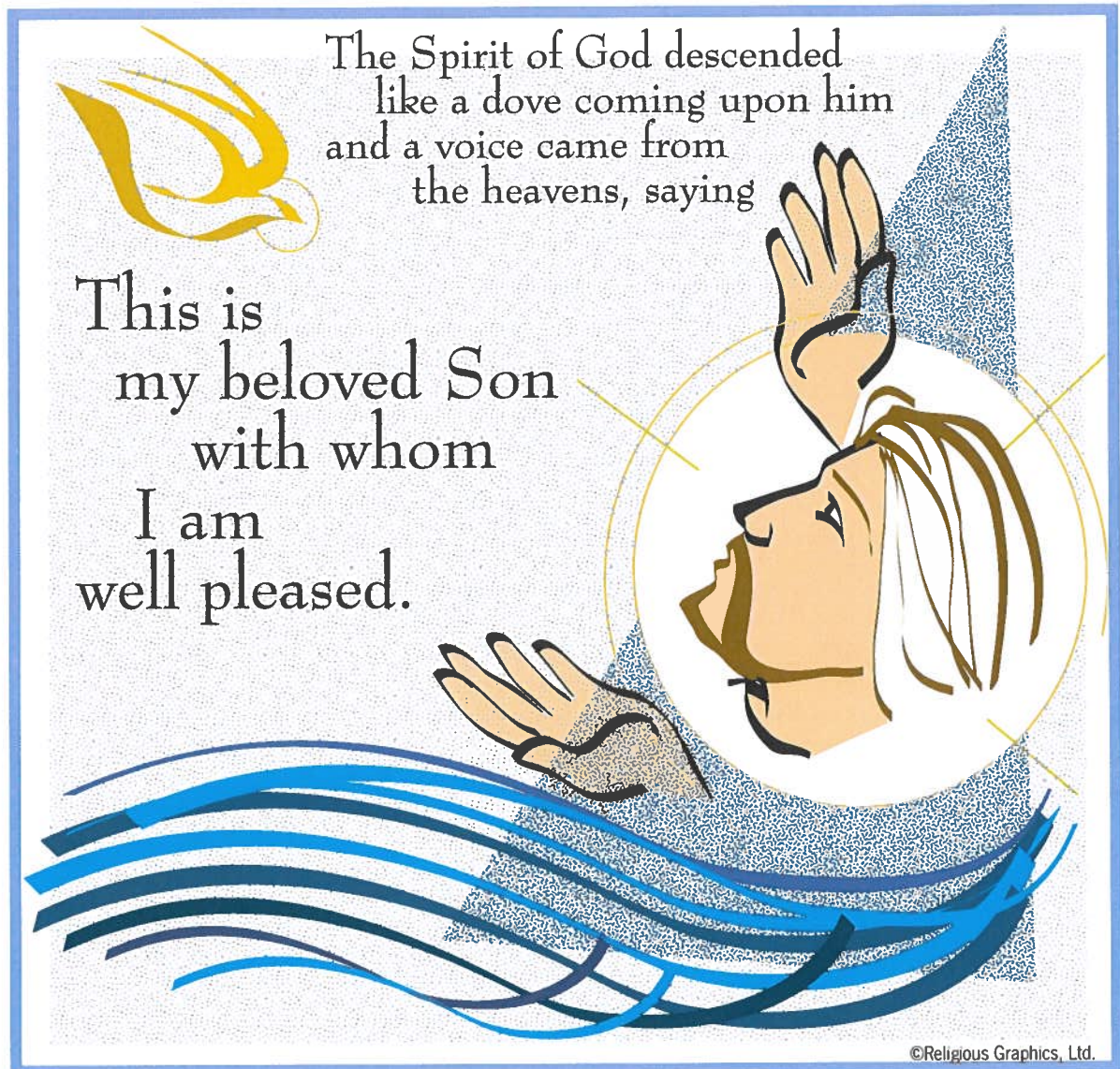


**The Roman Catholic Parishes of  
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher  
St. James the Apostle, Irwin  
Sacred Heart, Goodrich**

**THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

**JANUARY 11-12, 2025**



**Weekend Masses:**

St. Margaret Mary	Sat. 5:00 pm	Sun. 10:30 am
Sacred Heart	Sun. 7:30 am	
St. James	Sun. 9:00 am	

**Confessions:**

St. Margaret Mary	Sat. 4:15 pm
Sacred Heart	Sun. 7:05-7:20 am
St. James	Sun. 8:35-8:50 am

**Church Mailing Address:** 207 E. 5th Street Herscher, IL 60941 **Phone:** 815-426-2550

**Quotable:** "To have courage for whatever comes in life—everything lies in that."

—Saint Teresa of Ávila

**Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**January 18-19, 2025**

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, Jan. 18 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, Jan. 19 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, Jan. 19 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, Jan. 19 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Jacob	Fr. Horan Deacon Ron	Fr. Pratscher	Fr. Jacob
Ushers	Dave Emling Roger Jensen Gery Wright Todd Datweiler	Dennis Pankey James Mallaney	Arlen Hansen Bob Buente Jeff Martin Jeff Steinke	Brent Fulton Darren Lovell Erik Wheeler Corinn Wheeler
Lector	Dave Emling	Rhonda Berns	Mary Peerbolte	Steve Jacob
Eucharistic Minister			Dena Coy	Stacey Powers
Servers				Caroline Fulton
Greeters			Greeter—Dallas Ferris R. Leader—Karen Miller	Stacie Powers

**Mass Intentions for the Week**

**Monday, Jan. 13 (SMM)**

**8:00 am No Mass**

**Tuesday, Jan. 14 (SH)**

**8:00 am No Mass**

**Wednesday, Jan. 15**

**10:00 am SJ No Mass**

**Friday, Jan. 17**

**8:00 am SMM No Mass**

**Saturday, Jan. 18 (SMM)**

**5:00 pm +Rita Deany (M/M Dave Riordan)**

**Sunday, Jan. 19**

**7:30 am (SH) +Leland Denault (Shirley St. Germaine)**

**9:00am (SJ) +Pat Perreault (Julie Brown)**

**10:30 am SMM For All the Parish Family**

**A Look Ahead**

**Friday, Jan. 17—Herscher Legion Fish Fry 5-7 pm**

**Monday, Jan. 27—Knights of Columbus meeting 7pm SJ**

**Jan/ 25/26 Weekend—2nd Collection for Church in Latin America**

**Pastor— Fr. Ron Neitzke- 815-426-2550**

**Deacon – Ron Gagnon— rjgckg@aol.com**

**Home—815-933-4077**

**Parish Email – smm\_sja\_sh@yahoo.com**

**TriParish web page – [www.triparishcatholics.org](http://www.triparishcatholics.org)**

**Like us on Facebook [triparishcatholic communities](https://www.facebook.com/triparishcatholiccommunities)**

**Tri Parish Church office –Barb Riker 426-2550**

**Julie Bisailon 426-2550**

**Bulletin – Debbie Jensen - 426-2550**

**debjen04@gmail.com**

**Religious Education –**

**St. MM – Jill Fulton [jfulton.stmm@gmail.com](mailto:jfulton.stmm@gmail.com)**

**Sacred Heart – Rhonda Berns – 426-5015**

**St. James—Tanhya Osenga [tosenga81@gmail.com](mailto:tosenga81@gmail.com)**

**Parish Nurse – Jackie Eberle – 815-421-4048**

**Prayer Line—**

**SMM -Janice 815-426-2574 [Jdstreefarms@aol.com](mailto:Jdstreefarms@aol.com)**

**St. James— Mary Offerman—602-670-8888 (call or text)**

**Sacred Heart-Marilyn Pfeiffer 815-955-8246 (call or text)**

**Terri Weakley— 815-514-8171**

**Question of the Week**

How has the Holy Spirit, whom I received in baptism, influenced my outlook and my actions?



**Collections Weekend of Dec. 28-29, 2024**

St. Margaret Mary—\$1,594  
St. James—\$1,206  
Sacred Heart—\$1,116

Thank you for your generosity!

