

*st mary's catholic church
greenville, south carolina*



*the Baptism of the Lord
11 January 2026*

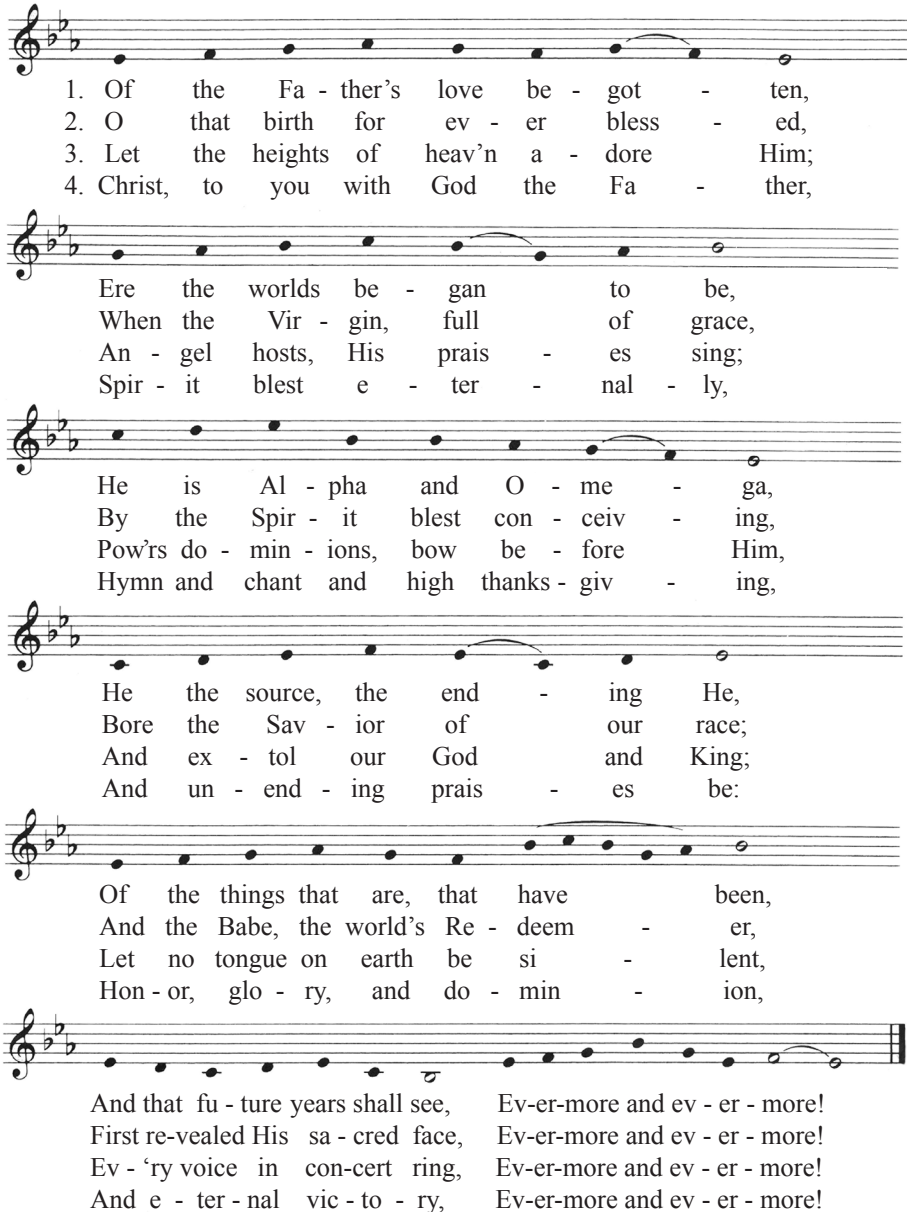
Entrance Antiphon

Matthew 3.16-17

After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

Entrance Hymn

Of the Father's Love Begotten



1. Of the Fa-ther's love be-got-ten,
 2. O that birth for ev-er bless-ed,
 3. Let the heights of heav'n a-dore Him;
 4. Christ, to you with God the Fa-ther,

