



CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION

1100 Fulton Avenue, San Leandro, CA 94577

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January 9, 2022 Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

The Baptism of the Lord

The Advent/Christmas cycle that began on November 28 ends with the Baptism of the Lord. We likely have an image in our minds (based on details from the Gospels and works of art) of what that scene looked like. We might wonder, "Who else was there and who wasn't?" No disciples were present because Jesus had not yet begun his ministry. They would have to wait until the Transfiguration to hear a similar message. However, the three persons of the Blessed Trinity are accounted for: the Father (the voice from heaven), the Son Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Interestingly, Luke alone notes that it was after Jesus had been baptized and while he was praying that the voice was heard. All of the Gospels show Jesus praying at turning points in his ministry; this is but the first example of Jesus' need to root himself in prayer throughout his life--a model for us to follow.

ON THE CUSP OF A NEW CREATION

It was on the Fourth Sunday of Advent this past December that we first heard of the two cousins, John and Jesus, meeting. Then it was in the womb of their mothers, Elizabeth and Mary. Now the cousins meet again on the shore of the Jordan River. John is already well known--so much so that people had begun to wonder if he was the long-awaited Messiah. Jesus, on the other hand, is about to begin his ministry. One could say that Jesus entered the waters of the Jordan as a private person and came out of them as a public one. The voice from heaven left no doubt about that. As we come to the end of the Christmas season our readings echo Isaiah and Titus (see Advent and Christmas Day readings) and together with today's Psalm 104 they point us to Pentecost. We are on the cusp of a new creation.

JOHN THE BAPTIST: PATRON SAINT OF LITURGICAL MINISTERS?

John the Baptist was what we might call today a

"social influencer." People paid attention to what he had to say. And what he said affected the choices people made. Yet today's Gospel reminds us of John the Baptist's ultimate goal: "One mightier than I is coming." The Baptizer walks the fine line between drawing attention to himself with his fiery preaching and then re-directing that attention to Jesus, the "beloved Son." John the Baptist could be considered the "patron saint" of those who minister as lectors, extraordinary ministers of the eucharist, cantors, greeters, acolytes, and musicians. Isn't John's teaching a good goal for a liturgical (or any!) minister? Rooted in the graces of their own baptism, ministers must be skilled and confident enough to draw people's attention (or, at least, not turn them off!) and then gradually re-focus that attention on Jesus. It is a dynamic and awesome responsibility. Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

The Baptism of the Lord Fear Not

Did the first reading from Isaiah sound familiar? It was also heard on the First Sunday of Advent in December of 2008. I suppose it could be a reminder that John the Baptist appears at the beginning of the Advent/Christmas season and at the end. In Advent we were preparing for Jesus' coming at Christmas. Now we are preparing for his coming at any time. The reading from Isaiah talks about the Lord coming in mercy to the people whose "guilt is expiated" (Isaiah 40:2). The mountains and hills will be leveled, symbolic of making an easy way to the Lord. In other words, the Lord is approachable. With our sins forgiven we need not fear asking God for help: "Fear not to cry out" (Isaiah 40:9). The Lord comes in power, not to strike sinners down but to shepherd them and lead them.

In the second reading, St. Paul has a similar theme. Jesus gave his life for us on the cross so that we could be free from sin and able to reject evil desires. We are free to give ourselves in love as he did. And he does this, not because we did anything to deserve it, but from his own love and mercy for us. Think about that. No matter how bad I was in the past, the Lord loves me enough to forgive it all, and even better, to give the Spirit to help me stay close to God. How do we prepare for this? We can start by hearing the words of the readings today, letting them sink into our hearts and minds. Read them again at home, and remind yourself that you have been forgiven, that you can live as a person "eager to do what is good" (Titus 2:14). Ask the Spirit to help you see what things are keeping you from being like Jesus and to give you the strength to say no. And look for ways you can be more loving with your family, then with your friends, and eventually with anyone who needs your help. When we let that Spirit guide us, we become like Jesus in that we can listen for God to say, "You are my beloved child; with you I am well pleased" (see Luke 3:22). Tom Schmidt, Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

The Baptism of the Lord
Almighty ever-living God,
who, when Christ had been baptized in the River Jordan
and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him,
solemnly declared him your beloved Son,
grant that your children by adoption,
reborn of water and the Holy Spirit,
may always be well pleasing to you.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

Reflection question:

What can I do this week to be well pleasing to God?

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Isaiah speaks of the Servant whom the Lord upholds; he shall bring forth justice to the nations

(Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7) or Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11.