**Collections Weekend of Jan 4-5, 2025**

St. Margaret Mary—\$1,873  
St. James—\$1,915  
Sacred Heart—\$628

Thank you for your generosity!

**Christmas Collections      New Year's**

St. Margaret Mary—\$5,832.51      \$285  
St. James—\$2,261      \$532  
Sacred Heart—\$1,894      \$440

Thank you for your generosity!

**A Stewardship Prayer for the New Year**

Loving and merciful God,

You are the Lord of  
new beginnings,  
You sent us Your Son so that we  
may begin anew  
and enjoy new life in Your Spirit.

We ask you to bless this new year,  
to guide and direct our plans,  
and to show us how to find the  
resources necessary  
to carry out these plans.

Give us the wisdom to take  
advantage of opportunities  
we may have to help and  
serve others,  
to bring peace to the hearts of  
those who are troubled,  
and hope to those who suffer.

Help us approach this new year  
as good stewards of you're a  
abundant gifts,  
with an awareness of your  
daily presence,  
and the obedient spirit we need to  
be your faithful servants.

We ask this in Jesus' name.  
Amen

**Parish News:**

St. Margaret Mary—

St. James—

- ◆ We are collecting winter wear accessories (mittens, hats, etc) in the hallway of St. James for the Salvation Army. Thanks to all who participate!

Sacred Heart—

- ◆ For the week of January 12th, the Blessed Virgin Mary candle burns in prayer for Fr. Ron as he recovers from his surgery.

All Parishes—

- ◆ The next Adult Religious Ed Class will be announced.
- ◆ Tri-Parish Office Hours— Our office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 9am—12 pm.
- ◆ There will be no Knights of Columbus meeting on December 23, 2024. The next meeting will be January 27, 2025 .
- ◆ Call the parish office to request your statement of donations to the parish for 2024.

**Reflections**

**Be Resolved**

If you're in a rut, if you've grown accustomed to tolerating intolerable situations, change may not be comfortable and change may not be easy. It takes courage to take an honest look at one's life, discover what's no longer working, and then change it. Mark Twain reminds us, "Courage is mastery of fear ... not absence of fear."

**Gospel Shorts      Unique Identity**

The baptism of Jesus reveals and celebrates the unique identity of the Son of God, as well as the meaning of baptism for those who follow him.

**Beginning January 6, there will be no weekday masses at any of the Tripuris churches until further notice. Below is the weekday mass schedules for parishes surrounding us.**

St. Patrick Dwight-

Tuesday: 6:00 pm

Thursday: 8:00 am (Coffee Shop follows)

St. Peter, Clifton-

Tuesday and Wednesday 8:00 am

Assumption BVM, Ashkum

Thursday and Friday 8:00 am

St. John Paul II

Monday-Friday 7:30 am



**Obscure saint of the week: St. Aelred of Rievaulx (Jan. 12)** was the son of Eilaf, a priest during a period when English priests were allowed to marry, and keeper of the shrine of Hexham. He was master of the household of the court of King David of Scotland. He was known for his gentle spirituality and his personal austerity amid court life. David wanted to make his friend a bishop, but instead Aelred left Scotland in 1134 to become a Cistercian monk at Rievaulx, Yorkshire, England where he served as master of novices. Later he became the first abbot of a Cistercian monastery in Revensby, Lincolnshire, England in 1142. Five years later he was named the abbot of Rievaulx in 1147, which made him the superior of all Cistercians in England, and kept him much on the road, traveling from house to house, preaching throughout England and Scotland. Aelred was a peacemaker among the Picts in Galway, ending disputes and revitalizing the faith in the area. He composed sermons and prayers, wrote works on the spiritual and ascetic life, wrote on the lives of King David of Scotland, Saint Ninian and Saint Edward the Confessor, and was considered a living saint by those who knew him.



