



SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2015

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD Remember how it all started

One of the outcomes of Vatican II was the “rediscovery” of the sacrament of Baptism. The sacrament went from a concern to “get the baby baptized,” an almost private rite, to a public celebration in which the entire family has a role accepting the community’s responsibility to see that child raised firmly in the faith. It is the centerpiece of the important liturgical day Holy Saturday. Celebrate your Baptism today. Dig out photos or videos, remember godparents with a call or card, consider becoming a catechist or part of your parish’s RCIA program. Keep the faith alive!

TODAY’S READINGS: *Isaiah 55:1-11 or Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7; 1 John 5:1-9 or Acts 10:34-38; Mark 1:7-11 (21).* “Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John.”

MONDAY, JANUARY 12

Nothing ordinary about our lives

In her book, *The Kingdom of Ordinary Time*, poet Marie Howe reminds us that “ordinary” time is anything but! Through everyday experience, God breathes holiness into our lives. In the poem “The Snow Storm,” for example, the speaker follows the tracks of a deer and leaves her own in the snow. She notes the “little tracks of the birds on the surface of the snow I’d broken through” and recalls Jesus’ words: *Put your finger here, and see my hands, then bring your hand and put it in my side.* “I put my hand down into the deer track / and touched the bottom of an invisible hoof.” Find God in the ordinary places of your everyday life.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Hebrews 1:1-6; Mark 1:14-20 (305).* “He called them. So they left . . . and followed him.”

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13

FEAST OF HILARY, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Listen up!

To have a vocation is to hear a call. Each age has its own needs and calls its people to fill those needs. In the early fourth century, Saint Hilary’s age, theological controversy and heresy was perceived to be a great threat. Today it might be terrorism, or materialism, or any number of -isms that threaten humanity. What vocation is your life and this age calling you to? Responsible parenthood? Environmentalism? Social justice? Religious life in service to the church

and the world? The church asks all of us to “listen up” and hear our call. What do you hear?

TODAY’S READINGS: *Hebrews 2:5-12; Mark 1:21-28 (306).* “He taught them as one having authority.”

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14

You are not alone

When you are hurting, there’s something comforting about hearing someone say, “I feel your pain.” Even if this means they can’t take the pain away, knowing that other people are with you is a comfort. The burdens that you carry are lighter because others journey with you. Sometimes the test is learning to share your burdens with others and with God. This requires vulnerability and honesty. Jesus knows what it means to be tested. He feels your pain. And with open arms, God invites you to freedom and comfort. All you need to do is lay your burdens down.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Hebrews 2:14-18; Mark 1:29-39 (307).* “He cured many who were sick with various diseases.”

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15

Raise the question

During this Year of Consecrated Life, we’ve been praying for an increase in church vocations. How can you be part of this quest? You might simply raise the idea with young people you know, showing your willingness to talk about such a call. Show openness and support: Encourage, but do not push! Your diocesan vocation office may need volunteers. In your own parish, raise the idea in catechism classes. Never denigrate other vocations: To be a priest/religious is not better than being a married or unmarried Catholic. If vocation means a “call,” then we need to help each other listen.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Hebrews 3:7-14; Mark 1:40-45 (308).* “Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand.”

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16

Create belonging

In 1914, Pope Pius X named today the World Day for Migrants and Refugees. Since then, humanity has experienced massive migrations and refugee crises unprecedented in history. Pope Francis spoke directly to migrants and refugees in last year’s message for this day: “Never lose the hope that you too are facing a more secure future, that on your journey you will encounter an outstretched hand, and that you can experience fraternal solidarity and the warmth of friendship!” What can you do to make his reassurance a reality?

TODAY’S READINGS: *Hebrews 4:1-5, 11; Mark 2:1-12 (309).* “When Jesus saw their faith, he said to him, ‘Child, your sins are forgiven.’”

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17 FEAST OF ANTHONY, ABBOT

Never walk alone

How is it that we remember and honor a person who spent most of his time alone? Perhaps we do so because Anthony, and other ascetics in the early church, had a special vocation that we may not share but we surely can appreciate. Living in solitude is a way to offer witness to the power of the Lord to fulfill a life completely. Alone with the Lord, Anthony lacked nothing. What do you lack and how does the Lord fill your need?

TODAY’S READINGS: *Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 2:13-17 (310).* “Jesus said to him, ‘Follow me.’”



Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time.

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CatholicMom.com Gospel Activity - Mark 1:1-7

Q J N M J W O H E A V E N S W
N T P R O C L A I M E D A F O
M M P M B V B N W L O R D S R
I W D J E S U S H Y N P I T T
G A G B E L O V E D E L B O H
H T N G A T H O N G S E A O Y
T E A G B J B B E M S A P P W
I R Z K B O X Q D V P S T Z G
E M A V J R O J J H I E I T A
R L R M O D E N X W R D S E L
Z Z E P H A A S R D I J T Q I
V J T M N N M A R K T O T S L
N J H M Y A N S A N D A L S E
X D O V E U E V O X P Z W P E
F U H B A P T I S M G Q H D M

BAPTISM

BAPTIST

BELOVED

DOVE

GALILEE

HEAVENS

JESUS

JOHN

JORDAN

LORD

MARK

MIGHTIER

NAZARETH

PLEASED

PROCLAIMED

SANDALS

SPIRIT

STOOP

THONGS

WATER

WORTHY