

# THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

January 9, 2022



My dear Sisters and Brothers in the Lord,

Grace and peace be with you as we wind down our official celebration of the Christmas season. It has been a at best an “unusual moment” on our collective journey. Christmas ends with the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Our season has been intense and fast moving.

Fourteen days of commemoration of the myriad of events that were the culmination of the foretold prophecies of the coming Messiah. Four weeks of the Advent season under the title of “Awaiting Our Breakthrough” we witnessed through the Sacred Scripture revealing the “Promise of Ages” coming to the world that was desperate for

Him. “Celebrating our Breakthrough”, our Christmas time theme, should now take on a myriad of new and diverse meanings post all that has occurred just in the context of Liturgy. Our Midnight Mass began our celebration with caroling. The Church of Transfiguration after the proper preparation of the Advent journey traveled to the mountain top here “on the corner of Hope & Transformation” with a few visitors physically in the Church and livestreaming from around the world we came to give praise and honor to the Newborn King! [much more than expected] Our 9am Christmas morning Mass had people continue the celebration or “partying with a purpose.” Many came to the mountain top like the people of “Who-ville” in the Dr. Seuss story; “The Grinch Who Stole Christmas.” Everyone knows someone or persons who were sick and/or died from COVID-19 during this pandemic. All worried about money, health, etc. just as if someone had come in to steal our spirit. Delta variant was surging. Another variant omicron is lurking in the background. It was cold damp and dark on the outside and inside (at Midnight & 9am) As a Faith-family because of the Holy Spirit inspiring us, we were able to in some microcosmic way see past all the negativity and rest in the monumental event of Christ coming into the physical time. This movement cannot be overstated. Knowing all our problems were real and seemingly insurmountable, this event demonstrated to all who are open that we are not abandoned The Babe that was born in that manger comes to breakthrough all the mess with His gift for us. CHRISTmas is the gift that keeps on giving!

Our theme for the season; “Celebrating Our Breakthrough” became real for us as we walked/marched through different forms of the breakthrough. Obvious one being the emergence into time. Our Light in the darkness, The Hope to the hopeless. Joy to the sadness. Love to the hated. Baptism of the Lord is the end of the Christ being fully born into human existence. We looked intensely at Christ coming into time by examining the events of His birth. His Baptism sets into a motion the next phase of this elaborate plan that in a real way we have relived.

Now on this feast of the Baptism of Our Lord/ the Promise Kept we continue “celebrating our breakthrough in 2022.” With all the trials and tribulations; the leaks in the roofs, the mounting debt, the declining health, numbers, etc., we are by our baptism called to be like the people of “Who-ville.” Praising Our Savior in spite of what the devil throws in our paths. Our baptism because of Christ’s Baptism is another manifestation of our “Breakthrough!” We can “party with a purpose,” because we don’t know how, but we know somehow God will work it out! He did not create this elaborate plan just to abandon us now. May we continue celebrating our breakthrough, so that God can continue to hook us up!

Merry CHRISTmas,  
*Fr. Bozeman*

## Weekly Offering for January 2, 2022

\$9,281.50 Tithe and Offering

### Stewardship

*"John answered them all, 'I baptize you with water; but he who is mightier than I is coming...he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit...'" (LUKE 3:16)*

The Catholic Catechism states that *"Jesus' immersion in the water is a sign for all human beings of the need to die to themselves to do God's will."* In other words, as baptized Catholics there is only one gift that we need to give to Jesus – the gift of ourselves. Surrender yourself to God, place your trust in Him and allow the Holy Spirit to work through you for the greater glory of God.

### Did you know?

#### Check your child's backpack

As you and your children prepare for their return to school after Christmas break, make sure they are not carrying too much around in their backpacks. Backpacks that are too heavy can cause problems like neck or back pain, or poor posture. The American Chiropractic Association (ACA) recommends that a child's backpack weigh no more than 5-10% of the child's body weight. Help your children by ensuring that they wear their backpacks correctly, with both straps over the shoulders, and that they are only carrying what they need. If you have concerns about the load your child is carrying, reach out to a teacher or school staff to discuss what should and should not be coming home every day. For more information, visit [nsc.org/community-safety/safety-topics/child-safety/backpack-safety-for-kids](http://nsc.org/community-safety/safety-topics/child-safety/backpack-safety-for-kids).

