OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL CHURCH

23-25 Newtown Avenue, Astoria, NY 11102
718.278.1834 | mountcarmelastoria.org

Pastoral Staff

Pastor
Rev. Msgr. Cuong M. Pham

Parochial Vicars
Rev. Michael McHugh
Rev. Hung Sy Tran

Permanent Deacons
Deacon Ruben Mendez
Deacon Jacob Rodriguez

Parish Manager
Celeste Stewart
cstewart@diobrook.org

Religious Ed Coordinator
Nelly Gutierrez
ccdmountcarmel@gmail.com

Parish Secretary
Luis Sanchez
Lsanchez@diobrook.org

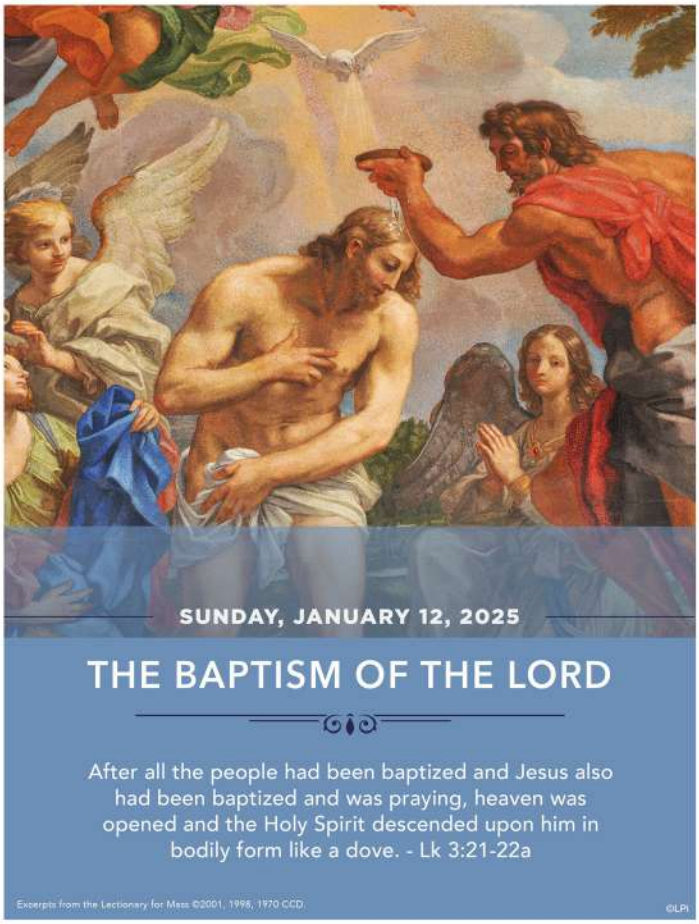
Music Director
Lucille Mascia

Youth Minister
Dayonel Mejia

Mass Times

Saturday	5:00 PM (Vigil Mass)
Sunday	Main Church: 8:00 AM (English) 9:30 AM (Bilingual) 11:00 AM (English) 12:30 PM (Spanish) 3:00 PM (Vietnamese) Chapel: 9:00 AM (Italian) 10:30 AM (Czech-Slovak)
Weekdays	8:00 AM and 12:00 Noon
Saturday	8:00 AM
First Fridays	7:30 PM (Spanish)
Holy Days	8:00 AM, 12 PM (English) and 7:30 PM (Bilingual)
Holidays	Only one Mass at 9:00 AM

Live-streamed Masses can be accessed at mountcarmelastoria.org



Confessions:
Saturday 3:30pm—4:30pm (Chapel)

Church Hours:
Weekday: 7:00am—7:00pm
Saturday: 7:00am—6:00pm
Sunday: 7:00am—4:00pm

Office Hours
Weekday:
9:00am—12:00 Noon
1:00pm—8:30pm

Saturday:
9:00am—5:00pm

Follow us on Social Media: @OLMCAstoria

Mass INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11
5:00pm Anna Doan Hat, Msgr. Celsus Collini, Joseph Scarola, Anna Su & Maria Nguyen, John Duy Pham

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12 *(The Baptism of the Lord)*
8:00am Charles Cooper
9:00am Salvatore Barretta & Salvatore Chiarmonte
9:30am Prudencia Cuautenco
11:00am Rigoberto Lopez *(Memorial)*
12:30pm Ines Sierra Huerta
3:00pm For the People of the Parish