Psalm — The Lord will bless his people with peace

(Psalm 29) or Psalm 104.

Second Reading — Jesus was anointed by God with the Holy Spirit; he went out healing and doing good

(Acts 10:34-38) or Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7.

Gospel — A voice comes from heaven proclaiming Jesus as the beloved Son, with whom God is well pleased

(Luke 3:15-16, 21-22).

The English translation of the Psalm

Responses from the Lectionary for Mass ©

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Sm 1:1-8; Ps 116:12-19; Mk 1:14-20

Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Ps 40:2, 5, 7-10;

Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11; Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25;

Mk 1:40-45

Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Ps 89:16-19; Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a; Ps 21:2-7; Mk 2:13-17

Sunday: Is 62:1-5; Ps 96:1-3, 7-10; 1 Cor 12:4-11; Jn 2:1-11

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JANUARY 8—JANUARY 15, 2022

We Remember at the Eucharist

Saturday 8

8:15am.

4:30pm

Sunday 9

8:00am Manuel Uribe+

10:00 am Marcela G. Piamonte+

12:00 noon.

Monday 10

8:15a.m. Jozepi DiSantis Riccomi (Living)+

Tuesday 11

8:15a.m. Emeliano Tapas+

Wednesday 12

8:15a.m. Charles & Irene Guest+

Thursday 13

10:00am Respect the Dignity of Life

Friday 14

8:15am

Saturday 15

8:15am

4:30pm

Please remember the Church of the Assumption in your will.

Parish Office Hours

Monday thru Thursday

9:00AM -12:00PM – 12:30PM - 3:00PM

Friday 9:00AM to 12:00PM

PARISH STAFF

Fr. John Carillo, Parochial Administrator

frjohn@assumptionsanleandro.org

Mary Schirmer, Youth Ministry & Formation

mschirmer@assumptionsanleandro.org

James Brady, RCIA & Adult Faith Formation

jbrady@assumptionsanleandro.org

Martha Zeyen, Administrative Assistant

mzeyen@assumptionsanleandro.org

Kelly Hodgins, Communications Director

khodgins@assumptionsanleandro.org.

Bill Vaughan, Music Director

bvaughan@csdo.org

ASSUMPTION SCHOOL

Lana Rocheford, School Principal

School Office: 510-357-8772

School Office Hours: 7:30am-3:30 pm

Celebration of the Eucharist

Daily Mass: 8:15am (Live Streamed)

Saturday: 4:30pm **Sunday:** 8:00am, 10:00am
(Live Streamed), 12:00noon

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday: 3:30pm to 4:00p, and by Appt

LITURGICAL MINISTERS:

Head Lector:

Cathy Ralph..... 510-895-0420

Altar Server Coordinators:

Dennis Burigsay..... 510-895-1628

Mike Tedeschi..... 510-357-9447

Head Communion Minister:

Faye Caruso..... 510-882-5002

Head Usher: Ed Hernandez.....510-875-8308

Head Greeter: Hanne Gerardi..... 510-393-9989

Ministry Schedulers:

Giovanna Giuliani..... 510-872-3035

Faith Formation & Teen Confirmation:

Mary Schirmer.....510-352-1537

RCIA and Adult Faith Formation

Jim Brady 510-393-9396

St. Vincent de Paul

Denis Ducey..... 510-352-6079

Pastoral Council:

Doug Taylor... 510-638-3050

School Board:

Pierre Davis 415-519-1173

Finance Committee:

George Brandt..... 510-410-5819

Tuesdays with Larry:

Larry Graves..... 510-352-4777

Rosary Makers:

Irene Haines..... 510-483-7975

CYO:

Nathaniel Fripp 510-789-5565

All Saints Skilled Nursing

Lizette Rocha..... 510-351-1342

Communion to the Homebound:

Joan Tonsberg..... 510-357-1985

Communion to Kindred Hospital:

Susan Sequeira..... 510-352-5614

Prayer Chain:

JoMarie Stavosky..... 510-889-9469

Knit/Crochet Group

Gloria Calegari..... 510-357-0943

Linens:

Anita De Marais..... 510-357-9172

Cursillo

Jennie Gisslow..... 510-875-9170

THANK YOU for your generosity!

Sunday Collection

Week of December 26 2021

Christmas, 2021

Week of January 2, 2022

These totals available 1/9/22

Weekly Goal \$7,000

Please pray for all those who are ill especially: Mary Melton, and Eric Bertelsen

513057

Attention: Martha

510-352-1537

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Message:

Please send 250 bulletins