



The Baptism of the Lord January 9, 2022

He saved us through
the bath of rebirth
and renewal
by the Holy Spirit.

— Titus 3:5

BAPTISMAL DEATH AND RESURRECTION

As we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, we also honor our own baptism as our initiation into the Christian life and community. In the Gospel, the baptism of Jesus, with his immersion and then emergence from the water, points to his later submission to God at his death, and his emergence from the grave at his resurrection. This pattern of death and resurrection is our path too, as followers of Jesus. Throughout life, often in small ways, we learn to surrender our limited and self-centered agendas. This surrender often feels like death. The sacrament of Baptism ritually enacts this pattern to remind us of Jesus' death and resurrection, so that we too might embrace the deaths and resurrections of our own lives. As Jesus emerged from the water, he encountered his Father and the Holy Spirit. Like Jesus, we can know we are God's beloved, empowered by the Spirit.

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PRAYER OF THE WEEK

The Baptism of the Lord

Almighty ever-living God,
who, when Christ had been baptized in the River Jordan
and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him,
solemnly declared him your beloved Son,
grant that your children by adoption,
reborn of water and the Holy Spirit,
may always be well pleasing to you.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

Reflection question:

What can I do this week to be well pleasing to God?

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Sm 1:1-8; Ps 116:12-19; Mk 1:14-20
Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Mk 1:21-28
Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Ps 40:2, 5, 7-10; Mk 1:29-39
Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11; Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25; Mk 1:40-45
Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Ps 89:16-19; Mk 2:1-12
Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a; Ps 21:2-7; Mk 2:13-17
Sunday: Is 62:1-5; Ps 96:1-3, 7-10; 1 Cor 12:4-11; Jn 2:1-11

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: The Baptism of the Lord
Monday: First Week in Ordinary Time
Thursday: St. Hilary
Saturday: Blessed Virgin Mary

Finance Corner: Your generosity is greatly needed and appreciated!

For the month of **January** offerings: PLEASE put in Mass collection box or mail to St. Philip/St. Teresa Parish, P. O. Box 339, Occidental CA 95465. Or donate at our website www.stphilipstteresa.org via Paypal or card. Please include your offering envelope # [if you have one] with your donation. Bless you!



12/19: 1st coll: \$1199. 2nd coll: \$1560.

12/24-25: Christmas: \$4072. 12/26: \$903. 1/02: 1st coll: \$1818. 2nd coll: \$520.

1/09/22: Capital Expenditures. 1/16/22: No 2nd collection.

Mark your Calendar for Future Events & Meetings:

Parish Council [PC]: TBA
Finance Council [FC]: TBA
Liturgy Committee [LC]: TBA
St. Teresa Ladies Guild: Contact Diane, 823-6044
St. Philip Ladies Guild: Contact Penny, 559-367-7403

✠ ♥ ✠ Mass Intentions ✠ ♥ ✠ Schedule 2022

1/08 Sat. 5pm Mass ✠ Brendan Smith
1/09 Sun. 8am Mass ✠ Johnny Gonnella
1/09 Sun. 9:30am Mass
1/09 Sun. 11:15am Mass for the People
1/15 Sat. 5pm Mass ✠ Brendan Smith
1/16 Sun. 8am Mass Jerry Loizzo [healing]
1/16 Sun. 9:30am Mass for the People
1/16 Sun. 11:15am Mass ✠ Lorrin Kroska

Prayer Requests: Please leave a message at 707-408-2650.

Teresa K., Pat K., Thomas T., Susan B., Lorri McC., Sarah, Clifford J., Terri A., Fred P., Theresa S., Sara, Mary Anne P., Barbara, Dave C., Jim P., William, Parson P., Dave, Mary O., Bill Z., Daniel, Sally T., Michael D., Richard M., Kathleen, Peter, Rosa S., Susan B., Joyce D., Anita C., George H., Mimi H., Steve, Barry, Hugh P., Robert S., Britney N., Chuck, Rebecca A., April K., Jacinta G., Leo A., Ed C. family, Kathy R., Donna W., Sherry S., Gail F., Marie N., Christine, James G., Gary S., Peter R., Gerry N., Diane K., River M.; Nikkie; Mr. C., Michelle, Christian A., Samantha S., Gary E.