MONDAY, JANUARY 13 *(Saint Hilary)*
8:00am Gaspare Barretta
12:00pm Mary & Carmelo Cini

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14
8:00am Sonia Casanova & Family *(Living)*
12:00pm Cachia Family

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15
8:00am Giuseppe & Bernarda DiLorenzo
12:00pm Milka Brajkovic

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16
8:00am Leonardo DiVittorio, Herbert Pope, Ralph Imello, Sr. & Jr., Frank, Marie & Carlo Cataldo
12:00pm Patricia Ramkisson

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17 *(Saint Anthony)*
8:00am Dominador V. Castroverde, Sr.
12:00pm Gladys Conde

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18 *(Prayer for Christian Unity)*
8:00am Maria Bueno & Family (Living)
5:00pm Thomas & Theresa Harrington

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19 *(Second Sunday in Ordinary Time)*
8:00am John Thu Pham
9:00am Per Ringraziamento
9:30am En Honor a la Virgen de Altagracia
11:00am Natale Forzano
12:30pm Feliciano Verdejo, Victor Leonides Zacatenco, Camerino Ponce Navarrete
3:00pm For the People of the Parish

UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTION

Second collections are taken after communion during Sunday Masses. Below are the upcoming second collections:

January 19, 2025– The collection will be for our parish maintenance. Your generosity enables us to keep our parish spaces in good condition for your use.

January 26, 2025– The collection will be for Churches in Need. Thank you for your generosity.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS

The Altar Candles are being offered for
The Mission of the Jornada Movement in the Diocese of Brooklyn

The Sanctuary Lamp is being offered for
Our Parish's Jornada Group

PARISH REGISTRATION

We encourage all who worship with us to consider registering to our parish. Please return this form in the collection or drop it off at the parish office. Your participation will strengthen your sense of belonging in God's family.

Name(s):
_____

Address:_____ Apt_____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

PLEASE MARK ONE:
[ ] I prefer envelopes [ ] I prefer E-giving

GROUPS AND SOCIETIES AT OUR PARISH INSTITUTE

Sunday, January 12

8:00am—5:00pm	Pastorela– Venta	*Gym*
8:00am—11:30am	Italian Community	*Lourdes A/B*
9:30am—10:30am	Grupo de Amistad #14	*Nazareth*
9:30am—11:00am	Grupo de Amistad #5	*Assumption*
10:00am—11:00am	Grupo de Amistad #9	*Balcony*
10:00am—12:00pm	Spanish OCIA	*Upper Room+ Fatima*
10:00am—12:30pm	Cursillo	*Guadalupe A*
10:00am—1:00pm	Czech Community	*Guadalupe B*

Monday, January 13

7:00am—5:00pm	TYWLS	*Gym*
6:00pm—9:00pm	CYO	*Gym*

Tuesday, January 14

7:00am—4:00pm	TYLWS	*Gym*
3:30pm—6:00pm	Porque Ser Catolico?	*Fatima*
5:30pm—7:00pm	Mariachi	*Balcony*
6:00pm—9:00pm	CYO	*Gym*
6:00pm—9:00pm	Marriage Encounter	*Guadalupe A/B+ Fatima*
7:00pm—9:00pm	Coro #2	Nazareth

Wednesday, January 15

7:00am—4:00pm	TYWLS	*Gym*
4:00pm—7:30pm	Religious Education	*All Rooms+ Gym*
7:30pm—9:00pm	CYO	*Gym*

Thursday, January 16

7:00am—5:00pm	TYWLS	*Gym*
10:00am—11:30am	Legion of Mary	*Guadalupe B*
5:30pm—7:30pm	Religious Education	*All Rooms+ Gym*
7:30pm—9:00pm	CYO	*Gym*

Friday, January 17

7:00am—4:00pm	TYWLS	*Gym*
6:30pm—9:00pm	OLMC Youth Group	*Gym*
6:30pm—9:00pm	Practica de Instru.	*Guadalupe A/B*
7:00pm—9:00pm	OCIA Class	*Lourdes A/B*

Saturday, January 18

9:00am—12:30pm	AA Meeting	*Guadalupe A/B*
10:00am—12:00pm	Spanish Children's Choir	*Fatima*
5:00pm—7:00pm	Bilingual Choir Practice	*Nazareth*
5:00pm—7:00pm	Ministerio de Consolacion	*Fatima*
6:00pm—7:30pm	Porque Ser Catolico?	*Lourdes A/B*

OFFICE CLOSING

The parish office will be closed on January 20, 2025. There will be only one Mass celebrated in English in the Main Church at 9:00am. The office will reopen on Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at 9:00am.

