

## *Christ Our Hope Catholic Church*

### *Faith in Laity Corner*



## **Feast of the Baptism of Jesus**

*Monday, January 14, 2019,*

*Reading Lk. 3: 15-16, 21-22*

## **Water Wading**

Our weekend begins with the Baptism of Our Lord and for Catholics the closing of the Season of Christmas. All presents have been opened, wrong sizes returned, post-Christmas sales are over, the tree is going for recycling and the decoration has been stored away; we are now returning to Ordinal times. We listen to the Gospel as recorded by St. Luke, which recounted Jesus' request that John was the one to baptize Him, a reversal of the natural order.

*“The people were filled with expectation” (Lk. 3:15)*

The Jews have been waiting for a Messiah, they, of course, could have reasoned that John with his fiery preaching and stringent lifestyle could have been the one. Questions plagued them, was this the Messiah, was John a prophet, who was this John, how did he fit in the picture?

*“All were asking in their hearts whether  
John might be the Messiah.” (Lk. 3:15)*

John demanded a sense of repentance and an outward sign of this, through baptism in the Jordan river. Jesus was going to be introduced into the arena of public ministry, by submitting to John's baptism using water. The people were observing the conversation between the two cousins. John made it clear, that his ministry was far different from the One to come. John proclaimed the need for repentance but was to be outdone by the true Messiah.

*“I am baptizing you with water,  
but one mightier than I is coming.” (Lk. 3:16)*

It was made clear that the Messiah was going to be powerful, rendering John's work to be compared to water; while the true One will have water, fire, and the Spirit.

*“He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” (Lk. 3: 17)*

As an adult, Jesus was going to be publicly acknowledged by His Father, He was the One. Later, in Jesus' ministry, God's voice is heard again. For this time, all who were at the Jordan River that day would remember the scene of the clouds parting, the dove's appearing and the voice. Just as Jesus *‘waded’ in the water* to welcome John's baptism, it was at that moment His Father pronounced what John had said before, He was the long-awaited One.

*“You are my beloved Son; with you, I am well pleased.” (Lk. 3:22)*

The chemical compound of water is so critical to our human existence. Life began in water, our human existence waded in a nutritious water sack, our bodies are made up of 70% water and the only vital liquid that we have to drink some 8 glasses per day. What a refreshing feeling is cool water on our skin on a hot day! Just as water is so essential, it is also a formidable adversary. We can recall the power of water in a tropical storm, hurricane and the aftermath of flooding. This same liquid can hold pollutants and cause diseases and death among people.

Yet, in our faith water is used as a symbol to demonstrate repentance, it is used to show cleansing of sins and welcoming children/adults to the Catholic faith. Waters of our Baptism is used to pour over our head as a sign that we have been welcomed as heirs to the Kingdom of God when we die. We need to *wade in the waters* of our Baptism so that we can renew the promises of our earthly mission. Jesus obtained His reward through His actions on this earth. What will assure us of our reward if our Baptismal *water wading* does not lead us to carry out our Catholic Christian duty here on earth?

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**May the waters of our Baptism, permit the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our lives and families as we continue to live our Catholic duty for each other here and now.**

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