We are a welcoming inter-generational community united through faith in Jesus Christ, demonstrating our love to others through service and charity. All are Welcome, All Belong!

January 13, 2019 - The Baptism of the Lord

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. - Lk 3:21-22a

Dear Parishioners & Visitors,

The baptism of an infant is the cause of much joy, celebration, and love among family and friends. The baby is welcomed into the Christian Community, a community of grace, support, and encouragement in the face of all that life can bring. This ritual action has its roots not only in Jesus but in John, “the Baptist” who was so named precisely because of this action he performed at the Jordan River. The early followers of Jesus recognized that Jesus’ own ministry began after he was baptized by John, a story first recounted in the Gospel of Mark, which states that John preached a baptism of “forgiveness of sins.” This story is echoed in Luke as well (Luke 3:3).

Thus, we (and the early Christians) experience a theological quandary. Why did Jesus, who is said to be without sin, submit to baptism by John? To what purpose or to what end is a baptism of forgiveness of sins to one without sin? Responses to this question were as varied as the gospel writers and church fathers themselves. Matthew says that it is “to fulfill all righteousness” (Matt 3:15; NABRE). The Gospel of John simply neglects to say that Jesus was baptized by John. Instead, John the Baptist merely testified to Jesus without baptizing him at all. Luke places the baptism of Jesus in the passive voice and almost as an afterthought: “After all the people had been baptized / and Jesus also had been baptized” (Luke 3:21). Other than the Synoptics, neither Paul nor any other New Testament authors mention Jesus being baptized.

As indicated by the gospels, the ministry of Jesus began at or shortly after his baptism. And Luke shows that the Holy Spirit was active at this time, descending upon Jesus “in bodily form like a dove, only Luke says, “in bodily form like a dove.” This phrase reflects Luke’s tendency to objectivize the supernatural and it is something we will notice throughout this gospel. Further, Luke is also the only evangelist to say that Jesus was at prayer during this event. Prayer is another Lucan theme that we will see throughout his gospel: Luke shows Jesus at prayer more than any other evangelist. Luke will also show the early Christian community at prayer in the Acts of the Apostles.

So in these four short verses we have Lucan theology bursting from the page, Jesus is baptized by John (Passive voice) though John preaches a baptism of forgiveness of sins. Luke objectivized the supernatural by saying the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove, and Luke shows Jesus at prayer.

The Final Day of Christmas

For most people Christmas is a children’s holiday and a time for adults to return to the innocence and joy of their childhood. The emphasis in both secular and religious imagery on the Christ-child in Bethlehem reinforces this idea. However, the Christmas feast of the Baptism of the Lord counterbalances that notion. It reminds us that the child in the manger becomes an adult on mission, and that mission will eventually lead not only to a feast filled with rich food and choice wine but also to suffering and death. This is one reason why it is important that we mark this Sunday as the final day of Christmas.

This trip-revelation gives us a summary of Christ’s mission and, thus, the mission of every disciple who follows him into those same baptismal waters. As we memorialize the baptism of Jesus today, let us also remember our own baptism and call to mind our participation in Christ’s mission “to open the eyes of the blind, / to bring out prisoners from confinement, / and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness.” (Isa 42:7).
January 13, 2019

01/12 Saturday  
8:00 a.m. † Regina DiSerio  
(by: Tom DiSerio)
5:00 p.m. † Arthur & Francis White  
(by: Peggy O’Dowd)

01/13 Sunday  
The Baptism of the Lord  
8:00 a.m. † Carrie Topo  
(by: Mary Tom)
10:30 a.m. For the People of the Parish

01/14 Monday  
8:00 a.m. † Patrick & Grace Maughan  
(by: Maughan Family Trust)

01/15 Tuesday  
8:00 a.m. † Dolly Bohanan  
(by: Mary Tom)

01/16 Wednesday  
8:00 a.m † Irene Pavloff  
(by: Peggy Fullerton)

01/17 Thursday  
Saint Anthony, Abbot  
8:00 a.m. † Joseph Togher  
(by: Peggy Fullerton)

01/18 Friday  
Begins week of Prayer for Christian Unity  
8:00 a.m. Robert Lopez & Family (Spl. Int)  
(by: Maureen Fitzpatrick)

01/19 Saturday  
8:00 a.m. Avor Magennis (Spl. Intention)  
(by: Kathleen Marron)
5:00 p.m. † John F. Corry  
(by: Rita Murphy)

01/20 Sunday  
2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time  
8:00 a.m. † Roy Lippi  
(by: Pura Lippi)
10:30 a.m. For the People of the Parish

Let us remember in our Prayers...

Those who are sick or who suffer in any way, especially the homebound and the elderly, that God will assist them in their time of need and that they may find comfort and healing in Christ.

John Bamber  
Michael Brust  
Mary Dekle  
Corrado DeMartini  
Marian Dickey  
Danny Forchione  
Laura Garcia  
Denye Hale  
Dolores Martin  
Fred Jungmann  
Mow, Kain Chiu  
Ron Ramirez  
Bill Matthews  
Agnes Piva

Those who have died, the deceased of our parish, and especially those who have no one to pray for them.