**Obscure saint of the week : St. Bernard of Corleone** was a shoemaker by trade and considered the greatest swordsman and duelist in Sicily in his day. After mortally wounding a man named Canino in a duel, he sought sanctuary from the law in the church of the Capuchin Friars Minor in Palermo. While hiding there, he had a true conversion, and became a Capuchin lay-brother in 1632, changing his name to *Brother Bernardo*.

He was noted for his extreme austerity and self-imposed penances in an attempt to atone for his earlier life. Bernard had the gift of healing animals by prayer.

### The Sunday gospel in everyday English

The interest of the people by now was building. They were all beginning to wonder, "Could this John be the Messiah?"

But John intervened: "I'm baptizing you here in the river. The main character in this drama, to whom I'm a mere stagehand, will ignite the Kingdom life, a fire, the Holy Spirit within you, changing you from the inside out."

After all the people were baptized, Jesus was baptized. As he was praying, the sky opened up and the Holy Spirit, like a dove descending, came down on him. And along with the Spirit, a voice: "You are my Son, chosen and marked by my love, pride of my life" (from Luke 3).

### A Stewardship Moment The Baptism of the Lord

#### Weekend of January 11/12, 2025

In today's reading from the Gospel of Luke we hear the proclamation of the baptism of Jesus with "all the people." Indeed, "heaven was opened," and the Father announced his special favor. Whenever we partake of the body and blood of Christ, heed his call in our daily lives, share his Good News, become instruments of his transforming justice and peace, heaven is opened to us, and through the Holy Spirit, the Lord announces his special favor on us as well. A good stewardship reflection this week might be this: How, or in what ways, have we personally experienced God's special favor in our lives?

### Help Socially Isolated Seniors

Catholic Charities' Senior Companion Program (SCP) is looking for people 55 years and older interested in visiting with another homebound senior living in Kankakee or Iroquois County. This is strictly a friendly visit; no homecare duties are involved. Volunteers who meet income eligibility guidelines will receive a tax-free hourly stipend and a mileage reimbursement for time spent with clients.

Senior Companion volunteers provide assistance and friendship to older adults with difficulty with daily living tasks. This program helps seniors stay independent longer and provides respite to family caregivers. Senior Companion volunteers report better health and longevity, having served the community. Are you ready to forge new relationships and make a significant difference in the lives of others?

In Kankakee and Iroquois Counties, call Bry Williams at 815-933-7791 ext. 9928 or mail [americorpsseniors@cc-doi.org](mailto:americorpsseniors@cc-doi.org) in Kankakee and Iroquois Counties. For more information about Catholic Charities' programs and services, visit [catholiccharitiesjoliet.org](http://catholiccharitiesjoliet.org)

The Spirit  
of God  
came upon him





## Questions Catholics Ask

I'm confused about "James" in the New Testament. How many are there, and who are they?

We're left to hazard a best guess when more than one James (or Mary, John, or Simon) appears.



Last names would come in handy. Unhappily, they weren't used in biblical times.

The first James is identified as the brother of John and son of Zebedee. James and John encounter Jesus at the shore of Galilee while they're in a boat mending nets with Zebedee. Jesus has already recruited brothers Simon (Peter) and Andrew who were similarly employed. Likewise, James and John leave family, home, and occupation behind the moment Jesus calls to them. Perhaps because of their boisterous natures, Jesus nicknames them *Boanerges*, "sons of thunder." James is always mentioned before John, which makes him the eldest or simply more celebrated brother: he's sometimes called James the Great. Along with Peter, these brothers form the inner circle of Jesus' followers. James was the second of the original Twelve to die (after the suicide of Judas), a martyr between 42-44 A.D.

Also on the list of apostles is James the son of Alphaeus. We don't know how he enters the story, his occupation or origins. He has no speaking part in the gospels. No wonder he's called James the Less—though this may be a reference to his age. His mother Mary was present at the crucifixion.

Another gospel list claims a James: that of Jesus' brothers. Unnamed sisters are sometimes noted, but all four gospels mention Jesus had brothers. Blood ties were tight in ancient times; the precise kinship may have been cousins or siblings. Attempts to clarify these relationships are unsatisfying. Belief in Mary's perpetual virginity weighs heavily in Catholic conversations on the matter. Some view these siblings as Joseph's children from a previous marriage.

