

## From the Pastor—January 10, 2021

**Some Thoughts on Baptism** On this Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, it is a good opportunity to consider our own baptism. Here are some prayers from the current Order for Celebrating Baptism, which began being used in this translation in 2020:

### Prayer of Exorcism:

Almighty and ever-living God, who sent your Son into the world to drive out from us the power of Satan, the spirit of evil, and bring the human race, rescued from darkness, into the marvelous Kingdom of your light: we humbly beseech you to free this child from Original Sin, to make him/her the temple of your glory, and to grant that your Holy Spirit may dwell in him/her. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Anointing before Baptism:

May the strength of Christ the Savior protect you. As a sign of this we anoint you with the oil of salvation in the same Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

### Words of Baptism:

The sacramental formula is – “N., I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit” – as well as the three-fold immersion or pouring with holy water.

### Anointing after Baptism:

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, has freed you from sin, given you new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and joined you to his people. He now anoints you with the Chrism of salvation, so that you may remain members of Christ, Priest, Prophet and King, unto eternal life. Amen.

### Clothing with a White Garment:

N., you have become a new creation and have clothed yourselves in Christ. May this white garment be a sign to you of your Christian dignity. With your family and friends to help you by word and example, bring it unstained into eternal life. Amen.

**Handing On of a Lighted Candle:** Receive the light of Christ. Parents and godparents, this light is entrusted to you to be kept burning brightly so that your child, enlightened by Christ, may walk always as a child of the light and, persevering in the faith, may run to meet the Lord when he comes with all the Saints in the heavenly court.

### Ephphatha:

May the Lord Jesus, who made the deaf to hear and the mute to speak, grant that you may soon receive his word with your ears and profess the faith with your lips, to the glory and praise of God the Father. Amen.

**Our U.S. Capitol** This past week, violent protesters attacked our U.S. Capitol. Many of us, through high school programs like “Close-up”, have visited the Capitol and met

with our congressional representatives. If we haven't visited there, we are accustomed many times with seeing the iconic image of the Capitol on TV and internet. These factors make the attacking of the Capitol all the more distressing. As I write this, several people died because of this illegal and horrific act, including one woman who was shot and a Capitol Police officer who died from wounds he suffered. \*\*\* From Catholic radio speakers addressing this situation, I have received much consolation. The overriding message is that Jesus Our Lord offers us the only true peace. Nothing that anyone does or says can take away this peace. We must rest in Christ, as he tells us, “Come unto me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will refresh you.” \*\*\* From Catholic radio speakers, and others whom I trust, I would suggest that we not watch hour-after-hour of the coverage of such events as took place at the Capitol. It troubles our hearts too much. We may be better off with reading about these sorts of events after the fact. \*\*\* Faithful Catholics must be a leaven in society in these times of unrest and uncertainty. As you go about your family life, community life, and work life, give extra thought to how you comport yourself. As you live in Christ and rest in his peace, allow this inner certitude of Jesus within you to affect and influence those around you. If God has created you and I to be alive at this time in history, does it not make sense that he will provide us the grace to live, and even flourish, despite what is so dire unfolding before us? \*\*\* Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today, and forever!

**The Angelus** The Angelus is a great prayer to carry through the spirit of Christmas all year long, every day. The heart of the prayers is the Hail Mary. The Angelus is prayed three times per day. In parts of the world, the church bells are rung at these three times of day to remind people to pray the Angelus. I would love it if we could electronically program the St. Mary's and St. Joseph's church bells to ring out the call to pray the Angelus. Here is the wording of the Angelus, to be prayed (approximately) at 6:00 a.m., 12 noon, and 6:00 p.m.:

The Angel of the Lord declared to Mary, And she conceived of the Holy Spirit. Hail Mary full of grace, the Lord is with thee, blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Behold the handmaid of the Lord: Be it done unto me according to Thy word. Hail Mary...

And the Word was made Flesh: And dwelt among us. Hail Mary...

Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray: Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts; that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ, Thy Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection, through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.

**God Bless You!!!**

**Father Grell**