

CCE classes are in session today, Jan. 12, Tues., Jan. 14, and Wed., Jan. 15. We continue Big Idea 3, the moral life. We'll study the Commandments, formation of conscience, the Beatitudes, the Virtues, caring for others, the dignity of human life, and Jesus' Commandment to Love.



Breaking Open the Word for Families for The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

By Ginger Herrington

Reading 1: *Here is my chosen one in whom I am well pleased.* The prophet Isaiah sees Jesus 700 years before He came and describes Him. Jesus will be the one with the Spirit; He will bring justice. He will be gentle, not shouting, not breaking the bruised reed nor quenching the smoldering wick. This means that those whose faith has been weakened, those who are hurting or doubting, will be welcomed gently back to the Fullness of Truth in the Catholic Church, which is to be a covenant of the people, a light for the nations. Today we celebrate the fulfillment of that prophecy. Jesus told John the Baptist: "Allow it for now" when John declared his unworthiness to baptize the Lord. We, too, must "allow it for now" when we approach the altar to receive the Eucharist: Jesus Christ, Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. We, too, are aware of our unworthiness and are awed at His humility. He waits for us to receive Him under the humble appearance of wafer and chalice, but it is really Him! The King of the Universe places Himself, quite literally, into our hands. Remember that you receive God's Beloved Son. Approach the Eucharist humbly, in adoration and thanksgiving.

Reading 2: *Jesus is Lord of all. He comes from the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit.* St. Luke the evangelist speaks to us from the *Acts of the Apostles*, which relates how the early Church began and grew. This reading tells about Peter, the first pope, in the house of a Gentile, Cornelius. Peter witnessed these Gentiles receiving the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and he recognized that "God shows no partiality." He realized that the new Church was to welcome and form in the Faith Jews, Gentiles, and pagans: everyone who reveres the Lord and keeps His commandments is acceptable to God. Thank God for those who responded to the prompting of the Holy Spirit and entered the Catholic Church. Thank God that we found Jesus.

Gospel: *This is my Beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.* John the Baptist was baptizing people with water in the River Jordan. This was a baptism of repentance, a public declaration of contrition – sorrow for sins committed. When Jesus came to be baptized, John recognized Him as the Lord, the sinless One who needed no conversion, no contrition, as He had never sinned. John shows his humility in demurring, but he readily obeyed when Jesus instructed him: do this to fulfill all righteousness. We, too, must humbly approach Him. We, too, must readily obey when He calls us to share our time, talent, and treasure with Him. Our time should be spent in prayer, at Mass, and helping others. Our talents should be used for the good of all by volunteering in a ministry. Our treasure is our love and our trust, our faith in Him. Keep always in mind that Jesus is God's Beloved Son, and that through the merits of His Passion, we are adopted as children of God at our own baptism.



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