Ere the worlds be-gan to be,
 When the Vir-gin, full of grace,
 An-gel hosts, His prais-es sing;
 Spir-it blest e-ter-nal-ly,

He is Al-pha and O-me-ga,
 By the Spir-it blest con-ceiv-ing,
 Pow'rs do-min-ions, bow-be-fore Him,
 Hymn and chant and high thanks-giv-ing,

He the source, the end-ing He,
 Bore the Sav-ior of our race;
 And ex-tol our God and King;
 And un-end-ing prais-es be:

Of the things that are, that have been,
 And the Babe, the world's Re-deem-er,
 Let no tongue on earth be si-lent,
 Hon-or, glo-ry, and do-min-ion,

And that fu-ture years shall see, Ev-er-more and ev-er-more!
 First re-vealed His sa-cred face, Ev-er-more and ev-er-more!
 Ev-'ry voice in con-cert ring, Ev-er-more and ev-er-more!
 And e-ter-nal vic-to-ry, Ev-er-more and ev-er-more!

Penitential Act

Confiteor

I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,

All strike their breast, saying:

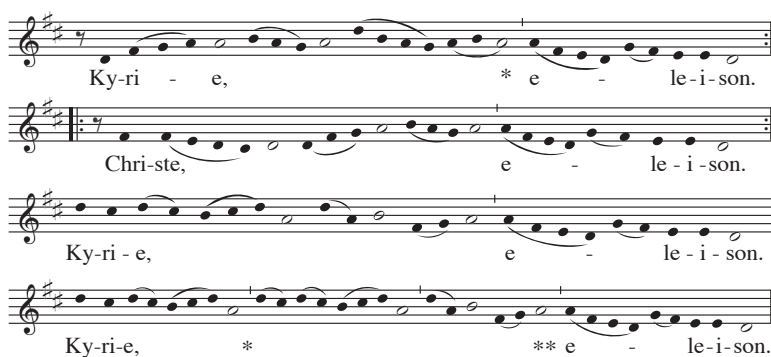
through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault;

therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Priest May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.

People Amen.

Kyrie



Music: Vatican Edition VIII; acc. by Richard Proulx



Gloria

Gló-ri - a in ex-cél-sis De - o. Et in ter-ra pax ho-mí-ni-bus
bo - nae vo - lun - tá - tis. Lau-dá - mus te.
Be-ne-dí-ci-mus te. A-do-rá - mus te.
Gló-ri - fi - cá-mus te. Grá-ti - as á - gi - mus ti - bi
pro-pter ma-gnam gló-ri - am tu - am. Dó-mi-ne De-us, Rex cae-
lé - stis, De-us, Pa-ter om - ní - po - tens.
Dó-mi-ne Fi - li u - ni - gé - ni - te, Je - su Chri - ste.
Dó-mi-ne De-us, A-gnus De - i, Fí-li-us Pa - tris.
Qui tol - lis pec-cá-ta mun - di, mi-se-ré - re no-bis.
Qui tol - lis pec-cá - ta mun - di, sú-sci-pé de-pre-ca - ti - ó -
nem no - stram. Qui se-des ad déx-te-ram Pa-tris,
mi-se-ré-re no - bis. Quó - ni - am tu so - lus San - ctus.
Tu so-lus Dó - mi - nus. Tu so-lus Al - tís - si-mus,
Je - su Chri - ste. Cum San - cto Spí - ri - tu,
in gló-ri - a De - i Pa - tris. A - men.

First Reading

Isaiah 42.1-4, 6-7

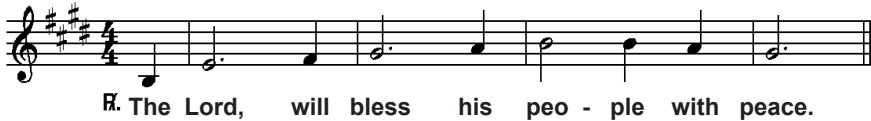
Thus says the LORD: Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased, upon whom I have put my spirit; he shall bring forth justice to the nations, not crying out, not shouting, not making his voice heard in the street. A bruised reed he shall not break, and a smoldering wick he shall not quench, until he establishes justice on the earth; the coastlands will wait for his teaching. I, the LORD, have called you for the victory of justice, I have grasped you by the hand; I formed you, and set you as a covenant of the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.