TURNING THE TIDE

When everything goes against you, till it seems as though you could not hold on a minute longer, never give up then, for that is just the place and time that the tide will turn.

—Harriet Beecher Stowe

HURTFUL SIN

Sin is not hurtful because it is forbidden, but it is forbidden because it is hurtful.

—Benjamin Franklin

TEMPER AND PRIDE

Temper is what gets most of us into trouble. Pride is what keeps us there.

—Anonymous

Health Advisory: Out of mutual kindness and respect for the law, please wear a mask and keep social distance when in our churches. Thank you.

Pastor Speaks.....

“The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.” (Numbers 6:23-27)

Thanks be to God for all His help to us in successfully and prayerfully celebrating Advent Season and Christmas in our parish!

A very beautiful thank you to all the Liturgical Ministers who have generously given of their time and talent to make our Advent and Christmas Celebrations wonderful and prayerful. Thank you to the Music Ministry, Liturgical Committee, Liturgical Art & Decoration Ministers, Lectors, Ushers, Servers and all others. The Communities of St. Philip and St. Teresa Churches' Christmas celebrations would not be the same without you!

This weekend, we are celebrating the Solemnity of the Epiphany which tells the familiar story of the visit of the Magi from eastern lands. The three visitors bring gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to the Infant Jesus, and bow in adoration to worship Him as the new King of the Jews. For all that God had done for each one of us, we are eternally grateful to Him. We too bow to Him in worship and adoration. We too offer Him many gifts to our best ability but not forget to give our hearts and lives filled with love!

Mask wearing in our two churches and the parish hall are a MUST. It is still sad to notice a couple of people sometimes not respecting this law. Please cooperate with our Ushers and other volunteers when they exhort you to wear a mask without fail. It is all for our safety and for the safety of others too!

You have been very generous the past year with your small and big donations. We have now come to the End of Year 2021-Perhaps time to think of Giving Gifts to our Beloved Parish- Please keep in mind that Donations for the 2021 Tax Year need to be dated in December, and preferably postmarked or delivered to the Parish Office by December 31. Please consider a gift of stock as a donation to improve our Parish Endowment Fund. You could receive an income tax deduction. Avoid capital gains taxes on the gifts. For more information, contact our Parish Office with special attention to Valerie Norton the bookkeeper.

Father Bala

RURAL FOOD PROGRAM UPDATE for December 2021

On Tuesday, December 14, 56 families (135 individuals) received nutritional support and more during our distribution at the St Philips Parking lot and parish hall. Gift cards were presented to all families in our Star Child Program. Each member of every family was presented with a blanket and their choice of a scarf or hat to help with cold winter weather. Each member of every family also received sugar cookies compliments of The Union Hotel. What a festive day it was for all!

We also honored our volunteer **Sylvia Melrose** who retired this month after 27 years of dedicated service to the Rural Food Program. She was honored with a certificate of appreciation, kind words from all who worked with her, many thank-yous, and a well deserved round of applause.

If you are aware of a family which needs nutritional assistance, please let them know about our program. Leave a message at the parish office, (707) 408-2650 to get a call back with additional information.

This program is funded through monthly Rural Food Collection, private donations and the dedicated, awesome volunteers. **Thank you for your generous donations as we strive to meet the nutritional needs of all attendees at our food distributions.**

RURAL FOOD VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES in the Parish Hall and parking area:

Saturday, January 8, 9-10:00am repackaging;

Monday, January 10, 9-11:00am set-up; and

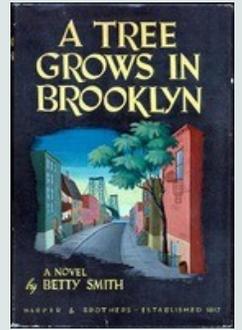
Tuesday, January 11, 7:30-11:00am to distribute food.

