

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 2016

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD – THE CHRISTMAS SEASON IS COMPLETE

This weekend, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, we complete our celebration of Christmas. The beautiful decorations come down and on Monday, we begin the Ordinary time in the Church’s liturgical year until Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 10. We thank Our Lord for all the blessings of Holy Advent and a Joyful Christmas as a Church, in our parish family and especially in our own families.

We thank our wonderful parishioners and our parish staff who planned, prepared and worked together in a joyful spirit so that Christmas in our parish, and beyond our parish too, would be truly blessed and celebrated well.

- So many of you brought gifts here for the needy, and especially for children who depend on our kindness. You do not know who you helped through our parish but Our Lord Jesus knows exactly who it is and He blesses you for your goodness which has made a difference for someone at Christmas. **Thank you.**
- Our Art and Environment group, coordinated by Angela Osorio, beautified our Church for Advent and then for Christmas. So many people remarked favorably about our Christmas Crib on Route 46. It all represents lots of work in just a few of days. Our Martha Ministers made sure everything in Church was clean and in good order for Christmas. **Thank you all.**
- You, our faithful parishioners and friends, have worshipped in great numbers here; you sang beautiful Christmas music with our wonderful choirs to joyfully bring our hearts and minds closer to Jesus. Our adult and children choirs have worked diligently with Doctor Peter Gillis and Christine Wilson to prepare the Christmas music for the Masses and our Christmas Concert. **Thank you all.**
- So many of you participated in our Liturgical ministries for Christmas – Lectors, Holy Communion Ministers, Ushers and Altar Servers. **Thank you all.**
- Several parishioners brought Christmas treats for the priests, the parish staff and parishioners at the Rectory during Christmas. You are very kind. **Thank you all.**
- Our children, especially our little ones, come in awe with their families to our Christmas Crib. It is so beautiful to see families taking pictures with their children by the crib. **Thank you parents and children.**
- We have very generously contributed our sacrificial Christmas Collection gifts in the tithing spirit to Jesus in our parish. Christmas Collection offerings by folks who were away for Christmas are still needed and most welcome. **Thank you all.**

Our priests and deacons, Sister Sylvia and our entire parish staff have worked lovingly with so many of you to do everything well so that the Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Confessions, would be richly shared with everyone who came here to be nourished and healed by Jesus. For all of this we join together to offer our thanks and praise to God our Father, the creator of all. We rejoice to do everything for the greater glory of God in Jesus Christ! Happy and Healthy 2016 to one and all!

God Bless, Fr. Herb

TITHING

December 27-January 1	\$14,030.00
Same Week Last Year:	\$17,179.00

Words of Tithing from the Pews:

From the Pastor: Like many things in life, giving is a learned habit. As we give our time, our talent and financial resources to support God’s good works in our parish, we learn the joy of this spiritual practice. As we experience the blessing of giving, we find ourselves giving and receiving even more.

From the Pews: Tithing has been my blessing. Returning to God part of my income made me realize that I must return more of my time to people around me. Doing this has been rewarding here and hopefully hereafter.

Thank you for your sacrifice of Tithing

MASS ATTENDANCE

Mass attendance for January 2/3: 1810

OUR PARISH CHRISTMAS COLLECTION



Our parish Christmas collection is the most important collection of the year. Our sacrificial, faith filled gift to Jesus celebrating His birth, helps our parish fulfill its obligations. You have noticed in the Bulletin that many weeks this year our weekly collections have been down from last year. Please consider an extra special Christmas gift to help us fulfill our responsibilities to people with many different needs, to our parish employees and to all of our other responsibilities. May Our Lord Jesus bless your generosity many times over in 2016!

SCRIPTURE READINGS JANUARY 11-17

MONDAY	1 Samuel 1: 1-8 Gospel: Mark 1: 14-20
TUESDAY	1 Samuel 1: 9-20 Gospel: Mark 1: 21-28
WEDNESDAY	1 Samuel 3: 1-10, 19-20 Gospel: Mark 1: 29-39
THURSDAY	1 Samuel 4: 1-11 Gospel: Mark 1: 40-45
FRIDAY	1 Samuel 8: 4-7, 10-22a Gospel: Mark 2: 1-12
SATURDAY	1 Samuel 9 1-4, 17-19; 10: 1a Gospel: Mark 2: 13-17
SUNDAY	Isaiah 62: 1-5 Corinthians 12: 4-11 Gospel: John 2: 1-11



SANCTUARY LAMPS/FLOWERS

You may have the Sanctuary Candles in the Church, Chapel or Adoration Chapel burn in memory of a loved one (\$10.00 donation), roses at the Tabernacle (\$10.00 donation), or flowers at the altar (\$50.00 Donation). Please call or stop into the rectory office.

