

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

10 January 2021

You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased. (Mark 1:11)

Psychologists agree it's important to hear words that affirm us. Not empty compliments, but heartfelt words of love and appreciation. Such words can help us know that the person speaking to us respects and honors us. Affirmations like these can improve our relationships and solidify our commitment to each other.

It's interesting, then, that one of the few times we hear the voice of God in the Scriptures—directly, not through a prophet or vision—comes in today's Gospel. God the Father tells Jesus, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased" (Mark 1:11). God was pleased that Jesus was taking this first step in his ministry, and he said so. Right there, in front of John and his disciples, he revealed Jesus' identity and his fatherly love for his Son.



You need affirmation like that too. Every day. And it's available to you when you pray and worship God. As you acknowledge who he is, you also acknowledge who you are in relation to him. You open your ears to hear what he thinks about you. You begin to understand that you're his beloved child. That he appreciates your efforts to put aside your concerns to follow him.

The people in your life need it as well—and some of them need it from you. It's not about saying something just to make them feel good. It's being alert to opportunities—especially unexpected ones—to point out something that you appreciate about them: their efforts to lead a Bible study. Their patient response to an unkind sibling. Their generosity and kindness. Tell them you are glad they are your brother or sister in Christ. Every time you do, you shine a light on the bigger picture of their lives.

Let God tell you how he loves you, how he is pleased with you. Then go and do the same for your neighbor.

"Father, thank you for loving me!"

Called to Serve,

~Deacon Mark Race, Administrator

Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

The Martin Luther King Jr. holiday on **January 18, 2021**, is a day of service that celebrates the Civil Rights leader's life and legacy. Observed each year on the third Monday in January as "a day on, not a day off," MLK Day is the only federal holiday designated as a national day of service to encourage all Americans to volunteer to improve their communities.

Safeguard the Children VIRTUS Sessions

The Office of Safeguard the Children is proud to sponsor a series of VIRTUS® Protecting God's Children Zoom Sessions during January 2021. These sessions are for Clergy, staff, and essential volunteers. Those whose current VIRTUS® certificate has expired and need to take Keeping the Promise Alive or are new to their position have never taken the Protecting God's Children training. If you want to register for a session, please contact Felecia Johns at 323.291.1136 (office) or 323.600.5159 (cell) for more details.

Did You Know?

Why it is so important to tell the truth

As parents, we teach our children that the truth is important. In fact, the truth is a critical part of the healing process for victim-survivors of abuse. When a victim-survivor tells the truth about abuse that has happened to him or her, it robs the secret of its power and begins to break down any fear surrounding it. This helps a victim-survivor on the path to being free from the effects of abuse and enables the church and other institutions to take appropriate action to keep others safe. For more information about the importance of truth-telling, visit <https://lacatholics.org/did-you-know/>.

Stewardship Thought

"And a voice came from the heavens, 'You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.'"

- Mark 1:11

Through our baptism, we too, are daughters and sons of God. We are disciples of Jesus. As true disciples we are called to actively participate in our Catholic faith, not just be mere bystanders. This means working in collaboration with the Holy Spirit and discerning how we are being asked to use our gifts. Using our gifts for the benefit of others and not just for our own interests and comfort.

Weekly Offering for January 3, 2021

\$11,064.00 Tithe and Offering

LIVE, LAUGH, AND LOVE

1. What time of day was Adam created?

Just a little before Eve.

2. Who was the fastest runner in the race?

Adam. He was first in the human race.

3. Why are atoms Catholic?

Because they have mass.

4. Why didn't they play cards on the Ark?

Because Noah was always standing on the deck.

5. Why didn't Noah ever go fishing?

He only had two worms.

Pray for the Sick

LaVerne Agnew, Brian Argusta, Vivian Burgess, Brownie Cain, Alberto Casanova, Christopher Chestnut, Sister Ann Paul Clare, Edward Cousin, Juanita Davis, Carolyn Didney, Beverly Colvin-Dorsey, Cynthia Fortier, Michael Frierson, Sherie Frierson-Chenier, Avis Gibbs, Barbara Harris, Darren Harris, Aaron Katz, Briana Katz, Barbara Lagarde, Irwin Lagarde, Mercedes LeBlanc, Vylfred Manor, Dorothy Okoye, Sally Price, Wiley Pugh, Andrea Raggette, Dana Semien, Dudley Semien, Mike Simon, Joan Spencer, Annie Starks, Leila Thomas, Iris Turner, Mabel Walton, William Warrior, and Alice Williams.