

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

January 9, 2022

The Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 42:1–4, 6–7 † Acts of the Apostles 10:34–38 † Luke 3:1–16, 21–22



Reflection by: Sister Elise Redmerski, OP

Through the years I have helped parents and godparents prepare children for baptism. Through the RCIA, I have also been privileged to journey with teens and adults for the Sacraments of Initiation. A child's baptism or a teen/adult baptism is not a one-Sunday-or-Holy-Saturday-night event but rather an everyday-life event. My understanding of baptism became more meaningful as I accompanied people on their faith journey—a journey of prayer, discernment, and conversion. It was a humbling experience for me, the baptismal team, and sponsors.

Today's scripture readings are very clear about baptism. Isaiah says that the servant (we) will bring forth justice to the nations...the coastlands will wait for the teaching and that we are formed to be set as a covenant and a light to the nations.

In the Acts of the Apostles, we are told that God anointed Jesus (us) with the Holy Spirit and power and that Jesus went about doing good and healing all those oppressed. In baptism, we share in the same call to go about doing good.

Today marks the end of the Christmas season and for many the tree will come down and the decorations will be put away. But Christmas really doesn't end today. The reason Jesus chose to be born into this world is to be "celebrated" by the way we live every day. The call of the baptized isn't for the faint hearted. It calls for conviction and courage to do the right thing and do it well. The Gospel of Luke states that right after Jesus was baptized, the heavens opened up, and God said, "You are my beloved son; with you I am well pleased."

I want to hear those words said to me... "You are my beloved daughter; with you I am well pleased." How about you?

This Sunday, my family, along with the church, will celebrate the baptism of our newest member. Carly, may you grow in age, grace and wisdom before God and us.