This third James—AKA James the Just—is significant in the early church. While the gospels repeatedly emphasize how the relatives of Jesus mistrusted the direction of his ministry, Paul notes that after the resurrection, James had a private revelation of Jesus. This cured his doubts and enfolded him into the church. His lineage may have catapulted him into leadership in the Jerusalem community, becoming a power triangle with career disciples Peter and John. Brother James could have written some kernel of the Letter of James in the New Testament. However, James the Just was martyred in 62 or 69 AD; the final form of the letter likely took shape later.

Mark 1:16-20; 3:13-19; 31-35; 6:1-6; 15:40; Matthew 4:21-22; 10:1-4; 12:46-50; 13:55-58; 27:56; Luke 6:12-16; 8:19-21; 24:10; John 7:3-5; Acts 1:13; 12:17; 15:13-21; 21:18; 1 Corinthians 15:7; Galatians 1:19; 2:11-12; James 1:1



**LOOKING FOR A FUN, NEW WAY  
TO BE MORE ACTIVE?**



**Bingo + Exercise = Bingocize®**

BINGOCIZE® is a 20 week health promotion program that combines the game of bingo with fall prevention exercise. Play bingo with us and meet new people while learning about techniques to reduce falls.

**Dates: Monday afternoons,  
January 6th through June 9th, 2025**

**Time: 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm**

**(No class on 1/20, 2/17, or 5/26)**

**Location: St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church, 207 E. 5th  
St., Herscher IL, 60941**

**TO REGISTER,  
CALL NATALIA  
(815) 933-7791 EXT 9954**



Attendance at these events indicates consent for Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet, Inc. to use my photo to promote and increase awareness of programs and services offered by the Agency. Photos may be used in Catholic Charities' printed materials, online, media, or by grantors.

**Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet is a faith-based organization providing service to people in need and calling others of good will to do the same.**

*Please keep California in your prayers as the fires continue to rage.*

KNHNEWS

*Heavenly Father,  
We turn to You in this time of great trial, as the wild-fires rage across Los Angeles. Protect those in danger, comfort those who have lost their homes, and welcome into Your eternal embrace the souls of those who have perished.*

*Lord, we pray for the firefighters and first responders. Grant them strength, courage, and safety as they battle the flames. May Your guiding hand lead them to protect lives and property.*

*Holy Spirit, inspire us to be instruments of Your peace and love, supporting our brothers and sisters in need with our prayers, resources, and compassion.*

*Mother Mary, Queen of Angels, intercede for us in this hour of need. Bring hope to the hopeless and healing to the afflicted.*

*In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.*

## Catholic Snacks, Get Fed

### What is Canon Law?

And why is it essential to the workings of the Church?

The Code of Canon Law is a set of regulations ensuring structure and discipline in the earthly workings of the Church.

The Code covers a huge variety of topics—from the Sacraments, to the Church's temporal goods, to disciplinary regulations, to catechesis. If questions arise about what to do in a given situation or how an ecclesiastical function is to be done, Canon Law has the answers.

Canon Law was the result of centuries of slow growth. It was gradually compiled from the Apostles, tradition, and various decrees of Church councils. In the middle of the 12th century, a Benedictine monk and jurist named Gratian collected the various decrees, wrote a commentary on them, and endeavored to extract general principles from them.

The Church relied on his work until about the mid-13th century, when Pope Gregory IX asked St. Raymond of Peñafort—whose feast day is today!—to revise, organize, and clarify the collection of canons (canon = a rule or law found in Canon Law).

By this time, St. Raymond had studied both secular and ecclesiastical law for 25 years. He set to work condensing 1300 years of Church legislature into five basic categories: judge, judgment, clergy, marriages, and crime. The five categories could not contain all the canons, but they created a workable system that was used for nearly 700 years—right up until 1917, in fact, when Canon Law was codified into the form most similar to what we have today.