The Self I Know

How fragile first appears
the self I know –
against the world's vast space
and time's unceasing flow

How can this so fleeting form
belong to such immensity?

And yet to inward eye this form unveils
unbounded light! a flame,
alive in color glow –
and its heart
the cosmic Child of Grace –
Becoming
The Self I seek to know.

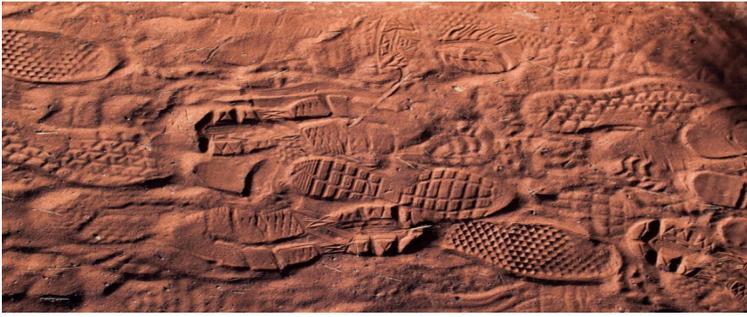


So may it be said of Katie Nolan in Betty Smith's 1943 novel *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*. Katie was a widowed mother of Francie and Neeley – living amid the poverty stricken tenements of Brooklyn. Making ends meet had been so difficult that Katie learned early to live without illusions. She became a hard-nosed realist and taught her kids to steer clear of romantic expectations. Yet throughout the story epiphanies of grace occur as when, to celebrate Francie's graduation from elementary school, Katie took her and Neeley and their two aunts to an ice cream parlor for a rare treat. The waiter placed down the check for 30 cents. Aunt Evy thought, *I hope she's not fool enough to tip him*. Katie had only a 50 cent coin in her purse, so she laid it on the check. *The waiter . . . brought back four nickels . . . waiting for Katie to pick up three of them. She looked at the four nickels. 'Four loaves of bread,' she thought. Four pairs of eyes watched. . . Katie never hesitated. With a sure gesture, she pushed the four nickels toward the waiter. 'Keep the change,' she said grandly. Francie wanted to stand up and cheer!*

And then there was that midnight gesture on New Year's Eve, 1917. Francie had thrown open the window of their top floor flat. *All was still . . . , the backs of houses were dark and brooding . . . they heard the joyous peal of a church bell. Whistles came in. A siren shrieked . . . someone began "Auld Lang Syne". . . the Irish joined in – the neighborhood Germans singing "Ja, das ist ein Gartenhaus." Soon there were catcalls . . . insults. The Jews and Italians withdrew behind their blinds . . . Finally all settled down; . . . Then Francie grabbed her mother and Neeley. 'All together now,' she ordered. The three of them leaned out the window and shouted, 'Happy New Year, everybody!'*

How can this so fleeting form / belong to such immensity? The above poem was written by Melissa Kay pondering this season of the year. She visited me at my seminary fifty six years ago to talk of the disparities of friendship. As she left I said, "Well, everybody needs a friend." She returned the next day and said, "I want to be your friend." She has been ever since.

--Geoff Wood, 1/02/2022



Reaching across religious lines: #WalkingTogether for the good of all

By [Julian Paparella](#)

The whole Church is asking itself: *how do we walk together?* This is the fundamental question of the [synodal process](#) that the Catholic Church is currently embarking on. This worldwide journey is all about becoming a Church that is better able to walk together on the same path, united in our diversity. The point is not only to walk together as Catholics *but to seize this moment as an amazing opportunity to embrace our fellow Christians of all denominations, believers of other religions, and all of our brothers and sisters in the human family.* Listening to one another, we will be able to strengthen our communion with one another, hear how God is calling us today, and better live out our mission.

Now is the time to ask ourselves important questions: Have we ever visited places of worship in our neighbourhood, besides our own? Do we have friends who belong to other Christian churches and other faiths? Do we talk about what we believe with one another? *Do we dialogue and work together for the common good of society?* What are the fruits of walking together with each other? What difficulties do we face? Do we see those who are different from us as a gift or as a threat? Do we shy away from areas where we disagree, or do we let ourselves be enriched and learn from each other?