### RCIA Come, learn or renew your Catholic faith...

**Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at 7:00 PM.** The topic will be about the **"The Sacrament of Confirmation"** at Holy Name of Jesus (*Acacia Center*), 1955 W. Jefferson in Los Angeles.

### Pray for the Sick

LaVerne Agnew, Brian Argusta, Helen Argusta, Gloria Bazemore, Victor Bozeman, Vivian Burgess, Brownie Cain, Kathleen Charles, Christopher Chestnut, Sister Ann Paul Clare, Cynthia Cyrus, Juanita Davis, Carolyn Didney, Beverly Colvin-Dorsey, Bobby Eason, Mark Eason, Cynthia Fortier, Sherie Frierson-Chenier, Jeanette Fruge, Brenda Garibaldi, Avis Gibbs, Barbara Harris, Jennifer Hallman, Barbara J. Jones, Marjorie Jones, Briana Katz, Barbara Lagarde, Irwin Lagarde, Mercedes LeBlanc, Victor Levi, Vyldred Manor, Dorothy Okoye, Tyrone Pitts, Sally Price, Wiley Pugh, Frank Rhodes, Dana Semien, Dudley Semien, Mike Simon, Joan Spencer, Annie Starks, Kay Sterling, Leila Thomas, Iris Turner, Mabel Walton, William Warrior, Alice Williams, Jacqueline Williams, Peggy Wilson and Mechele Yerima.

## Daily Scripture Readings

Sunday	Is 42:1-7, Ps 29:1-10, Lk 3:15-22
Monday	1 Sm 1:1-8, Mk 1:14-20
Tuesday	1 Sm 1:9-20, Mk 1:21-28
Wednesday	1 Sm 3:1-20, Mk 1:29-39
Thursday	1 Sm 4:1-11, Mk 1:40-45
Friday	1 Sm 8:4-22, Mk 2:1-12
Saturday	1 Sm 9:1-19, 10:1, Mk 2:13-17
Sunday	Is 62:1-5, Ps 96:1-10, Jn 2:1-11

## SAVE THE DATES

You are invited to the **28<sup>th</sup> Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. PRAYER BREAKFAST 8:00AM Saturday, January, 15, 2022**, at the St. Monica Catholic Church Pavilion, 725 California Avenue, Santa Monica, CA. The Keynote Speaker is Dr. Kim Harris and Drum Major Awardee is Most Reverend Edward Wm. Clark, Auxiliary Bishop, our Lady of the Angels Pastoral Region. This year's theme is **ADVANCING THE DREAM: Time to Reflect, Imagine and Build the Future.** Reserved Ticket Donation is \$50 and \$300 for a table of 7. You may also purchase tickets online: [AACCFE.org](http://AACCFE.org)-or send checks to the African American Catholic Center for Evangelization, 9505 Hass Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90047. For more information call 323.777.2106.

### Mass at the Cathedral

On Monday, **January 17, 2022 at 3:00 PM** in the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, Most Reverend José H. Gomez will be the celebrant and homilist for the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. **MEMORIAL MASS.** Reverend Jeffery Harvey, Assistant Professor of Homiletics is the Homilist. The African American Catholic Center for Evangelization in Collaboration with the Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary invites everyone to attend.

### Christmas Flower Offering

We are asking that you be as generous as possible with your giving. Envelopes are at the church exit. We will place the envelopes on the altar for prayer in Memory of, or in Honor of, your love ones.

### Thank you

The family of Edward Joseph Cousin wishes to thank everyone for their expressions of sympathy, visits, cards and acts of kindness during this difficult time.

~Sharron Eason- Cousin