January 10-16, 2016

Sanctuary Lamp in the Church is for Rose Bac

Sanctuary Lamp in Mary's Daily Chapel is Matthew O'Rourke

Sanctuary Lamps in the Adoration Chapel are Gregory Loff, Richard Locilento, Charles Hathaway, Special Intention for Fr. Babu

Tabernacle Roses in the Church – Betty Birilli

Altar Flowers: In Thanksgiving

ALL SAINTS ACADEMY CORNER FIND US ON FACEBOOK:

ASA – A Model Early Childhood Center

All Saints Academy hosts an extensive Early Childhood Center that is considered a model setting for young children of the Parsippany area. It includes a Pre-School level for three-year old children, a Pre-Kindergarten program for four-year old children and a full day Kindergarten. The faith-filled environment provides young children with a nurturing setting for a "first school experience." The early childhood curriculum is developmentally driven, capturing the essence of each child through the integration of spiritual, physical, intellectual and social-emotional components. The teaching team has developed a highly enriched language and mathematics program based on the combination play and pre-academic skills. All early childhood instruction is also infused with the tenets of STEM education. Vibrant teaching and genuine learning occurs through the interweaving of science, technology, engineering and math in daily classroom lessons. There are full and half day sessions available in both the Pre-School and Pre-Kindergarten levels. We are currently accepting new students at this midpoint of the school year. After School care until 6pm is also available for students of the Early Children Center. Please contact All Saints Academy's principal, Mrs. Judy Berg, at 973-334-4704 for information regarding your child's entry into this fine program. Please visit our website at www.allsaintspar.org and contact our school office at 973-334-4704 to learn more about the fine educational opportunities for your family in 2016 at All Saints Academy.



MASS INTENTIONS FOR JANUARY 11-17, 2016

MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2016

6:45AM – Special Intention Gertrude D'Souza

8:00AM – Special Intention for Sister Sylvia

7:00PM – Thomas Thelappilly (1st Anniv.)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2016

6:45AM – Special Intention for Linda Franchino, Warren Leshner & Gertrude D'Souza

8:00AM – Thomas Thelappilly (1st Anniv.)

7:00PM – Rosary Society Mass in Daily Chapel

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2016 – St. Hilary, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

6:45AM – People of the Parish

8:00AM – Edward Pavel (1st Anniv.)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2016

6:45AM – Special Intention for the Priests & Deacons of the Parish

8:00AM – William Rundle

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 2016

6:45AM – Peg & Nick Brady

8:00AM – Kiernan Pillion (1st Anniv.), Cresenzo DiLella

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 2016

8:00AM – Emil Johnson

5:30PM – Cresenzo DiLella, John Caulfield (9th Anniv.), Eleanor Carlton

7:00 PM – Special Intention for Rufina Ramirez, Ezequel Alvarez Ramos, Florian Sanchez

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 2016 – 2nd Sunday Ordinary Time

7:30 AM – George Sowinski, Patricia Zippis

9:00 AM – Vincenzo Amorosi, Rita Ockenhouse, Felix Terrero

10:30 AM – Cresenzo DiLella, Stephen Smyth, Lucia Valentini

12:00 PM – Michael Moroney, Alberta Wolff, Frances Yamour

7:00 PM – Phyllis Olsavsky

A THANKSGIVING & CHRISTMAS THANK YOU

We've said it before and we'll say it again. Without a doubt, we have one of the most generous parishes in the diocese. In response to Pope Francis' call, in this Holy Year of Mercy, to reach out to the poor, you generously donated food, turkeys, hams, hundreds of gifts and monetary contributions. Just from the Giving Trees alone, we received over \$7,000.00 in gift cards. THANK YOU!

The Christ-likeness of a parish is measured by the love, care and outreach they extend to others. You are a wonderful reflection of the Compassionate Christ.

On behalf of the many people who are recipients of your generous giving, we thank you. May an abundance of blessings overflow into your lives giving you joy and peace in 2016.

FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION JANUARY 16/17



Our Food Pantry Collection will be next weekend, January 16/17. We need canned fruit, canned vegetables, hearty soups, canned stews, canned tuna, canned chicken, coffee, tea, side dishes, juice, cereal, pancake mix and syrup, spaghetti sauce, pasta, paper products, cleaning products, peanut butter and jelly. Thank you for your continued support of this ministry.

OUTREACH CORNER

A parishioner is looking for a very inexpensive car. If you have a car you would like to donate or sell, please call the Rectory at 973-334-2090.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH – JANUARY 10-16, 2016

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 2016

8:00AM – Men’s Basketball – Parish Center
9:00AM – Children’s Gospel Program – Church Hall
10:15AM – CCD – School
12:30PM – CYO Basketball – Parish Center
4:20PM – Indian Community Mass & Fellowship – Church/Hall
5:30PM – Bingo – Parish Center

MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2016

10:30AM – Troy Hills Nursing Home Mass – Fr. Babu
10:30AM – Parish Staff Meeting - Rectory
4:15PM – CCD – School
6:00PM – CYO Basketball – Parish Center
7:00PM – Memorial Mass – Church/Church Hall
7:00 PM – R.C.I.A. - Rectory
7:30PM – English as a Second Language – Teachers’ Room

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2016

8:00AM – ASA Finance Meeting - Rectory
8:30AM – Adult Faith Formation – Church Hall
10:00AM – Peanuts Playgroup – Church Hall
1:30PM – Parish Finance Committee Meeting – Rectory
4:00PM – Children’s Choir – Church/Church Hall
6:00PM – CYO Basketball – Parish Center
7:00PM – Rosary Society Mass/Meeting – Chapel/Church Hall
7:15PM – CCD – School
7:30PM – Bereavement Support Group - Convent

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2016

6:00PM – CYO Basketball – Parish Center
6:00PM – Boy Scout Troop #72 – Cafeteria
7:30PM – Spanish Bible Class – 7th Grade Classroom

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2016

7:30PM – Jr. High Fun Night – Parish Center/Youth Room
7:30PM – Spanish Choir – Chapel
7:30PM – Adult Choir – Church/Church Hall
9:00PM – Men’s Basketball – Parish Center

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 2016, 2015

6:00PM – CYO Basketball – Parish Center
6:00PM – Begin Again – Church Hall
7:30PM – Spanish Prayer Group – Church

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 2016

8:30AM – Polish School – School
1:00PM – CYO Basketball – Parish Center
4:00PM – Confessions – Church
Blessing of Expectant Parents – Church
Food Pantry Collection – Narthex
Sisters of Christian Charity Selling 50/50 Chances - Narthex
7:30PM – AA – Church Hall
8:00PM – Indian Sports – Parish Center

ADULT FAITH FORMATION – JANUARY 12, 2016

We are pleased to present a very popular and interesting series for our Adult Faith Formation Program. “Catholicism: Journey Around the World and Deep Into the Faith” is a video series created by Bishop Elect Robert Baron. It is wonderful way to learn about the richness of our Catholic faith. The next session will be on Tuesday morning, January 12, 2016 at 8:30 AM. The evening session has been cancelled.

SAINT PETER’S BOOK CLUB



The Book Club will meet on January 22, 2016 at 7:30 PM in the Church Hall. We will discuss the book, *Waking Up in Heaven: A True Story of Brokenness, Heaven, and Life Again* by Crystal McVea. Come join us for the discussion of this book. Dessert and coffee will be served.

For everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven...

...a time to born

Patrick John Dente, Gabriel Fabbriani

...a time to die

Matthew O’Rourke, Elvira Matti, Edward Strasser, Amario Venturini, Jr., William McManus

...a time to heal

Fr. Herb, Fr. Babu, Baby Leonardo Alberto, Baby Emma Wyman, Lisa Calabrese, Jenny Rose,

...a time to love

“...and a time of peace.” Ecclesiastes 3:11

BINGO

BINGO				
1	19	44	59	62
8	20	37	52	64
13	27	46	67	
10	22	31	54	75
3	24	38	53	63

**JANUARY 10, 2016 – TEAM D –PAT BARTLE
POWERBALL #1 - \$500.00 – POWERBALL #2 \$390.00**

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE SERVING IN THE MILITARY? – PLEASE TELL US



Please keep all of our parishioners who are serving in the military, in your prayers especially Kemuel David, serving with the Marines and Frank Mulvaney and Natalie Domenech, both currently serving with the Navy. Please notify the Rectory Office, 973-334-2090, if there are any parishioners currently serving our country in the military.

