

## GREETINGS FROM FR. SCOTT January 12, 2014 The Baptism of the Lord

When I was confirmed Catholic in 1988, I wondered why Jesus was baptized. He did not Sin! Also once the River Jordan was blessed, wouldn't all the water in the world be blessed? After all, we live in a closed system and water evaporates. Here is what I found.

St. Gregory taught that Christ received baptism in order to make the waters of baptism life-giving for us.

Other Christian scholars have suggested that Jesus was baptized because:

- He allows himself to be numbered among sinners;
- He provides the example of baptism for the rest of us;
- He wants people to be seen as a humble servant;
- He is not ashamed to be found in our presence;
- He enters the water and we follow and become Christian
- He makes holy the water that will baptize us.

St. Maximus of Turin stated, "Why would a holy man desire baptism?" Christ is baptized, not to be made holy by the water, but to make the water holy, and by his cleansing to purify the waters which he touched.

When John the Baptist baptized Jesus, all water for our baptism is made clean, purified at its source for the dispensing of baptismal grace to the people of future ages.

Another good answer provides four gifts that Jesus gave us by being baptized.

Access - The heavens are opened. The heavens and paradise had been closed to us after Original Sin. But now, at Jesus' baptism, the heavens are opened. Rest assured that at our baptism, the heavens open for us and we gain access to the Father and to the heavenly places.

Anointing: "And he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove." Jesus acquires the Gift of the Holy Spirit for us. In Baptism we are not just washed of sins, but we also become temples of the Holy Spirit. After baptism, there is the anointing with chrism which signifies the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Acknowledgment: "A voice came down from heaven, this is my beloved Son." While being baptized in the River Jordan, Jesus acquires the gift of acknowledgement for us. During baptism God marks us as His own. He stamps us with an indelible seal. He adopts us as his own children.

Approval - "With you I am well pleased." Jesus had always pleased his Father, but now he acquires this gift for you as well. We too can be pleasing to God. Our own Baptism gives us sanctifying grace. Sanctifying grace gives us the ability to be holy and pleasing to God.

So, I still do not have a good answer to, "Since we live in a closed atmosphere, is all the water on earth already blessed because the River Jordan was blessed?" If you have an answer, let me know. And don't forget, Christ was baptized for our sakes, not his own.

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### STEWARDSHIP

Jan. 5, 2014	\$9,301.15	Online	\$705.00
Last Year	\$7,276.65	Online	\$645.00
Landscape Fund	\$1,003.05	Online	\$80.00

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#### Daily Mass Readings

##### **Monday Jan.13**

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

##### **Tuesday Jan.14**

1 Sm 3:1-10 (Ps) 1 Sm 2:1,4-8 Mk 1:21-28

##### **Wednesday Jan.15**

1 Sm 3:1-10,19-20 Ps 40:2,5,7-10 Mk 1:29-39

##### **Thursday Jan.16**

1 Sm 4:1-11 Ps 44:10-11,14-15 Mk 1:40-45

##### **Friday Jan.17**

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

### MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Jan. 11</b>
5:00pm	For the People of the Parish
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Jan.12</b>
9:00am	
11:30am	+Jack Walsh
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Jan.13</b>
9:00am	
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Jan. 14</b>
9:00am	
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Jan 15</b>
9:00am	
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Jan.16</b>
9:00am	
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Jan.17</b>
9:00am	



## FAITH FORMATION

Classes for Faith Formation and Confirmation meet on Sundays. Registration is on line. If you would like more information, contact the office. 1st grade students who plan to celebrate 1st Eucharist next year must be enrolled in 1st grade faith formation now. 8th grade students who plan to celebrate Confirmation in high school must be enrolled in Middle School faith formation now.

## CONFIRMATION CLASSES

The second year class meets in the All Saints Center at 1pm. The second year retreat is Jan. 17-19. The New Confirmation class returns from the Winter Retreat on Sunday Jan 12. Candidates continue meetings with their sponsors.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL GOOGLE QUESTION

St. Hilary is known as “the hammer against Arianism.” What is Arianism?

## 1ST EUCHARIST PARENT MEETING FEB. 23

Information and schedule for 1st Eucharist will be discussed in the Church at 1pm in the Church. Children should be attending Sunday classes.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY ARCHBISHOP HURLEY

Archbishop Hurley will turn 87 on Sunday, January 12th. Please consider sending him a birthday message or card: jwhite@caa-ak.org or 600 W 11th Ave, Anchorage, AK 99501.

## YEAR-END TAX LETTERS

These letters are being mailed; if you have not received a letter, please contact the office.

## OUR LADY OF THE VALLEY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

SAVE THE DATE: 7th Annual Gala Auction Dinner is March 29, 2014. Tickets will go on sale in January!



Are you a Facebook fan? How about visiting our FB page — Our Lady of the Valley Catholic School— Wasilla? We have a lot to share with our parishioners and community.

Catholic Schools Week  
January 26—February 1  
Faith, Knowledge, Service



## COMING EVENTS

### JANUARY

- 11/12 Home Missions Appeal Collection
- 10-12 Confirmation Retreat—1st Year
- 13 Centering Prayer 6:30pm
- 16 Rosary 7pm
- 17-19 Confirmation Retreat—2nd Year
- 19 Knights Breakfast
- 23 St. Jude's Quilt 10am-2pm
- 25/26 Debra Lighthart Rosaries and Gifts
- 31 Youth Mass 5pm

### COLLECTION FOR HOME MISSIONS

#### JANUARY 11/12

This weekend, Catholics in the United States are asked to support Catholic Home Missions. This collection helps parishes throughout rural America—including most of the parishes and missions of our Archdiocese. Please consider this special collection with a gift amount meaningful for your family.

### MEMORIAL PRAYER SERVICE

#### JANUARY 18 2pm—ANCHORAGE CEMETERY

You are invited to join the Knights of Columbus, Archbishop Schwietz, and faith leaders to pray for those involved in abortion issues on the 41st anniversary of Roe v. Wade.

### BABY BOUTIQUE

Please remember Catholic Social Services' Baby Boutique. Babies and toddlers need new and gently used hooded sweatshirts, hats, mittens, sweatpants, coats, snowsuits, and jackets. One piece t-shirts and diapers in all sizes are always in demand. A collection basket is in the social hall.



## FOOD BANK NEEDS

Top Ramen,  
Soups, Stews, Chili,  
Canned Fruit, and  
Vegetables

357-3769

## BOY SCOUT SUNDAY—FEBRUARY 2

Scouts of all ages are invited to wear their uniforms and pins to the 11:30am Mass.

## RETROUVAILLE—MARCH 14-16

The weekend retreat has helped thousands of married couples suffering a break in their relationship. Call 1-800-470-2230 or www.HelpOurMarriage.com.

## SAFETY AND SECURITY

Children must be accompanied to the rest rooms by an adult and supervised on the playground. Due to meetings, children cannot run and scream in the halls—Thank you for helping make our parish safe.