Responsorial Psalm Psalm 104.1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30



Give to the LORD, you sons of God,
give to the LORD glory and praise,
give to the LORD the glory due his name;
adore the LORD in holy attire.

The voice of the LORD is over the waters,
the LORD, over vast waters.
The voice of the LORD is mighty;
the voice of the LORD is majestic.

The God of glory thunders,
and in his temple all say, "Glory!"
The LORD is enthroned above the flood;
the LORD is enthroned as king forever.

Second Reading

Acts of the Apostles 10.34-38

Peter proceeded to speak to those gathered in the house of Cornelius, saying: “In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. You know the word that he sent to the Israelites as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all, what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.”

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.



Gospel Acclamation



The heavens were opened and the voice of the Father thundered:
This is my beloved Son, listen to him.*Response.*

Gospel

Matthew 3:13-17

Deacon: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Deacon: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. John tried to prevent him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?” Jesus said to him in reply, “Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he allowed him. After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened for him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, saying, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily



Profession of Faith *(spoken slowly and reverently)*

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

Bow profoundly during these two lines:

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Bidding Prayers

The Collection

The offering is for the support of the parish and for the Campaign for Buildings and Grounds.

[Please Click Here to Make a Donation to Saint Mary's Church.](#)



Offertory Antiphon

Psalm 117.26-27

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. We have blest you from the house of the Lord. The Lord is God, and he has shown upon us, alleluia.

Offertory Hymn

What Child is This



1. What child is this, who, laid to rest on Ma - ry's lap, is sleep - ing? Whom
2. Why lies He in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing? Good
3. So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come, pea-sant, king, to own Him; the



an - gels greet with an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 Chris-tian, fear: for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 King of Kings sal - va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne Him.



This, this is Christ the King, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;
 Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, the cross be borne for me, for you.
 Raise, raise a song on high, the Vir - gin sings her lull - a - by.



Haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mar - y.
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the Babe, the Son of Mar - y.
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mar - y.

Tune: Greensleeves. Text: W.C. Dix, 1865.

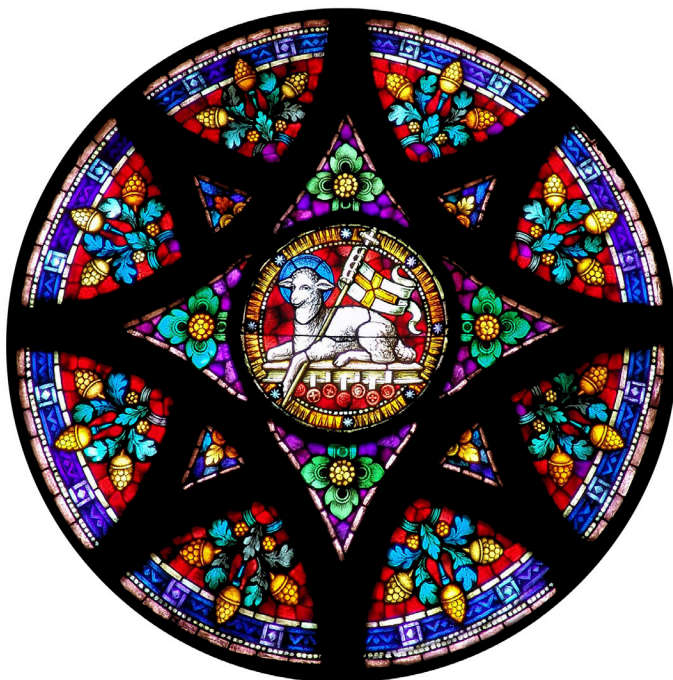
Offertory Anthem

And the Glory of the Lord

from Handel's Messiah

Isaiah 40:5

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.



Priest Pray, brethren,
that my sacrifice and yours
may be acceptable to God,
the Almighty Father.