MASS ATTENDANCE RECORD

Weekend of December 24-25	Number of Attendees
5:00pm English Christmas Mass	206
7:00pm Spanish	—
10:00pm English	200
11:30pm Vietnamese	—
8:00am English	56
9:00am Italian	17
9:30am Bilingual	56
11:00am English	196

Weekend of December 28-29	Number of Attendees
5:00pm English Vigil	96
8:00am English	79
9:00am Italian	21
9:30am Bilingual	128
10:00am Czech	23
11:00am English	206
12:30pm Spanish	389
3:00pm Vietnamese	66

INFANT BAPTISM/ BAUTISMOS

Please call the office to make an appointment to speak with Deacon Jacob to register your child for Baptism.

Preparation Meeting Tuesday—6:00pm—Institute	Baptism Ceremony 12:00pm—Upper Church
January 21, 2025	January 25, 2025
February 18, 2025	February 22, 2025
March 18, 2025	March 22, 2025
NO CLASS AVAILABLE	*NO ENGLISH BAPTISMS*
May 20, 2025	May 24, 2025
June 24, 2025	June 28, 2025
Reunion de Preparacion Martes—6:00pm—Instituto	**Ceremonia de Bautismo 12:00pm—Iglesia de Arriba**
14 de Enero 2025	18 de Enero 2025
4 de Febrero 2025	8 de Febrero 2025
4 de Marzo 2025	8 de Marzo 2025
8 de Abril 2025	12 de Abril 2025
NO CLASE DISPONIBLE MAYO	*NO BAUTISMOS EN MAYO*
10 de Junio 2025	14 de Junio 2025

FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART

January 12, 2025

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As the final glow of the Christmas season gently recedes, we find ourselves entering Ordinary Time, beginning immediately after this Sunday's Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. This season, often overlooked or misunderstood, offers us a profound opportunity for spiritual renewal and growth. Despite its name, Ordinary Time is far from mundane. Rooted in the Latin word *"ordinalis,"* meaning "numbered," it signifies a structured and purposeful journey through our faith. It unfolds the fullness of Christ's life and teachings, stretching from the first to the thirty-fourth Sunday of the liturgical calendar and encompassing the mysteries of Christ in their entirety. Unlike the concentrated focus of Christmas or Easter, Ordinary Time immerses us in the breadth of Christ's mission.

The green vestments and decorations associated with this season symbolize new life and growth, reminiscent of spring's vitality. This color invites us to cultivate a faith that is ever-growing, ever-renewing, much like the early Church's expansion under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Post-Pentecost, Ordinary Time mirrors the dynamic movement of the Gospel spreading across the world—a call for us, too, to deepen and share our faith.

In this spirit of growth and renewal, I am delighted to share exciting news about our parish community. Last year, I presented a vision to expand and enhance our sacred spaces, a vision that is now becoming reality thanks to your unwavering generosity. Through your contributions to our weekly collections and donations, we have achieved significant milestones. In fact, a portion of your contributions to the Annual Catholic Appeal 2024, the amount over our parish's goal, has been returned to us by Bishop Robert Brennan for necessary repairs and improvements of our beloved church.

One of the most notable additions is our new glass atrium, now ready for use and aptly named the "Holy Family Room." Accessible from both the main church and the chapel, this stunningly bright space, adorned with a glistening glass ceiling, offers a welcoming environment for prayer groups, ministries, and gatherings. It stands as a beautiful symbol of our collective spiritual growth and the thriving life of our parish community. I am also delighted to announce that the large wooden statue of the Holy Family—Jesus, Mary, and Joseph—which once graced the sanctuary of the former St. Margaret of Mary church, our former satellite worship site closed four years ago, will be permanently installed in this new room. This cherished addition will serve as a poignant reminder of the spiritual connection we continue to share with that beloved former church, a place held dear by many of our parishioners.

Additionally, we have recently made significant improvements to the landscaping around the church and rectory gardens. New evergreens and Norwegian spruce trees now grace the grounds, creating a picturesque and prayerful environment that was especially enchanting during the Christmas season. Come spring, fresh flowers and plants will further enhance this green space, transforming it into an oasis of serenity and beauty. We have also installed new lamp posts in the parish parking lot to provide better illumination and ensure the safety of our parishioners during evening activities. These enhancements reflect our commitment to creating a welcoming and secure environment for all who come to worship and participate in parish life.