May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. May the Perpetual Light Shine upon them.

PRAYING WITH THE WORD

Thank you, merciful God, for the gift of being baptized into Christ and becoming your daughters and sons. Help us live the ways of Jesus, whose outward sign we wore in a baptismal garment and live in our own flesh and blood. When we fall, please carry us with care and help us to stand, dust off our baptismal garment, and try again. Amen

Catholics and Orthodox Join in Week of Prayer for Unity

Thursday, January 24, 7:00 pm
Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 1040 Alameda de las Pulgas, Belmont

All are invited to a liturgy of Solemn Vespers with the parishioners of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church and their sister church, the Greek Orthodox of the Church of the Holy Cross. Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone will be the presider and Metropolitan Gerasimos of the Greek.

Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco will be the homilist. A dessert reception will follow in the Parish Center. This will be the thirteenth year that the Roman Catholic and Greek Orthodox communities have gathered to pray together in Belmont.

Are you planning a spring/summer 2019 wedding?

If so, now is the time to contact the church’s rectory office and discuss your plans with our pastoral staff and reserve the church.

Keep in mind Archdiocese guidelines require couples contact the parish office at least six months prior to the wedding date to begin the Pre-Cana preparation. Call our parish office to schedule your initial meeting at 415-282-0141

We are sincerely grateful for your financial stewardship supporting our various parish needs.

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Total $2,716.00

Second Collection—Facilities Maintenance  
Dec. 23, 2018—First Collection  
Online $1,848.00  
Total $2,453.00

Second Collection—Facilities Maintenance  
Dec. 30, 2018—First Collection  
Online $1,386.00  
Total $2,066.00

Second Collection—St. Vincent De Paul  
Jan. 6, 2019-First Collection  
Online $1,577.00  
Total $2,822.00

Second Collection—Facilities Maintenance  
$563.00

Practices on Tuesdays
Children’s Choir 3:30 p.m. Parish Hall  
Adult Choir meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Church

01/13 Second Collection for St. Philip’s School
01/13 Religious Education classes resume, 9:15 a.m., chapel
01/17 Seniors/Rosary Ministry Group, 11:30 a.m., Hall#3
01/20 Second Collection—Parish Maintenance
01/21 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday—Parish Office Closed
01/25 Friday, School Mass to kick off Catholic Schools Week
02/03 Hospitality following the 10:30 a.m. Mass
A Prayer for Vocations

Loving and generous God,
you called the prophets
to bring your word to your chosen people.
Your Son, Jesus, called the first disciples
to be bold proclaimers of the good news.
In the modern world, you continue to call
your sons and daughters to the priesthood,
diocesan, and consecrated life.
Calm the chaos and soothe the sounds of our world,
and allow more to hear your soft voice
calling them to pick up their cross and follow.
May the Holy Spirit fall upon your church in a profound
way,
so that we may experience a tremendous harvest of grace.
May vocations increase ever abundantly
and may your church stand as a witness to the world
of the good news of your Son, Jesus Christ.
Amen.
The Beloved Son

Father God,
you made known the Sonship of Jesus
at the moment of his baptism
and announced to all
that you were pleased with him.
Certain of your affirmation,
and living in the power of the Spirit,
Jesus would have the fervor to
announce your kingdom:
compassion to forgive sins, heal the
sick, and raise the dead;
and courage to face abandonment,
betrayal, and death.
Awaken us from our indifference
to the total self-giving of Christ.
Change our passivity to passion
so we might have the fervor,
compassion, and courage
to follow in his footsteps.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen

Sunday, January 13, 2019
Baptized and Sent Forth

birth, the sky fills with angels singing his glory and a star to
guide kings from a far-off land to adore and bring him pre-
cious gifts. After those marvelous events, Jesus spends
thirty years leading a quiet life in Nazareth. In God’s time,
he comes on the scene while John is baptizing and insists
that John baptize him. In that moment the Holy Trinity is
revealed, as the Spirit of God descends on Jesus in the form
of a dove, and the Father’s voice from heaven claims Jesus
as his beloved Son. Blessed by the Father and filled with the
Holy Spirit, Jesus embarks on his public ministry. His man-
date is to bring justice to the nations: to be “a light for the
nations, / To open the eyes of the blind, / to bring out prison-
ers from confinement, / and from the dungeon, those who
live in darkness.”

At our Baptism, the Holy Trinity is present as God the
Father frees us from sin and gives us new birth by water and
the Holy Spirit, and we become a new creation clothed in
Christ and enlightened by him. We are invited to participate
in the very life of the Trinity! The rite of Baptism gives us
our mandate: to “walk always as a child of the light.” Talk
with your family or a friend about what those words might
mean for the baptized. What is the work of children of the
light? Talk with God about what those words might mean in
your life. What is the particular work to which God is call-

you?
Who is an Active Parishioner?