The Church has [asked bishops to find ways](#) of dialoguing with leaders of other Christian communities on the synodal path. Cardinal Mario Grech, Secretary General of the Synod of Bishops, and Cardinal Kurt Koch, the head of the Vatican department for Christian Unity, recently wrote a [joint letter](#), offering practical suggestions for how to foster dialogue among Christians of different denominations in order to listen to one another, deepen the bonds that unite us, and walk forward together.

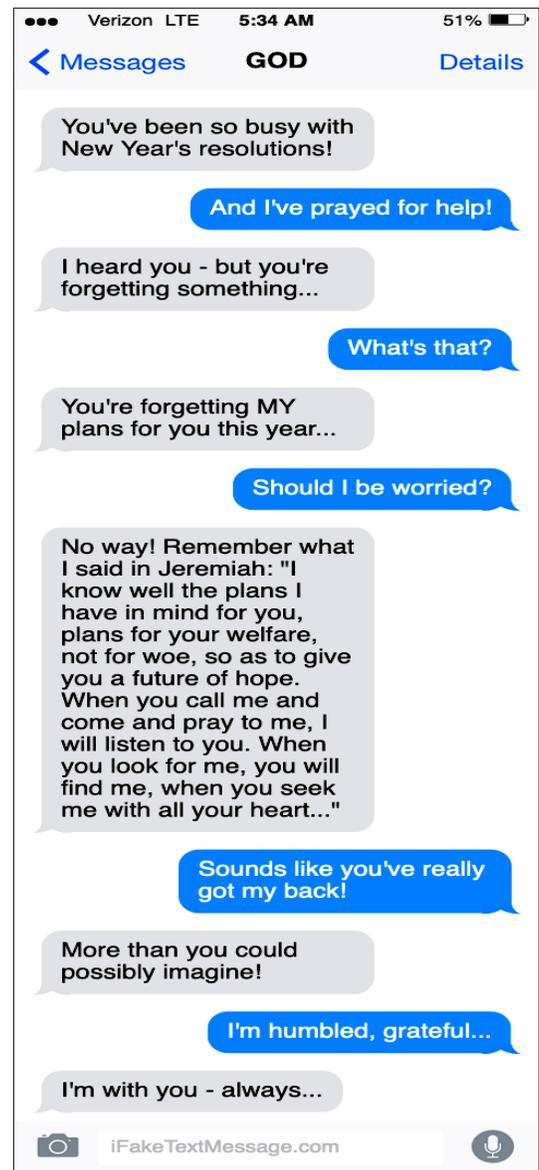
What is our part to play in this search for unity on our path together in the world today? We know that our society is deathly allergic to religion that is inauthentic or hypocritical. What if we tried to offer the world a credible witness, putting what we believe into action? What can we do to join together as people of faith, to build bridges and spread ripples of fraternity, compassion, and solidarity across the ocean of humanity?

Three pathways open before us:

- 1) **ENCOUNTER ONE ANOTHER:** Walking together starts with getting to know each other. Organizing an event together, visiting each other, taking an interest in each other... there are so many ways of encountering each other and opening ourselves to one another.
- 2) **LISTEN TO EACH OTHER:** Taking the time to listen to one another. Not to convert each other but to receive something good, beautiful, and true from one another. Listening to each other shows that we care and are willing to welcome the other as a gift from God.
- 3) **SERVE TOGETHER:** Joint initiatives that care for those in need are an ideal way of putting what we believe into practice in a way that speaks to everyone and puts us all on common ground. *Responding to*



the needs of our fellow human beings with concrete acts of service is a powerful magnet that draws us together. Being united for a common cause – fighting injustice, promoting peace, safeguarding the environment, caring for those in need – puts us on the same path, walking forward in the same direction for the good of all. Let us dare to get in touch with the other churches, synagogues, mosques, and temples in our neighbourhood and find ways of coming together. **There is so much that we can receive from one another and offer to others together.** There's no better time than now. #Synod #WalkingTogether #ListeningChurch



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