People **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good
and the good of all his holy Church.**

Prayer Over the Offerings

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Preface Dialogue

Priest: The Lord be with you. *Assembly:* And with your Spir - it.

Priest: Lift up your hearts. *Assembly:* We lift them up to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *Assembly:* It is right and just.

Sanctus

San - ctus, * San - ctus, San -

ctus Dó - mi - nus De - us Sá -

ba - oth. Ple - ni sunt cae - li et

ter - ra gló - ri - a tu - a. Ho - sán -

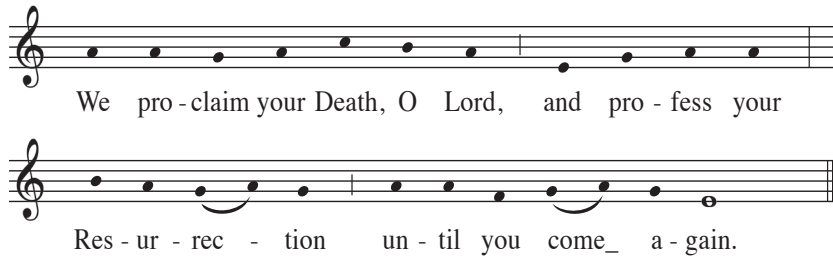
na in ex - cé - sis Be - ne - dí - ctus qui

ve - nit in nó - mi - ne Dó - mi - ni. Ho - sán -

na in ex - cé - sis.

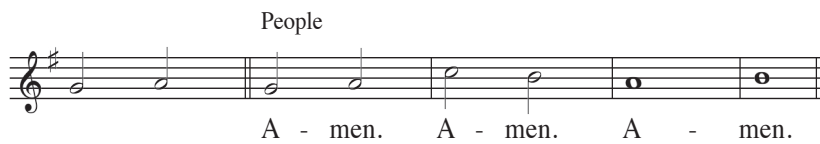
Music: Vatican Edition VIII; acc. by Richard Proulx

Mysterium Fidei (The Mystery of Faith)



The Great Amen

arr. by Judy Franzen



 COMMUNION RITE 

Priest At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

***People* Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

Priest Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may be always free from sin
and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

***People* For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.**

Priest Lord Jesus Christ,
who said to your Apostles:
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you,
look not on our sins,
but on the faith of your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity
in accordance with your will.
Who live and reign for ever and ever.

***People* Amen.**

Priest The peace of the Lord be with you always.

***People* And with your spirit.**

Agnus Dei

A - gnus De - i, * qui tol - lis pec cá - ta mun - di, mi - se - ré - re no - bis.

A - gnus De - i, * qui tol - lis pec - cá - ta mun - di, mi - se - ré - re no - bis.

A - gnus De - i, * qui tol - lis pec - cá - ta mun - di, do - na no - bis pa - cem.

Music: Vatican Edition XVIII; acc. by Richard Proulx



Priest Behold the Lamb of God,
 behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
 Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

People **Lord, I am not worthy
 that you should enter under my roof,
 but only say the word
 and my soul shall be healed.**

Behold, the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.



AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

LORD JESUS, I LOVE YOU ABOVE ALL THINGS.
HOW I LONG TO RECEIVE YOU WITH MY BROTHERS
AND SISTERS AT THE TABLE YOU HAVE PREPARED.
BUT SINCE I CANNOT AT THIS MOMENT RECEIVE YOU IN
THE HOLY SACRAMENT OF YOUR BODY AND BLOOD,
I ASK YOU TO FEED ME WITH THE MANNA OF YOUR HOLY SPIRIT
AND NOURISH ME WITH YOUR HOLY PRESENCE.
I UNITE MYSELF COMPLETELY TO YOU;
NEVER PERMIT ME TO BE SEPARATED FROM YOUR LOVE.
AMEN.

Communion Motets

The Baptism of Our Lord

Charles Callahan

From wilderness to Jordan came the final Prophet to proclaim that judgment soon was to begin to punish Israel for their sin. Although of Abraham's descent, since all have sinned, all must repent, and, like the Gentiles, undergo a baptism, and its import show. But when Christ came, no judgment dire did he pronounce with venging fire; Himself the baptism underwent, the sinless, perfect penitent. On him the Spirit as a dove descended, and the Father's love voiced his approval that the Son mankind's salvation had begun. All glory, Lord, to you we pay for your Epiphany today; And to the Father tribute bring, as by the Spirit here we sing.