- Regular attendance at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.
- Registered in the Parish, receiving and using weekly envelopes or online platform supporting the Parish according to the best of one’s ability.
- Volunteers and participates in Parish activities with time, talent, and resources as means permit.
- Trying to live the Catholic Faith as best they can with God’s help and the support of family and friends at home and in the Parish.

PARISH REGISTRATION
ALL ARE WELCOME, ALL BELONG

Our parish is blessed and enriched by the presence of new parishioners.

We welcome all new families and individuals. If you are interested in joining the Saint Philip’s parish community, feel free to call our office at 415-282-0141 for a registration form, or go online at www.saintphilipparish.org to complete the form online.

Interested in having your child Baptized at Saint Philip the Apostle Church?

Please call the parish office at 415.282.0141 to reserve your spot for any upcoming preparation session and schedule a date for the baptism.

Next Session will be held on Saturday, February 2, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in the Rectory.

Call the Parish office at 415-282-0141 to make your reservation.

WHY DO WE DO THAT? - CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

Question:
If Jesus didn't sin, why did he need to be baptized?

Answer:
From the earliest days of St. John the Baptist, baptism has been a sign of repentance and forgiveness of sins. Now Jesus has instituted it as a sacrament, with real power to cleanse us from original sin and adopt us as children of God. But if Jesus wasn't affected by original sin, nor did he willingly choose sin, why would he need to be baptized?

The Catechism lists four primary reasons for the Incarnation. One is that “the Word became flesh to be our model of holiness” (CCC 459). St. John Paul II wrote that "all of Christ's life was a continual teaching." In other words, many of Jesus' actions were not only for the action itself, but to model certain things for us. In becoming man, Jesus is not so lofty that he expects things of us he isn't willing to do himself. We see this most poignantly in his passion and death. In his baptism, Jesus identifies with sinners and gives us a model of what we ought to do - repent, be cleansed, and receive the grace of God!

WALK FOR LIFE WEST COAST 2019:
JANUARY 26, 2019

Join fellow Catholics and Pro-Lifers from all over California and beyond as we stand up for the littlest among us at the 15th Annual Walk for Life West Coast in San Francisco on January 26, 2019.

There will be Mass at 9:30AM celebrated by Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone at St. Mary’s Cathedral.

The rally begins at 12:30PM in San Francisco’s Civic Center Plaza, and the Walk, down the city’s Market Street, begins at 1:30PM. Last year’s Walk drew 50,000+ people.

For complete information about the Walk, visit www.walkforlifewc.com or call 415-658-1793.

We encourage you to enroll in our online giving Program during 2019
- It’s easy to set up
- Gives you real-time access of your charitable donations

We invite you to visit our website at www.saintphilipparish.org and select the online giving tab on the homepage. Alternatively, you can download the mobile app from Googleplay or the Apple App Store. Register by entering our church ID of (4254)

If you wish to continue to use your paper envelopes, you are most welcomed to do so.
ANointing of the Sick
This Sacrament is for those who are elderly, seriously ill, or scheduled for surgery. Contact the Parish Office to schedule the anointing in Church or at home. If in hospital, or care facility, please request the Catholic Chaplain or a priest from the Parish in which the hospital or care facility is located, through the nursing station.

Baptism
Parents wishing to baptize children should call the parish office to schedule the baptism and to schedule participation in our baptismal preparation program. Please call two months before you wish the baptism. Parents must make an appointment to attend the preparation session. Godparents may attend if they wish. As of January, 2019, these sessions will take place the first Saturday of each month at 9:00 a.m. The preparation may be done before the birth of the child. Please call the Parish office at 415-282-0141 for more information.

Faith Formation
Sacramental preparation is a one year program here at St. Philips. First Reconciliation and First Communion are celebrated in the 2nd grade. However, we offer accommodations for those older. Classes are held in the chapel on Sundays from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. A copy of the child’s baptismal certificate will be required upon registration. Please call the Parish office for complete details. 415-282-0141

Our Confirmation Program is designed for those youth entering the 8th grade or already in high school. These sessions begin in the fall. You must provide baptismal and First Eucharist certificates. To register call the Parish Office 415-282-0141

R.C.I.A.—Adults wishing to explore the Catholic faith are welcome to attend an Inquiry Session in the fall. Classes are held on Sundays from 9:15-10:15 a.m. in the Resource Center building (the old convent). Call the Parish Office at 415-282-0141 for a registration form.

Homebound Ministry
Call the Parish Office to arrange for visitation and the gift of Holy Communion from one of our Extraordinary Ministers for your friends and family members who are unable to attend Mass due to illness or hospitalization. This is a beautiful ministry which allows for the Church to reach out to those who are homebound and share faith and friendship.

Marriage
Couples are asked to call the Parish Office at least six months prior to their intended wedding date to schedule an appointment with the Pastoral Staff to begin their marriage preparation journey.

Reconciliation
Saturdays 4:15—4:45  p.m. or by appointment

Parish Office Hours
Monday—Friday
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
415-282-0141  Fax: 415-282-8962
www.saintphilipparish.org —info@saintphilipparish.org
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