



The Gospel & Homily † el Evangelio y la Homilía

10 January 2021

First Sunday after the Epiphany (The Baptism of our Lord) - El Bautismo de Nuestro Señor

Announcements

We are not meeting for Mass this Sunday. I hope that as you read this you feel the absence of your church family and pray for their safety; and for all those who suffer from sickness. May God protect the faithful.

Let us pray for the departure of this virus that changes how we worship and takes away our closeness; but never alters our love and faith in the Lord.

We pray for our loved ones and so many others in the world.

We are steadfast in the face of this challenge, through the courage and example of Jesus Christ.

- Our church services continue to be suspended. The infection rate in Florida, and specifically in Hernando County, should be viewed with great concern. Stay home. Stay distant from others. Wash your hands. Pray for those who are careless and inconsiderate with your their health and yours. Watch real news closely.

- Happy Birthday to Maria this Saturday

- Happy Birthday to Rob D. this Friday

- Prayers for Nancy, who is having great difficulty with her vision but always sees the best in her church family; and misses us very much.

- Voting for the Bishop of our Diocese was completed January 9th.

- The National Assembly or Synod, (in a virtual or online internet mode) is January 16th from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. All are invited. You must go to this website to get the form:

<http://www.oldcatholicssse.org/national-assembly-2021.html>

fill out the registration form and email it to Rev. Rosemary rosemary.burdick2@aol.com

and to Bishop Michael Scalzi occmjs@gmail.com

Then, send your donation of \$50, or your best effort, by mail to:

Rev. Rosemary Burdick, 45 W Bay Rd, Prospect Harbor ME 04669-5021

- I will stay in touch with each of you as we plan our church schedule for the months ahead.

Please also visit the website at <https://spcath.org>

Gospel Mark 1:4-11

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."



Homily

Long before the birth of Christ a prophet named Isaiah told of so many things that would come to be. In the Old Testament there are 66 chapters in Isaiah. The second half of Isaiah could be thought of as the coming attractions of the New Testament. Many years before the light of Jesus would shine, Isaiah said, quoting God's words about the savior...

"I, the LORD, have called you for the victory of justice, I have grasped you by the hand; I formed you, and set you as a covenant of the people, a light for the nations."

The Gospel of Mark is read today with some words of one of the few prophets of the New Testament. Before the time he meets Jesus, John the Baptist proclaims, "I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals."

The emphasis of teaching for today is about the Baptism of Jesus. Some biblical scholars suggest that the life of a young Jesus was a time of learning the Laws of Moses and other skills necessary to profess the word of God. In later life he was regarded as a rabbi and accepted that his learning was divine knowledge. There was no chapter in any of the Gospels that mentioned a ceremony or graduation that installed him as a minister or rabbi. His knowledge was God-given and divine.

A rabbi is a person trained in Jewish law, ritual and tradition, and ordained for leadership of a Jewish congregation. If not serving in a pastoral role as a rabbi, one would be a scholar or professor qualified to interpret and teach Jewish law to the next generation of rabbis. Remember that no books were available so teachers had to be brilliant and capable of remembering a great amount of religious teaching.

So, Jesus began his ministry as rabbi and teacher... on the day of his baptism. Listen to this...

"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.""

Powerful words.

Many of you were baptized as babies and have no recollection of that day... I don't. Some of you were older children or adults and can remember with some clarity, the day of your baptism. Did the Holy Spirit descend on you like a dove?

Yes, it did.

Did God say, "You are my beloved Son or my beloved Daughter, with whom I am well pleased." ??

Yes, He did.

We are all children of God. Even those who have not yet been baptized. If you are not baptized, talk to me... we should do that. I encourage you to feel the Lord's love in your heart and the Holy Spirit like a dove on your shoulder.

Most of us baptized as children did not make that choice... it just happened. Our parents made that choice for us. Are you embracing your life as a disciple now? Do you really understand what it means to be a Christian? Do you follow God's rules?

As you grow up you learn about being a church member and part of the Holy Spirit... and you come to see that your baptism was the first step in being one with Christ. Being Christian means imitating and becoming more like Christ. A Christian does not merely profess to believe in Christ. A Christian experiences and lives Christ. A Christian makes Christ the center of his or her life. Christians help to make Christ present in our world today.

Let's get back to Jesus and his baptism. Jesus had a calling. Baptism was an important step he took on his journey to become what he knew God wanted him to be.

Jesus was baptized by John. The Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus. The voice calls Jesus "beloved," and God said "I am well pleased with him."

Read this story... feel this story. All baptisms forever would be like this. You are baptized and loved as Jesus was. You should realize what you were baptized to be and what God wants you to do.

Do things like this:

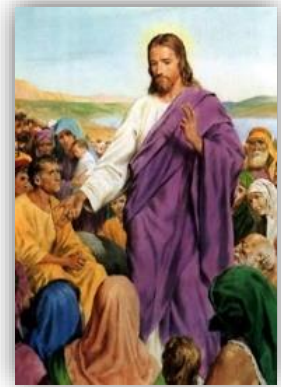
- . Invite people to trust in God and look at life in a new way
- . Be an advocate for justice
- . Be a peacemaker
- . Judge not
- . Accept all people as your family in Christ
- . Help those in need

Be the one for whom God will say, "I am well pleased."