LET’S GO THIS SPRING TO SPAIN, FRANCE & ITALY APRIL 11-21, 2016

Our parish is sponsoring a European trip to the exciting city of Barcelona, Spain and then on to Lourdes, where Mary visited with Saint Bernadette. We travel to Nice and visit Monte Carlo from there. Leaving France, we go to Northern Italy to Stresa on Lake Maggiore the Italian/Swiss Lake district. After a full day visiting islands at Lake Maggiore, we go to Milan for our last full day. The next morning we fly home from Milan. Many places on this itinerary we have probably never visited before.

Please call or stop at the Rectory for a beautiful trip brochure. Please speak with the travel agency, Nuovo Tours at 973-882-0021, if you wish.

MARTHA MINISTRY

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15– TEAM 1
Marge Martin, Dolores Brandao, Jo Byrne,
Millie Smith, Carol Patterson

SAINT PETER’S GOLDEN AGE-JANUARY 18

Saint Peter’s Golden Age will meet at the Community Center on **Monday, January 18** at 11:00 AM – All are welcome!

CHILDREN’S CHOIR

The Children’s Choir will resume regular rehearsals on Tuesday, January 26th at 4:00 PM in the Church. Girls and Boys in grades 2 through 8 are invited to join the choir.

ADORATION CHAPEL – WE NEED ADORERS

PLEASE COME!

We need adorers on Friday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Please call Kim Arminio if you can help – 973-402-1289. Remember Jesus' words: "I have a burning thirst to be honored by men in the Blessed Sacrament and I find hardly anyone who strives to allay this thirst". Can you come?

SAINT PETER THE APOSTLE CYO BASKETBALL FUNDRAISER 2016

Come join Saint Peter the Apostle CYO Basketball teams at Prudential Center in Newark, NJ on Wednesday, January 27, 2016 at 7:00 PM to see Saint John's University vs. Seton Hall University. There will be a pre-game contest at 4:00 PM as our 8th Grade Green Team vs. our 7th Grade White Team. Tickets are \$20/each. For tickets please contact Tim at 201-207-6971, tlorencovitz@gmail.com Kenny at 973-202-0318, murdock005@gmail.com or Gapo at 973-332-5977, gmancuffsandcut@optonline.net

ALTAR SERVERS – JANUARY 16/17, 2016

5:30PM – Lim, Sevilla, Marinelli
7:30AM – Jutchenko
9:00AM – Giaquinto, Arnold, Chen
10:30AM – Slevin, Torres Komareddy
12:00PM – Munoz, Munoz, Sepe
7:00PM – Ippolito, Yturbe

Youth News

YOUTH GROUP

Contact John Cammarata at
spayouthminister@gmail.com

Please visit www.facebook.com/spayouthministry

SAINT PAUL INSIDE THE WALLS

Reasons to Believe: Why The Catholic Faith Makes Sense: Come hear what Catholics believe, why Catholics believe it, the personal difference it makes, and how it makes sense in today's world. Fr. Derek Anderson, presenter. Madison Saturday, January 16 from 10AM – 12 Noon.

Catholicism from Scratch: Adam's Apple (Humanity, Sin and Grace): A course in basic Catholicism for those who need a brush-up, those who missed it the first time around, or those who never heard it before. Fr. Paul Manning, presenter. Madison, Saturday, January 23 from 10AM to 12 Noon.

Third Annual Catholic Trivia Super Bowl: Build your own five-person team and tackle multiple-choice questions on the Catholic Faith! Rules: Only one priest, religious brother/sister, or theologian allowed per team. Cost \$25/team in advance, \$30 at the door. Madison, Saturday, January 30 from 10AM – 1PM.

Please go to www.insidethewalls.org for more information and to register

DONATE YOUR CAR-RECEIVE A TAX DEDUCTION OF \$500

It's fast and easy and requires only one phone call or website visit. Cars For Help, a 501 ©3 not-for-profit organization is using vehicle donations to support Christian churches and parishes across the USA in an effort to help people who are suffering through difficult times. With a mention of this bulletin, 50% of your vehicle donation proceeds will go directly to Saint Peter's. Please visit www.CarsForHelp.com or call directly 630-595-9272. Together, we can make a difference.