-reprinted with permission The Catholic Company [www.thecatholiccompany.com](http://www.thecatholiccompany.com)



## Diocese of Joliet

Office of the Bishop



Blanchette Catholic Center  
16555 Weber Rd  
Crest Hill, Illinois 60403

## Share OUR Faith

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Soon our diocese will take up the Collection for the Church in Latin America. For more than 50 years, this collection has given Catholics in the United States an opportunity to share faith in unity with our brothers and sisters in Christ throughout Latin America and the Caribbean islands.

Through the Collection for the Church in Latin America, Catholics in the United States can express a closer unity with and love for their brothers and sisters in Central and South America and the Caribbean islands. This unity was fully expressed in autumn 2024, when Catholics from around the world gathered for an International Eucharistic Congress in Quito, Ecuador, to celebrate the country's 150th anniversary of its consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Using funds received from the Collection for the Church in Latin America, the Archdiocese of Quito welcomed thousands from around the world—including a delegation of Catholics from the United States led by Bishop Andrew Cozzens—to pray together, encounter the love of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, and share their faith. When you participate in the collection at your parish, you support special events such as the Eucharistic Congress as well as the ongoing work of forming catechists, supporting vocations to priesthood and religious life, and implementing family ministries throughout Latin America.

Our diocese takes up this collection on the weekend of January 25-26, 2025. Please be generous toward this collection. Consider giving at Mass or through your parish's online giving platform. The [Give Catholic Together](https://uscbb.org/give-catholic-together) website (<https://uscbb.org/give-catholic-together>) also accepts online funds for the collection. Your support truly makes a difference. Thank you and God bless you.

For more information on the Church in Latin America and the many projects funded by the collection, please visit [www.usccb.org/latin-america](http://www.usccb.org/latin-america)

With best wishes, I ask God to bless you always.

As I remain –

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Ronald A. Hicks*

Most Reverend Ronald A. Hicks  
Bishop of Joliet

During this Jubilee year, we are invited to make a pilgrimage to Rome to visit holy sites, perform pious works, and seek opportunities for reconciliation, indulgences, and other ways to strengthen and revive our faith. If you plan to travel to Rome during this Jubilee year, please consult the *U.S. Visitors to the Vatican* website at [www.pnac.org/visitorsoffice/about-the-visitors-office/](http://www.pnac.org/visitorsoffice/about-the-visitors-office/), which provides information to help you plan your pilgrimage for a truly prayerful experience.

While the Pope is excited about visitors to Rome during this special year, he also understands that, realistically, most people are not able to travel to the city of the Apostles Peter and Paul. Therefore, he encourages us all to celebrate in our local churches and communities.

In solidarity with the universal Jubilee year, we will be offering the following Masses here in the Diocese of Joliet:

- **Jubilee Mass for Deacons:** February 22, 2025, 11:00 a.m., Cathedral
- **Jubilee Mass for Persons with Disabilities:** June 1, 2025, 12:30 p.m., Cathedral
- **Jubilee Mass for Priests:** September 16, 2025 (for priests only during Convocation)
- **Jubilee Mass for Grandparents:** October 4, 2025, 11:00 a.m., Cathedral
- **Jubilee Mass for Consecrated Life:** October 5, 2025, 10:00 a.m., Blanchette Catholic Center (Invitation Only)
- **Jubilee Mass for Catechists:** October 19, 2025, 2:00 p.m., Cathedral





January 12, 2025

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

## The Baptism of the Lord

Is 42:1-4, 6-7 | Acts 10:34-38 | Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

### GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

In many renditions of the Baptism of Jesus, artists connect the scene at the Jordan River with Jesus' death. A withered tree, for example, reminds us of the cross, or a mountain points to Mount Calvary. These connections show a real relationship between Jesus' baptism and his passion: his baptism marks the acceptance and beginning of his mission, which would ultimately lead to his crucifixion. For us, too, baptism is a decisive moment which destines us for – you guessed it – death! Not physical death (which will happen regardless), but a death to everything that is not of God. By making us part of God's family as his adopted children, our baptism summons us to "die" to our old life of sin and take on new life in Christ. This means turning away each day from sin so we can become increasingly fit to spend eternity with God. Like Jesus who rose both from the baptismal waters and from the tomb, we are meant, by our daily efforts to be faithful – to "rise" with him in the new life he won for us.