Evangelio Marcos 1:4-11

Juan el Bautista apareció en el desierto predicando el bautismo de arrepentimiento para el perdón de pecados. Y acudía a él toda la región de Judea, y toda la gente de Jerusalén, y confesando sus pecados, eran bautizados por él en el río Jordán. Juan estaba vestido de pelo de camello, tenía un cinto de cuero a la cintura, y comía langostas y miel silvestre. Y predicaba, diciendo: Tras mí viene uno que es más poderoso que yo, a quien no soy digno de desatar, inclinándome, la correa de sus sandalias. Yo os bauticé con agua, pero Él os bautizará con el Espíritu Santo.



Y sucedió en aquellos días que Jesús vino de Nazaret de Galilea, y fue bautizado por Juan en el Jordán. E inmediatamente, al salir del agua, vio que los cielos se abrían, y que el Espíritu como paloma descendía sobre Él; y vino una voz de los cielos, que decía: Tú eres mi Hijo amado, en ti me he complacido.



Homilía

Mucho antes del nacimiento de Cristo, un profeta llamado Isaías habló de tantas cosas que vendrían a suceder. En el Antiguo Testamento hay 66 capítulos en Isaías. La segunda mitad de Isaías podría considerarse como las próximas atracciones del Nuevo Testamento. Muchos años antes de que brillara la luz de Jesús, dijo Isaías, citando las palabras de Dios sobre el Salvador ...

“Yo, el SEÑOR, te he llamado para la victoria de la justicia, te he tomado de la mano; Yo te formé y te puse por pacto del pueblo, por luz para las naciones ”.

El Evangelio de Marcos se lee hoy con algunas palabras de uno de los pocos profetas del Nuevo Testamento. Antes de que conozca a Jesús, Juan el Bautista proclama: "No soy digno de desatar la correa de sus sandalias".

El énfasis de la enseñanza de hoy es sobre el bautismo de Jesús. Algunos eruditos bíblicos sugieren que la vida de un joven Jesús fue una época de aprendizaje de las leyes de Moisés y otras habilidades necesarias para profesar la palabra de Dios. Más tarde, fue considerado rabino y aceptó que su aprendizaje era conocimiento divino. No había ningún capítulo en ninguno de los Evangelios que mencionara una ceremonia o graduación que lo instalara como ministro o rabino. Su conocimiento fue dado por Dios y divino.

Un rabino es una persona entrenada en la ley, el ritual y la tradición judíos, y ordenada para el liderazgo de una congregación judía. Si no se desempeña en un papel pastoral como rabino, uno sería un erudito o profesor calificado para interpretar y enseñar la ley judía a la próxima generación de rabinos. Recuerde que no había libros disponibles, por lo que los maestros debían ser brillantes y capaces de recordar una gran cantidad de enseñanzas religiosas.

Entonces, Jesús comenzó su ministerio como rabino y maestro ... el día de su bautismo. Escucha esto...

“Jesús vino de Nazaret de Galilea y fue bautizado en el Jordán por Juan. Al salir del agua vio que los cielos se abrían y el Espíritu, como una paloma, descendía sobre él. Y una voz vino de los cielos: “Tú eres mi Hijo amado; contigo estoy muy complacido ”.

Palabras poderosas.

Muchos de ustedes fueron bautizados cuando eran bebés y no recuerdan ese día ... Yo no. Algunos de ustedes eran niños mayores o adultos y pueden recordar con cierta claridad el día de su bautismo. ¿El Espíritu Santo descendió sobre ti como una paloma?

Sí lo hizo.

¿Dijo Dios: "Tú eres mi Hijo amado o mi Hija amada, en quien me complazco"? ??

Sí, lo hizo.

Todos somos hijos de Dios. Incluso aquellos que aún no han sido bautizados. Si no está bautizado, hábleme ... deberíamos hacerlo. Te animo a sentir el amor del Señor en tu corazón y el Espíritu Santo como una paloma en tu hombro.

La mayoría de los bautizados de niños no tomamos esa decisión ... simplemente sucedió. Nuestros padres tomaron esa decisión por nosotros. ¿Estás abrazando tu vida como discípulo ahora? ¿Entiendes realmente lo que significa ser cristiano? ¿Sigues las reglas de Dios?

A medida que crece, aprende a ser miembro de la iglesia y parte del Espíritu Santo ... y llega a ver que su bautismo fue el primer paso para ser uno con Cristo. Ser cristiano significa imitar y parecerse más a Cristo. Un cristiano no solo profesa creer en Cristo. Un cristiano experimenta y vive a Cristo. Un cristiano hace de Cristo el centro de su vida. Los cristianos ayudan a hacer presente a Cristo en nuestro mundo de hoy.

Volvamos a Jesús y su bautismo. Jesús tenía un llamado. El bautismo fue un paso importante que dio en su viaje para convertirse en lo que sabía que Dios quería que fuera.

Jesús fue bautizado por Juan. El Espíritu Santo descendió sobre Jesús. La voz llama a Jesús "amado" y Dios dijo "Estoy muy complacido con él".

Lea esta historia ... sienta esta historia. Todos los bautismos para siempre serían así. Estás bautizado y amado como Jesús. Debe darse cuenta de lo que fue bautizado y lo que Dios quiere que haga.

Haz cosas como esta:

- . Invite a las personas a confiar en Dios y mirar la vida de una manera nueva
- . Sea un defensor de la justicia
- . Se un pacificador
- . No juzgues
- . Acepta a todas las personas como tu familia en Cristo
- . Ayuda a los necesitados

Sé aquel por quien Dios dirá: "Estoy muy complacido".

