

**FOR THE WEEKEND OF JANUARY 9-10, 2021**

Baptism of the Lord

**Gospel reading**

Mark 1:7-11

And this is what he 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.”

**Homily helper / connection to stewardship / giving / charity / almsgiving**

* Baptism of the Lord, the end of the Christmas season and the beginning of Ordinary time.
* The Baptism of the Lord reminds us of our own baptism,
  + That we are children of God,
  + To lead a life of holiness,
  + That we are joined to His mission of preaching the Good News, through love and service to others.
* New Year’s Resolutions
  + Require 3 weeks to become habit
  + Is Stewardship one of your resolutions this year?
    - How are you Giving, Praying and Serving (more) this year?

**Intercession**

That through our baptism, we are inspired by the Spirit to better serve those in need, especially through the upcoming Annual Diocesan Appeal.

**Copy for bulletin announcement**

How are your New Year’s resolutions going? It is said that in order for a resolution to become a habit, it takes 3 weeks. Well, we’re in week 2 of the new year. You’re close to making them a habit, a routine, a reality. Is a “stewardship way of life” one of your resolutions this year? It’s not too late to make Giving, Praying and Serving a habit each week. Make a commitment today to give, pray and serve as your part in the upcoming Annual Diocesan Appeal.

**Copy for pulpit announcement**

As our Annual Diocesan Appeal approaches, let our own baptism remind us to love God through prayer and serving others and through our generous financial support, as members of this wonderful community at *(parish name)*, with whom I am well-pleased. ;)

**Social media posts/content**

Photo: Baptism photo | Celebrate & Thank God for your Baptism today

Copy: “We’re so glad to have you as part of our Catholic family!”