A PRAYER FOR A FAMILY

O dear Jesus, I humbly implore You to grant Your special graces to our family. May our home be the shrine of peace, purity, love, labor and faith. I beg You, dear Jesus, to protect and bless all of us, absent and present, living and dead. O Mary, loving Mother of Jesus and our Mother, pray to Jesus for our family, for all the families of the world, to guard the cradle of the newborn, the schools of the young and their vocations. Blessed St. Joseph, holy guardian of Jesus and Mary, assist us by your prayers in all the necessities of life. Ask of Jesus that special grace which He granted to you, to watch over our home at the pillow of the sick and the dying, so that with Mary and with you, heaven may find our family unbroken in the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Amen.

WE WILL BE SERVING SAINT ANN'S PARISH FOR FOUR MONTHS

The pastor of our neighboring Saint Ann's Parish, Father Tim Dowling, is taking a 4 month academic sabbatical beginning on January 25, 2016. Bishop Serratelli has appointed me as the part-time Temporary Administrator of Saint Ann's Parish, effective from January 25-May 24, 2016. Along with my brother priests here, we will offer the Masses and all the sacraments at the parish. I will be responsible for working with Saint Ann's excellent parish staff, and for the pastoral and administrative ministry needs of the parish and its people. I will pray to Saint Ann, asking her to help me and my brother priests to offer good pastoral service to the people of her parish during these 4 months. Our pastoral services here will continue as always under the guidance of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Please include this pastoral intention of serving our neighboring parish in your prayers. God Bless Us Everyone, Father Herb.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FREE THROW CHAMPIONSHIP AND POSTER CONTEST

This year's Free Throw contest will be held on January 16, 2016 at 9:00 AM at St. Christopher's All Purpose room. It is open to boys and girls between the ages of 10 & 14. High school age athletes should be advised to check with their school athletic directors or their state's high school athletic association regarding possible eligibility conflicts. Each youngster may compete in only one council competition. Local champions may not represent more than one council. Championship entrants compete against youngsters of the same age and gender in 5 throws and the one who makes the most shots wins.

Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest – Entries in the K of C Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest must fall under one of these topics: alcohol Awareness and Abuse & Drug Awareness and Abuse. Each poster must include a slogan reflecting either of the topics

LACORDAIRE ACADEMY'S HILARIOUS BEEFSTEAK DINNER – JANUARY 23RD



Bring your friends, family and neighbors to Lacordaire Academy's fun filled Beefsteak Dinner, 6:30, Saturday, January 23 in Lacordaire Hall, 155 Lorraine Ave., Upper Montclair, NJ \$60/person, reservations required. All-you-can-eat Filet Mignon, on-tap award winning Ramstein beef, sangria, salad, fries and dessert along with a hilarious centerpiece competition and prizes. Non-beef options also available. Visit Special Events at Lacordaire Academy. Com or contact advancement@lacordaire.net and 9730744-1156 x 33 for more information.

Hablando español en San Pedro Apóstol

domingo, 10 de enero de 2016
El bautismo del Señor – Concluye la Navidad



Horario de las Misas:

lunes a viernes: 6:45am y 8:00 am en inglés
sábado: 5:30 pm en inglés y 7:00 pm en español
domingo: 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am, 12 m y 7:00 pm en inglés

Confesiones: sábado: 4:00 pm a 5:00 pm

Intenciones de las Misas: Por favor, notificar a la oficina parroquial (973-334-2090) con una semana de anticipación. El donativo para las intenciones es de \$10.00.

Mensaje del párroco:

Este fin de semana, en la Fiesta del Bautismo del Señor, completamos nuestra celebración del tiempo de Navidad. Se guardan las lindas decoraciones y celebraremos el Tiempo Ordinario del año litúrgico de la Iglesia, hasta que comience la Cuaresma el 10 de febrero, con el Miércoles de Ceniza. Le damos las gracias a Dios por todas las bendiciones de Adviento y Navidad que hemos compartido como Iglesia, en nuestra parroquia y especialmente con nuestras familias.

Agradecemos a todos los maravillosos feligreses y personal de la parroquia, que planificaron, prepararon y trabajaron arduamente con espíritu de alegría; para que la Navidad en nuestra parroquia, y más allá de nuestra parroquia también, fuera una verdadera bendición y se celebrara bien.

