

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



*the Baptism of the Lord  
12 JANUARY 2025*

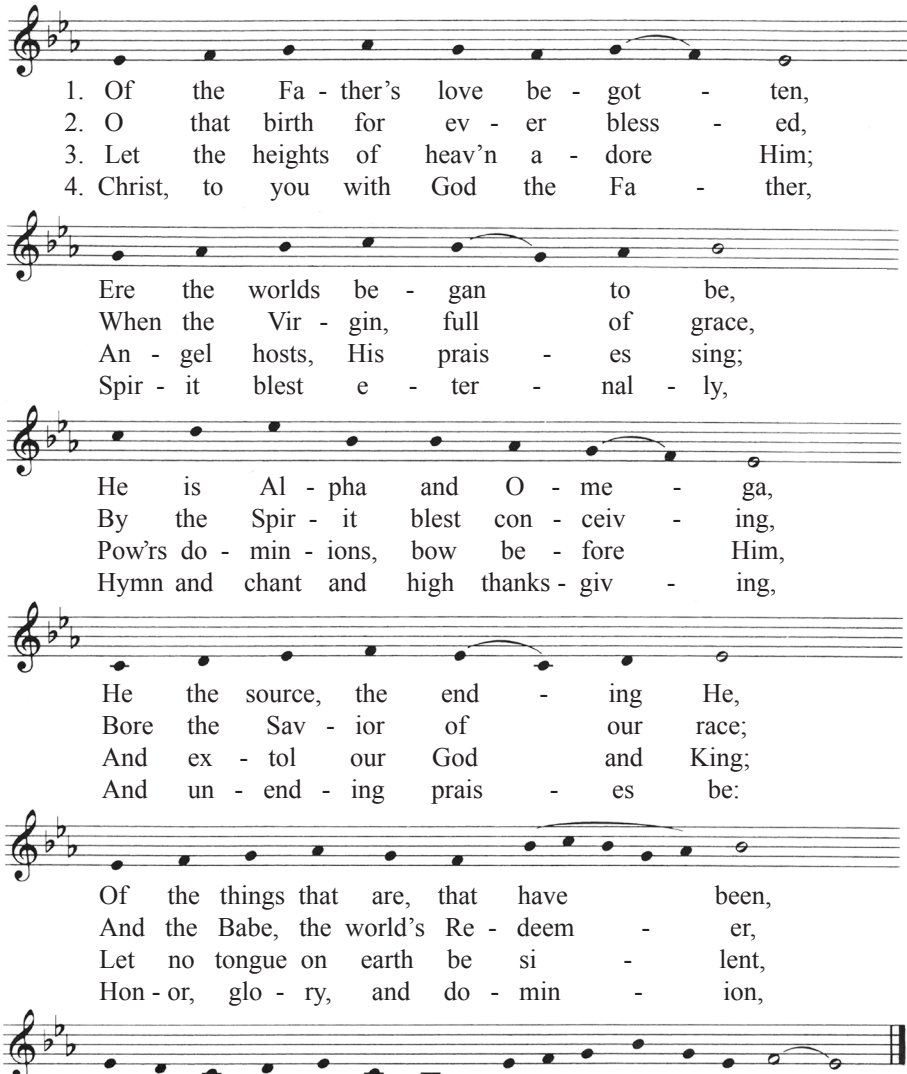
# Entrance Antiphon

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

Ky-ri - e, \* e - le - i - son.  
Chri - ste, e - le - i - son.  
Ky-ri - e, e - le - i - son.  
Ky-ri-e, \* \*\* e - le - i - son.

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 40.1-5, 9-11

Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service is at an end, her guilt is expiated; indeed, she has received from the hand of the LORD double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: In the desert prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low; the rugged land shall be made a plain, the rough country, a broad valley. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

Go up on to a high mountain, Zion, herald of glad tidings; cry out at the top of your voice, Jerusalem, herald of good news! Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah: Here is your God! Here comes with power the Lord God, who rules by a strong arm; here is his reward with him, his recompense before him. Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom, and leading the ewes with care.

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



O LORD, my God, you are great indeed!  
you are clothed with majesty and glory,  
robed in light as with a cloak.  
You have spread out the heavens like a tent-cloth.

You have constructed your palace upon the waters.  
You make the clouds your chariot;  
you travel on the wings of the wind.  
You make the winds your messengers,  
and flaming fire your ministers.

How manifold are your works, O LORD!  
In wisdom you have wrought them all —  
the earth is full of your creatures;  
the sea also, great and wide,  
in which are schools without number  
of living things both small and great.

They look to you to give them food in due time.  
When you give it to them, they gather it;  
when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

If you take away their breath,  
they perish and return to the dust.  
When you send forth your spirit, they are created,  
and you renew the face of the earth.



## Second Reading

Titus 2.11-14; 3.4-7

Beloved: The grace of God has appeared, saving all and training us to reject godless ways and worldly desires and to live temperately, justly, and devoutly in this age, as we await the blessed hope, the appearance of the glory of our great God and savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to deliver us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for himself a people as his own, eager to do what is good.

