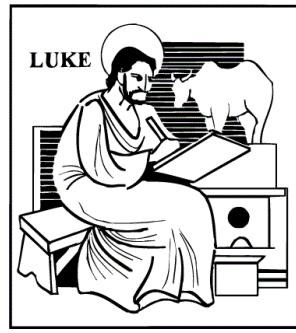
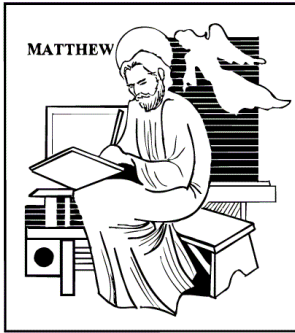


Breaking Open the Word



January 11, 2015 The Baptism of the Lord Lectionary: 21 Gospel [Mk 1:7-11](#)

This is what John the Baptist proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

Spiritual Reflection: The voice from heaven gives Jesus an identity "You are my beloved Son with you I am well pleased." Every temptation that the devil throws at Jesus and every attack made against Jesus from others is an attack on this identity basically trying to convince Jesus that our Heavenly Father is a liar. Jesus trusts though that the Father's love was true and real and He was rewarded.

Spiritual Questions:

1. What is your baptismal identity?
2. What does the devil do to attack this identity?
3. What does the world do to attack this identity?
4. How can you strengthen your relationship with the Father thus making it easier to trust in Him?
5. What can you learn from Jesus' example of trust?