### GO EVANGELIZE

#### PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

After Jesus is baptized, two important events occur immediately: the Holy Spirit descends upon him while God the Father proclaims his delight in his Son: "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." Here we see the profound meaning of our own baptism and its effects. In addition to cleansing us from the stain of original sin, baptism: 1) gives us the gift of the Holy Spirit; and 2) welcomes us into God's family as his adopted children. Armed with the Holy Spirit and the assurance of God's fatherly care, we are equipped to engage in the daily struggle of dying-and-rising in Christ. We can always call on the Holy Spirit for strength when we face temptations or difficult decisions. Likewise, when we are discouraged or we confront our own weaknesses, we can look to the Father for help. Recall the words which the Father spoke to Jesus, and which he says to us in our baptism (and he doesn't take them back!): *You are my beloved son. You are my beloved daughter. With you I am well pleased.*

### CELEBRATE

Find the date (or approximate date) of your baptism and the baptismal dates of your immediate family members. Make a list of the dates and spend time thanking God for his fatherly care for you. Then, when someone's baptismal anniversary comes around, make sure to celebrate!

## THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

### SPIRITUALITY

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Luke 3:16

*R.* Alleluia, alleluia.

John said: One mightier than I is coming;  
he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

*R.* Alleluia, alleluia.

#### Gospel

Luke 3:15-16, 21-22; L21C

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."

#### Reflecting on the Gospel

In the second reading today we see Peter as a kind of older sibling, wrestling to let go of his notion that, as one who belongs to God's firstborn, he could claim primacy of affection from his heavenly parent. The scene in Acts 10 is the culmination of a very difficult struggle on Peter's part to accept that God's favor could also include others who were not part of God's firstborn. It took a thrice-

repeated vision before Peter could recognize Cornelius as one of God's favored. Peter's initial opposition to the heavenly voice that instructed him to eat something he considered unclean was emphatic (vv. 13-14): "Certainly not" (NABRE); "By no means" (NRSV).

After entering Cornelius's house, Peter conversed with the centurion (v. 27). Undoubtedly, in the course of their exchange, Peter discovers that he is not the only one to whom God has spoken through visions. Cornelius, too, has encountered an angel of God who has called him by name (v. 3). Moreover, Peter finds that this man prays constantly and gives alms generously (v. 2). Peter has to admit to all in the house that whoever fears God and acts uprightly is "acceptable" to God. He acknowledges that "God shows no partiality."

While this is a great breakthrough for Peter, his recognition of Cornelius as "acceptable" is not exactly a ringing endorsement. Might there be a hint in Peter's statement that he still considers himself among "God's favorites" and that he thinks of Cornelius more like a stepbrother who certainly could not displace him in the divine affections? More time would be needed before Peter could see the Gentile as being loved as passionately by God as he is.

In the gospel another heavenly revelation highlights Jesus's specialness as God's beloved. While the divine voice at Jesus's baptism is directed to him ("You are my beloved Son"; cf. Matt 3:17, "This is my beloved Son"), Luke has added "all the people" to the scene. In this way, Luke hints that they, too, experience the delight of God in them, as they are washed clean, newly born, and favored. As we recall our own baptism, we know that we, too, have been in that thin space where "heaven was opened" and the barrier between humanity and divinity is dissolved. With Jesus taking on human flesh and then inviting us to partake of his flesh and blood, the special place he holds in God's affection is extended to all.

That God is partial to each of us is something startling. This divine favor causes wonder and also carries with it a mission. In the first reading, Isaiah elaborates the mission entrusted to a chosen servant: to bring forth justice. In biblical parlance, justice does not mean that everyone gets what he or she deserves. Rather, it signifies that those who know themselves to be favored by God undeservedly have been empowered by the Spirit to be light, to speak truth, and to be compassionate to those who feel like "a bruised reed," fanning into flame the spark of God's love wherever a smoldering wick is found.

