



BLD Trenton



Community News

Volume 23, Issue 2

<http://bldtrenton.com>

January 13, 2023

This Sunday's Counsel

THEME:

We are joint heirs with Jesus Christ when we testify to Him as the Son of God and do His will.

PROMISE:

"I will make you a light to the nations that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth." (Is 49: 6b)

WORD:

Is 49: 3, 5-6/ Ps 40: 2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10/
1 Cor 1: 1-3/ Jn 1: 29-34

ORDER:

- Testify that Jesus is the Son of God. (Jn 1: 34b)

DIRECTIONS:

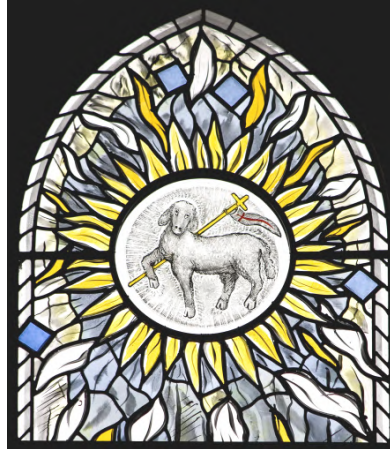
- Be a good Christian witness in thoughts, words and deeds.
- Invoke the Holy Spirit to faithfully obey God's commandments with all your hearts, minds and souls.
- Proclaim the Good News to others boldly and joyfully through serving in mission works, doing corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

Share The Light Of Christ

REFLECTION:

The festive celebration of Christmas culminates with the Baptism of Jesus Christ. It marks the transition to the Ordinary Time of the Liturgical Cycle where scripture readings highlight the event of Jesus' life, as he starts his ministry, his life among the people, his death and resurrection. This is the time that as we hear the word of God, we focus and reflect on the things Jesus did and taught so that the values and attitudes we learn might be inculcated in our life. For this Sunday, we see that Jesus has grown up and will be baptized indicating the start of His ministry life on earth.

The baptism of Jesus is very significant as it remarkably shows all three Persons of the Trinity together – the Son being baptized, the Holy Spirit descending upon Him, and the Father speaking from the heavens saying, *"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,"* (Mt 13: 7d). In this event, the Father and the Holy Spirit confirm the divinity of Jesus



as he submits to his Father's will as the *"Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world,"* (Jn 1:29). The baptism of Jesus enables us to clearly understand the existence of the Triune God.

John the Baptist acted and testified to make known that the person he baptized is the Son of God. Initially, John hesitated to baptize Jesus because the baptism he performs is for those who want to repent,

while Jesus has nothing for which he needs to repent of. By choosing to be baptized, Jesus shows his oneness with humanity and fulfills all righteousness – preparing himself to be a perfect sacrifice for us.

As we dwell on the baptism of Christ, we are reminded of our own baptism, making us one with the Spirit to become *"joint heirs with Jesus Christ when we testify to Him as the Son of God and do His will,"* which is our theme for this week, the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Share - See Page 2

Tending the Flock

Jesus' Saving Mission Proclaimed

The witness of John the Baptist still resounds today, almost 2,000 years after the event recounted in the Gospel: the Precursor points to Jesus of Nazareth as the long-awaited Messiah and invites us all to renew and deepen our faith in him.

It is Jesus our Redeemer! His saving mission, solemnly proclaimed at the moment of his Baptism in the Jordan, culminates in the paschal mystery, when on the Cross he, the true Lamb sacrificed for us, frees and redeems man, every man, from evil and death.

The great message of the Baptist is proclaimed again in the Eucharistic liturgy. Before Communion, the celebrant presents the consecrated host for the adoration of the faithful, saying: *"This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are those who are called to his supper"...*

To accomplish the demanding missionary work that the Lord asks of you, you must be aware of the personal vocation to holiness of all the baptized. The Apostle Paul, at the beginning of his Letter to the Corinthians, recalls that, sanctified in Christ Jesus, we are *"called to be saints together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord"* (1 Cor 1:2). We are called to live the Gospel with total fidelity. Only in this way will we truly share the same faith in Christ, the same sacraments and the universal vocation to love with the other communities throughout the world.

~ Pope St. John Paul II
Homily, January 17, 199

Fr. Mark Nillo
(Spiritual Director)

Happy
Birthday!

Send your prayer
requests to:
[https://
www.bldtrenton.com/
intercessory](https://www.bldtrenton.com/intercessory)

Online Giving

You can now send your tithes and love offerings via **Paypal**.
Donate link can be found at
www.bldtrenton.com

Or mail check to:
BLD Trenton Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 1367
Toms River, NJ 08754

The Lord's Provision

January 6, 2023

Tithe :\$455.00
Love Offering :\$149.00

Thank you for your generosity!!!