Ave Verum Corpus

Colin Brumby

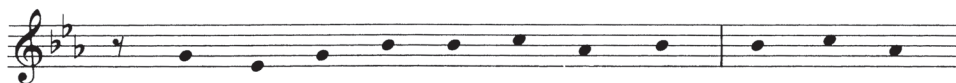
Ave verum corpus, natum de Maria Virgine, vere passum, immolatum in cruce pro homine cuius latus perforatum fluxit aqua et sanguine: esto nobis prægustatum in mortis examine.

Hail the true body, born of the Virgin Mary: You who truly suffered and were sacrificed on the cross for the sake of man. From whose pierced flank flowed water and blood: Be a foretaste for us in the trial of death.



Communion Hymn

Creator of the Stars of Night



1. Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, Your peo - ple's
 2. In sor - row that the an - cient curse Should doom to
 3. When this old world drew on toward night, You came; but
 4. At your great Name, O Je - sus, now All knees must



ev - er - last - ing light, O Christ, Re - deem - er
 death a u - ni - verse, You came, O Sav - ior,
 not in splen - dor bright, Not as a mon - arch,
 bend, all hearts must bow: All things on earth with



of us all, We pray you hear us when we call.
 to set free Your own in glo - rious lib - er - ty.
 but the child Of Mar - y, blame - less moth - er mild.
 one ac - cord, Like those in heav'n, shall call you Lord.

5. Come in your holy might, we pray,
 Redeem us for eternal day;
 Defend us while we dwell below
 From all assaults of our dread foe.

6. To God the Father, God the Son.
 And God the Spirit, Three in One,
 Praise, honor, might, and glory be
 From age to age eternally.

Text: *Conditor alme siderum*, Latin 9th C.; Tr. *The Hymnal* 1982, © 1985, The Church Pension Fund
 Tune: CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM, LM; Mode IV; Acc. by Gerard Farrell, OSB, b.1919, © 1986, GIA Publications, Inc.



✠ CONCLUDING RITES ✠

Priest The Lord be with you.

People **And with your spirit.**

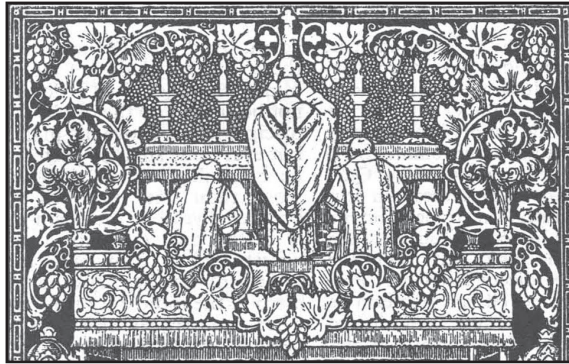
Priest May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

People **Amen.**

Deacon Go in peace.

People **Thanks be to God.**

During Mass at St Mary's, the priest and people face the same direction at the altar, a custom that was once universal in the Catholic Church but is now rare in the celebration of the modern liturgy. For an explanation of this practice, please visit our parish website, smcgvl.org, and look in the section called *Parish Links* for the essay entitled *Facing East to Pray*.



Page one: Sacred Heart Basilica, Paray-le-Monial France. (19th century.)

Page six: Stained Glass Inc. *Panel #2765.* (21st century).

Page ten: Stained Glass Inc. *Panel #2669.* (21st century).

Page twelve: Jean Auguste Dominique Ingres. *Virgin with the Host.* (18th century).

from the office of readings for the Baptism of the Lord

Christ is bathed in light; let us also be bathed in light. Christ is baptized; let us also go down with him, and rise with him.

John is baptizing when Jesus draws near. Perhaps he comes to sanctify his baptizer; certainly he comes to bury sinful humanity in the waters. He comes to sanctify the Jordan for our sake and in readiness for us; he who is spirit and flesh comes to begin a new creation through the Spirit and water.