❖ Muchos de ustedes trajeron regalos para los más necesitados, especialmente para los niños que dependen de nuestros regalos. Usted no sabrá a quién ayuda en nuestra parroquia, pero el Señor sabe exactamente quién es y él le agradece por su bondad, que ha hecho una verdadera diferencia para alguien en Navidad. **Gracias.**

❖ Nuestro grupo de Arte y Medio Ambiente, coordinado por Angela Osorio, embellecieron nuestra iglesia para el Adviento y la Navidad. Tanta gente comentó favorablemente sobre el pesebre en la ruta 46. Todo representa mucho trabajo en tan solo pocos días. Los miembros del Ministerio de Martha se aseguraron que todo estuviese limpio y en buen orden para Navidad. **Gracias a todos.**

❖ Ustedes, nuestros fieles feligreses y amigos, han alabado en gran cantidad aquí, han cantado hermosa música de Navidad con nuestros coros alegres, para estar en mente y corazón, más cerca de Jesús. Nuestros coros de adultos y niños trabajaron diligentemente con Dr. Peter Gillis y Christine Wilson para preparar la música de Navidad en las

Misas y en nuestro Concierto de Navidad. **Gracias a todos.**

❖ Muchos de ustedes participaron en nuestros otros muchos ministerios litúrgicos - Lectores, Ministros de la Eucaristía, Ujieres y Servidores del altar. **Gracias a todos.**

❖ Varios feligreses trajeron a la Rectoría regalos de delicias para los sacerdotes y el personal de la parroquia en esta Navidad. Son muy amables. **Gracias a todos.**

❖ Nuestros niños, especialmente los más pequeños se asombran cuando vienen con sus familias a nuestro pesebre. Siempre es hermoso verlos tomarse fotos junto al pesebre. **Gracias padres y niños.**

❖ Hemos contribuido muy generosamente a nuestra Colecta de Navidad en el espíritu del diezmo al Señor. Todavía estamos recibiendo y son bienvenidos los regalos de la Colecta de Navidad, de aquellos feligreses que no estaban aquí los últimos dos fines de semana para hacer su ofrenda de Navidad. **Gracias a todos.**

Todos nuestros sacerdotes y diáconos, la hermana Sylvia y nuestro personal laico de la parroquia, han trabajado con amor junto a muchos de ustedes, para que todo quedara bien en la Misa y en el Sacramento de la Reconciliación que fuera ricamente compartido por todos los que vinieron aquí, para ser alimentados y curados por nuestro Señor Jesús. Por todo esto, nos unimos para ofrecerle nuestro agradecimiento y alabanza a Dios, nuestro Padre, el creador de todo. ¡Nos regocijamos en hacer todo para mayor gloria de Dios en Jesús!
¡Feliz y saludable 2016 para todos!

Dios los bendiga,

Padre Herb

Reflexión en el Bautismo del Señor

Uno de los momentos más importantes de la vida de todo cristiano es el bautismo. A diferencia de otros momentos, nos acordamos muy poco de él. No sólo porque, cuando nos bautizaron y nos "mojaron" la cabeza, no teníamos uso de razón, sino también porque no siempre lo valoramos en su justa medida.

El Evangelio de hoy nos presenta el bautismo de Jesús. Él, que era Dios, que no tenía ningún pecado, acudió a Juan, el Bautista, para ser bautizado. ¡Qué sorpresa para el Bautista ver que el mismo Dios se inclinaba ante él para recibir este sacramento! Con este gesto, Jesús nos demuestra la grandeza de este misterio y nos da una lección más de humildad.

En efecto, por el bautismo nos hacemos hijos de Dios. Somos curados del pecado original. Gracias a este sacramento se nos abren las puertas del cielo y comenzamos a ganar méritos en la gran competición que es la vida. Dios nos da su gracia. A nosotros nos corresponde hacerla fecunda, hacerla crecer día tras día. ¿Hasta dónde? «Y descendió el Espíritu Santo en forma corporal, como una paloma, sobre Él, y se dejó oír del cielo una voz: "Tú eres mi Hijo amado, en Ti me complazco". Hemos de lograr que el Padre también exclame de cada uno de nosotros: "Éste es mi hijo amado... en él me complazco..." Y todo ello porque tratamos de agradecerle en todo, correspondiendo a ese don tan maravilloso que nos vino por el bautismo, el don del Espíritu Santo.

Que todos aquellos con los que convivimos descubran en nosotros esa paloma invisible que se traduce en santidad y en donación hacia nuestros hermanos los hombres. Una vez que Cristo se hizo bautizar, comenzó de lleno su misión apostólica. Seamos apóstoles y portadores del mensaje redentor y salvífico de Cristo a un mundo que, a veces, parece caminar a ciegas.

<http://es.catholic.net/op/articulos/11915/bautismo-del-seor.html>