When the kindness and generous love of God our savior appeared, not because of any righteous deeds we had done but because of his mercy, He saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he richly poured out on us through Jesus Christ our savior, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**





## Gospel Acclamation



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

## Gospel

Luke 3.15-16, 21-22

Deacon: The Lord be with you.

**People: And with your spirit.**

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

**People: Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.”

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.*

[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.

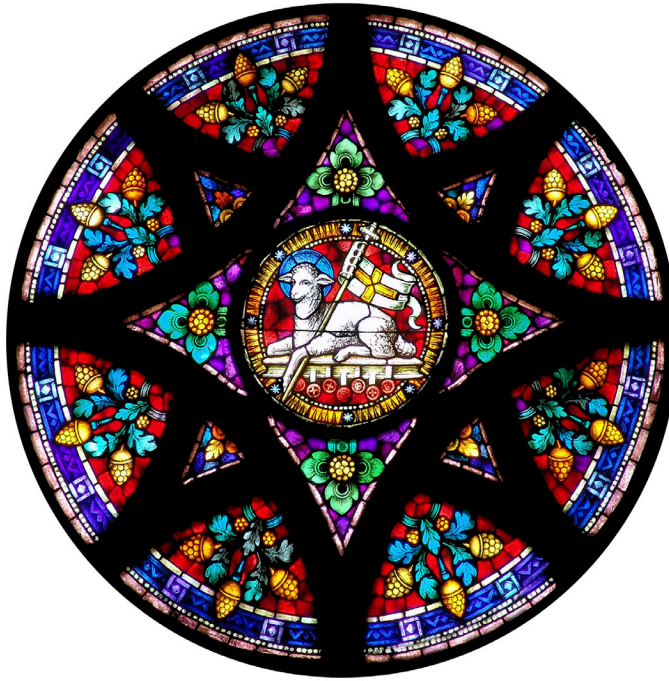
Tune: Greensleeves. Text: W.C. Dix, 1865.

## Offertory Anthem

*And the Glory of the Lord  
Isaiah 40:5*

*from Handel's Messiah*

*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 - l - sis Be - ne - dí - ctus qui

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

na in ex - cé - l - sis.

Music: Vatican Edition VIII; acc. by Richard Proulx

# Mysterium Fidei (The Mystery of Faith)

We pro-claim your Death, O Lord, and pro-fess your  
Res-ur-rec-tion un-til you come\_ a-gain.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in treble clef. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of text, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The notes are simple, consisting of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests.

# The Great Amen

arr. by Judy Franzen

People

A - men. A - men. A - men.

The image shows a single staff of musical notation in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple, consisting of quarter and half notes. The lyrics 'A - men. A - men. A - men.' are written below the staff.



 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.**

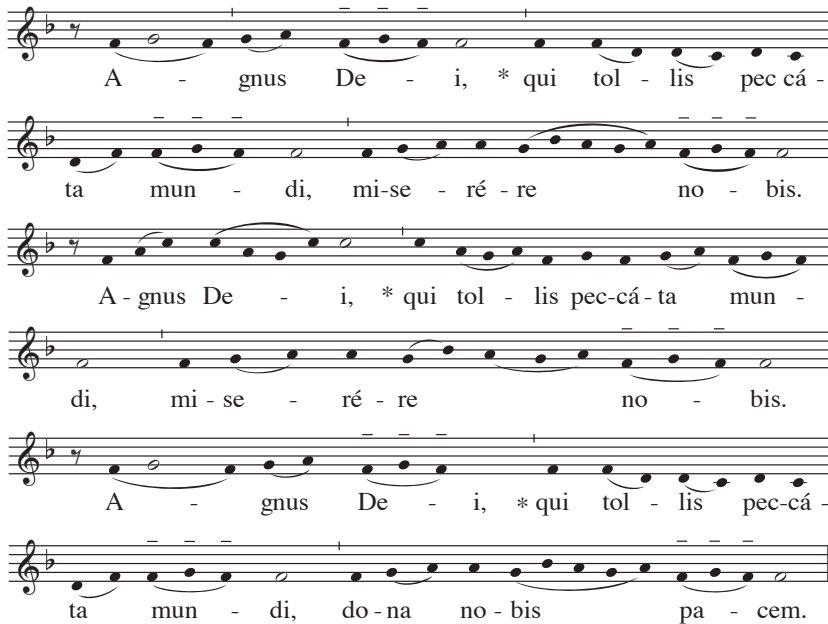
*Priest* Lord Jesus Christ,  
who said to your Apostles:  
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you,  
look not on our sins,  
but on the faith of your Church,  
and graciously grant her peace and unity  
in accordance with your will.  
Who live and reign for ever and ever.

***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 Creator, 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.**

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**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](http://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 five:* José Leonardo. *Saint John the Baptist in the Wilderness*. (c. 1635).

*Page six:* Stained Glass Inc. *Panel #12525*. (21st century).

*Page seven:* Lippo Memmi. *Saint Paul*. The Metropolitan Museum of Art. (c. 1330).

*Page eight:* Stained Glass Inc. *Panel #12040*. (21st century).

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

*Page thirteen:* 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