Who Are You Gonna Call (or Text)?

For Mama Mary's visit - Beth Felibrico 732-995-7407
For Prayer Service - Bert & Cora Velez 732-688-1541

*I have waited, waited for the Lord,
and he stooped toward me and heard my cry.*

Justice

By having himself baptized, Jesus reveals God's justice, that justice He came to bring into the world. Very often we have a limited idea of justice, and think that it means: those who do wrong pay, and in this way compensate for the wrong they have done. But God's justice, as the Scripture teaches, is much greater: it does not have as its end the condemnation of the guilty, but their salvation and rebirth, making them righteous: from unjust to just. It is a justice that comes from love, from the depths of compassion and mercy that are the very heart of God, the Father who is moved when we are oppressed by evil and fall under the weight of sins and fragility.

God's justice, then, is not intended to distribute penalties and punishments but rather, as the Apostle Paul affirms, it consists of making us, his children, righteous (cf. Rm 3:22-31), freeing us from the snares of evil, healing us, raising us up again. The Lord is always there, not ready to punish us, but with his hand outstretched to help us rise up.

~ Pope Francis

God's Blessings

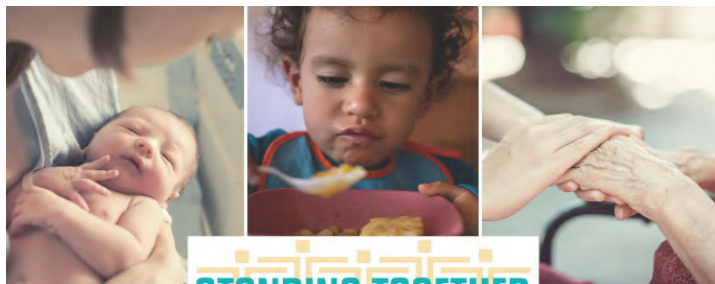
Birthday

Rosalie Angeles	1/14	Lilia Mejares	1/16
Dino Rivera	1/14	Alyzza Gumabon	1/17
Yoly Crisol	1/14	Nanette Smith	1/17

Patricia DeJean 1/18

Anniversary

Raul & Mimi Caragay	1/18
Manny & Em Ho	1/18



STANDING TOGETHER
FOR *Life*

On Jan. 20, 2023, the faithful of the Diocese of Trenton will come together in prayer and solidarity to proclaim the sanctity of all human life.



All are invited to a *Mass for Life*
CELEBRATED BY Bishop David M. O'Connell, C.M. | BEGINNING AT 11 a.m.
Mass will be livestreamed on [YouTube.com/trentondocese](https://www.youtube.com/trentondocese)



St. Robert Bellarmine Co-Cathedral, Freehold

Lunch & Seminar

to FOLLOW • From 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.

ADVANCED REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR LUNCH AND SEMINAR • DEADLINE JANUARY 15, 2023

FEATURING AUTHOR AND SPEAKER **Dr. Charles Camosy**



TOPIC: **Bringing the Church together to Build a Culture of Life**

All are welcome. A SPECIAL INVITATION to clergy and members of Respect Life groups and those who work with the poor and marginalized (including St. Vincent de Paul Society, Catholic Charities and Knights of Columbus)



For more information and to register scan QR or visit dioceseoftrenton.org/standing-together-for-life
Additional questions may be sent to jramos@dioceseoftrenton.org

Share - Cont'd from Page 1

As joint heirs, we are called to grow and mature spiritually and become living witnesses of the goodness of God, and to lovingly obey His will. We are directed to emulate His love for his followers and his people when He carried out his ministry of teaching, healing, feeding and performing many acts of miracles especially for the poor and deprived in life.

He is an endearing inspiration when he becomes one with us, walking with us in our life, feeling the joy and sorrows we feel, giving us hope and enlightenment, bearing the pains for us so that he might take away all sins. Jesus in his great com-

passion redeemed us by his mercy and performed the greatest expression of his love by offering his own life to accomplish his task to do the will of the Father who sent him because of His unconditional love for us.

Such inspiration should live in our hearts forever. In return we strive to continue the ministry that Jesus has started as he baptized us with the Holy Spirit to enable us to uplift the temporal and spiritual lives of the poor and neglected people. By doing so, we may be able to give them hope that will bring them joy of being blessed with a better life.

The Light of Christ that shines on us can be shared to others to realize the promise of God: *"I will make you a light to the nations that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth,"* (Is 49:6b).

Prayer:

Thank you Jesus for reminding us that as we have been baptized by the Spirit, we are empowered to continue your ministry. Be with us Lord as we carry out the work you have started. Bless us so that our efforts may bring hope, joy and enlightenment to the last, the least and the lost. In your most loving name, we pray...
Amen.

Adapted from www.bldworld.org