



# BAPTISM OF THE LORD

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2025



Dear Friends in Christ,

Today the Church celebrates the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. After the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, Ordinary Time begins, and very soon we will start the Lenten season with Ash Wednesday on March 2, 2022.

*“You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased,”* a voice came from heaven to Jesus after he was baptized by John the Baptist at the Jordan River.

Jesus is God's Beloved Son and with Him God the Father is well pleased, because Jesus showed His love and obedience to the Father, and because of His humility in accepting all God's plan of salvation for humankind, even accepting death and death on the cross while we are still sinners.

Love, obedience and humility seem to be impossible to our world, then and now. Jesus, Son of God, by being baptized by John, shows us that yes, with the grace of God we will and we can practice these virtues. Original sin took away our supernatural grace, and we all have the tendency not to want to practice these virtues anymore.

Our love for God has been distorted; we do not love God with our whole hearts, minds, strength and souls. We put our love of the flesh above God's commandments. We come to Church, not because we do love Him, but maybe just to stay out of “Hell.” We want God to love us by changing His Divine and Natural Law in marriage, which is between man and woman.

Our obedience to God's laws and commandments has been changed. Instead of obedience to God, we want God to “obey” our wicked desires. What happens when humankind disobeys God's divine law?

Our humility seems to be overshadowed by our pride. Humankind does not want to submit to God. They think they are gods! And they worship many gods who eventually will come to the grave with them for all of eternity.

As we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, first let us say thanks to God, for through the baptism with “the Holy Spirit and fire” and water, we are set free from Original Sin. (For us the original sin is the state - ‘contracted’ and not an act committed - C.C.C #404)

Then, we ask God to help us love Him with a genuine and sincere love, to obey Him as Jesus Christ did and to be humble in accepting God's will. By practicing these in our daily life, I believe that what God the Father said to His Son Jesus Christ at His baptism will be ours when we stand before Him at our personal judgment and at the end of the world: *“You are my beloved son; with you I am well pleased.”*

Certainly, Satan will tempt us not to practice these virtues, and we still have the tendency not to follow God's way because of the consequences of original sin. However, God sent His Son to the world to show us how, and to help and sustain us, to follow God's way.

\* Remember and celebrate the day you were baptized.

**Do not be afraid; let us fix our eyes on Jesus Christ. With God, all things are possible, and God never stops loving us!**

Peace in Christ,

Fr. Tien

If you went to Mass every Sunday from the time you were in second grade to the time you were 80 years old, assuming you were in a state to receive Communion every week, you would receive the Eucharist 3,744 times. Throw in the five regular Holy Days of Obligation every year, and you easily top the 4,000 mark!



The grace of the Eucharist is infinite because the Eucharist is Christ, and Christ is God. There is enough of God's grace in just one consecrated Host to make any one of us into a saint. But for most sinners like you and me, the building up of that grace into real transformation is gradual, and it takes a long time.



Our Sanctuary Lamp this week is  
for the intentions of the  
Eva Zamuda family.



Catholic Adult Education on Monday night, Jan. 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. is  
**Mystery of the Liturgy and Eucharist - Communion, Gathering Stories.**



Bring your Catholic Bible and your Catechism. Come share in fellowship and in our Catholic faith. Snacks provided. We meet in the Family Life Center downstairs. Deacon David & Education team

The Women's Guild will meet this Monday,  
January 13<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. in our Family Life Center.  
All women off the Parish are invited!!



Our Food Pantry could use green beans,  
vegetable and chicken noodle soup, canned tuna  
and canned beans. Monetary donations are always  
appreciated. Thank you for your continued  
support of this ministry!

The Combined Mission Collection will be taken  
next weekend. Catholics in the Diocese of Charlotte  
will join in the worldwide effort to support missions  
in the United States and abroad in the Combined  
Mission Collection that will be taken up at Masses in  
all parishes the weekend of January 18<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>.



Mission  
Combined  
Collection

Are you being called to a deeper prayer life? Consider visiting the  
Lay Carmelite Community of St. Mary Mother of God. We are  
beginning a new formation class soon. To learn what we are about you  
are welcome to come visit with us. Our monthly meetings are held  
every third Saturday at St. Mary Catholic Church in Sylva from 9:00  
am-12:30. To find out more about us please call or stop to talk with  
our own Lay Carmelites at St. Francis; Allene Ramsey (828)226-6088,  
Darcy Wesseling (704)575-7700, or Linda Behr (828)421-2696.

**Pray for healing:** Shirley Allegretti, Donna Barbaro, Robert Barnable,  
Chad Cook, William Crunkleton, Susan Darby, Lillianne Duong Davis,  
Tony Frede, Sarah Fricks, Dariel Hellerer, Wayne  
Hirsch, Sarah Holloran, Bill Holten, Guyla Ivers,  
Sandra Kanter, Georgette Lee, Michelle Mercer, Dee  
Moffitt, Matthew Morgan, Delphine Moss, Monica  
Moya, Benjamin Nemeth, John Ontiveros, Freeman Robinson,  
Josette Roisin, Kathleen Rogers, Patricia Ruelle, Mike Scarborough, Bill  
Shaw, Roxanne Lumia Smith, Wanda Stamey, Irene Tisdale, Art  
Todesco, Alan Tucker, Ruby Christina Tucker, Joe and Charlene Youdell



Please pray for our parishioners and  
all men and women in the armed forces:  
Angel Avila, Stephen Fox, Lauren Richards,  
Christopher Richards



## Mass Schedule and Intentions

### Saturday, January 11

4:00 P.M. Beverly Driscoll

### Sunday, January 12

#### Baptism of the Lord

9:00 A.M. † William E. Deck by Virginia  
Special intentions by Eva Zamuda family  
11:30 A.M. † Petra Diaz Pacheco by Sele Ramos

### Monday, January 13

#### Saint Hiliary

#### Bishop and Doctor of the Church

9:00 A.M. † Maria Ruot & † Phero Phan by Sandy Tran

### Tuesday, January 14

NO MASS

### Wednesday, January 15

5:30 P.M. † Francis Martinez Gerrero  
† William E. Deck by Virginia

### Thursday, January 16

9:00 A.M. † Phero Phuoc & † Phero Phong  
by Sandy Tran

### Friday, January 17

#### Saint Anthony, Abbot

9:00 A.M. † Maria Hoang & † Maria Huong by Sandy Tran

### Saturday, January 18

#### Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins

4:00 P.M. † Elizabeth Garbinski by the Garbinski family

### Sunday, January 19

#### Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 A.M. † William E. Deck by Virginia  
† Bill Moffitt by Dee Moffitt  
11:30 A.M. † Petra Diaz Pacheco by Sele Ramos  
† Jacob Ortega by his mother

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday one hour  
before the Vigil Mass and  
Wednesday 6:15 p.m.

### The Rosary

The Rosary is recited  
one-half hour before Mass.