The Baptist protests; Jesus insists. Then John says: *I ought to be baptized by you*. He is the lamp in the presence of the sun, the voice in the presence of the Word, the friend in the presence of the Bridegroom, the greatest of all born of woman in the presence of the firstborn of all creation, the one who leapt in his mother's womb in the presence of him who was adored in the womb, the forerunner and future forerunner in the presence of him who has already come and is to come again. *I ought to be baptized by you*; we should also add: *and for you*, for John is to be baptized in blood, washed clean like Peter, not only by the washing of his feet.

Jesus rises from the waters; the world rises with him. The heavens like Paradise with its flaming sword, closed by Adam for himself and his descendants, are rent open. The Spirit comes to him as to an equal, bearing witness to his Godhead. A voice bears witness to him from heaven, his place of origin. The Spirit descends in bodily form like the dove that so long ago announced the ending of the flood and so gives honor to the body that is one with God.

Today let us do honor to Christ's baptism and celebrate this feast in holiness. Be cleansed entirely and continue to be cleansed. Nothing gives such pleasure to God as the conversion and salvation of men, for whom his every word and every revelation exist. He wants you to become a living force for all mankind, lights shining in the world. You are to be radiant lights as you stand beside Christ, the great light, bathed in the glory of him who is the light of heaven. You are to enjoy more and more the pure and dazzling light of the Trinity, as now you have received – though not in its fullness – a ray of its splendor, proceeding from the one God, in Christ Jesus our Lord, to whom be glory and power for ever and ever. Amen.

- From a Sermon by Saint Gregory of Nazianzus, bishop
(b. 329; d. 25 January 390)

from the pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

The vast majority of Christians, including almost all Catholics, are baptized when they are infants, and this is most fitting. The sacraments are instruments of God's grace, and even newborn babies need the grace of God. Moreover, as the Catechism of the Catholic Church puts it, "The sheer gratuitousness of the grace of salvation is particularly manifest in infant Baptism," and for this reason "The practice of infant Baptism is an immemorial tradition of the Church." (CCC 1250, 1252). But along with the indisputable benefits of baptizing infants comes a special danger: those who are baptized before the beginning of memory will have no recollection or understanding of the most important day in their lives, and unless the fact and meaning of their Baptism is explained to them as they grow and receive the Gospel with saving faith, then they will not know that they have been born again of water and the Holy Spirit and have been made children of God, members of Christ, and heirs of the Kingdom.

Today the Church celebrates the Baptism of the Lord Jesus by his kinsman and herald, John the Baptist. Jesus received the Baptism of John not for the forgiveness of sins (because He had none), but in order to transform a religious ritual washing of the Old Covenant into the first sacrament of the New Covenant. The Baptism of Jesus is also the acceptance of His mission as the Father's suffering servant, and Jesus allows Himself to be numbered among sinners in order to free us from our slavery to sin. In the waters of the Jordan, the Son of Mary is anointed with the Holy Spirit and is thus revealed to be the eternal Son of God and in His sacred humanity to be the Christ, the Messiah, the Anointed One of God. Finally, by accepting Baptism from John, the Lord Jesus is also accepting and anticipating His own suffering and death. For this reason, each Christian is united to the death of the Lord Jesus through Baptism so that we can live the life of the new creation by grace through faith in Jesus the Christ.

All of this makes our Baptism the single most important event in our entire lives; it is the original sacrament of faith and the beginning of the life of grace. But unless we understand the meaning of this supernatural second birth, we risk misunderstanding the whole of the Christian life. For this reason, parents and godparents have the sacred duty to teach children who are baptized about the day of their Baptism and lead them to mature faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. As part of this mission to give the Gospel to all the baptized, I encourage every parishioner to find out when and where and by whom you were baptized. Resolve to keep the anniversary of your Baptism each year as a day of special celebration, and evaluate your relationship with the Lord Jesus in the light of the promises of your Baptism, which we are each asked to renew every year on Easter Sunday. And with St. Paul, I "urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit — just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call — one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all." (Ephesians 4.1-6)

Father Newman