Another major project close to my heart is the repair of the church bell tower and the installation of a new carillon system. This endeavor has been made possible through the extraordinary generosity of a deceased parishioner and benefactor who deeply loved our parish church and envisioned it as a beacon of faith for generations to come. Soon, the beautiful chime of our beloved bell and the melodious sounds of sacred music will resonate throughout our neighborhood at designated liturgical hours—a treasured tradition that connects us to the rich and timeless heritage of Catholic churches worldwide.

As we journey through Ordinary Time, let us embrace these moments of renewal and transformation, both in our personal faith and as a parish community. Each step in Christ's public ministry, each day of this season, and each phase of our parish's enhancements are interconnected, drawing us closer to the heart of our mission and deepening our relationship with Christ.

Let us view this season not as a return to routine but as an invitation to a more vibrant, dynamic faith. May we approach it with enthusiasm and generosity, allowing its themes and messages to inspire and guide us to live more fully in Christ's light.

With my blessings and prayers,

Msgr. Cuong M. Pham

DEL CORAZON DEL PASTOR

12 de enero, 2025

Queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo,

Con la despedida del tiempo de Navidad, entramos ahora en el Tiempo Ordinario, una etapa litúrgica que comienza justo después de la Fiesta del Bautismo del Señor este domingo. Este tiempo, a menudo subestimado, es en realidad una hermosa oportunidad para renovarnos y crecer espiritualmente. A pesar de su nombre, el Tiempo Ordinario no es algo común o rutinario. Más bien, es un tiempo lleno de significado, que nos invita a recorrer, con propósito, el camino de nuestra fe.

La palabra "ordinario" proviene del latín *ordinalis*, que significa "numerado," reflejando la estructura organizada de este tiempo. Durante estas semanas, la Iglesia nos guía a través de la plenitud de la vida y las enseñanzas de Jesús, desde el primer hasta el trigésimo cuarto domingo del calendario litúrgico. A diferencia de la intensidad de Navidad o Pascua, el Tiempo Ordinario nos permite explorar toda la amplitud de la misión de Cristo en el mundo.

En esta temporada, el color verde que vestimos en la liturgia tiene un simbolismo especial: representa la vida nueva y el crecimiento. Nos recuerda que nuestra fe está siempre en evolución, como una planta que florece con el cuidado constante. Así como la Iglesia primitiva creció bajo la guía del Espíritu Santo, nosotros también estamos llamados a profundizar nuestra relación con Dios y a compartir el Evangelio con los demás.

Con gran alegría, quiero compartirles algunas maravillosas noticias sobre nuestra comunidad parroquial. El año pasado les presenté una visión para mejorar y expandir nuestros espacios sagrados. Gracias a su generosidad y compromiso, esa visión ya está tomando forma. Sus contribuciones, incluyendo una parte de los fondos que excedieron nuestra meta en la Campaña Católica Anual 2024, nos han permitido realizar mejoras importantes en nuestra iglesia.

Uno de los logros más significativos es nuestro nuevo atrio de vidrio, llamado con mucho cariño la *Sala de la Sagrada Familia*. Este espacio, lleno de luz y accesible desde la iglesia principal y la capilla, está decorado con un techo de vidrio resplandeciente. Está diseñado como un lugar acogedor para grupos de oración, ministerios y reuniones. Además, me emociona anunciar que la hermosa estatua de madera de la Sagrada Familia—Jesús, María y José—que una vez adornó el santuario de la antigua iglesia de Santa Margarita María, será colocada de manera permanente en esta sala. Este detalle especial nos conecta espiritualmente con nuestra historia y nos recuerda el amor y devoción de los fieles que formaron parte de aquella comunidad.

Hemos realizado también renovaciones en los jardines de la iglesia y la rectoría. Nuevos árboles y plantas embellecen el paisaje, creando un ambiente de paz y oración que fue particularmente especial durante la temporada navideña. En primavera, flores frescas añadirán más belleza, convirtiendo nuestros jardines en un oasis de serenidad. Asimismo, instalamos nuevas luminarias en el estacionamiento parroquial para garantizar la seguridad de todos durante la noche.

Otro proyecto importante, muy cercano a mi corazón, es la restauración de la torre de la campana de la iglesia y la instalación de un nuevo sistema de carillón. Gracias a la generosa donación de un feligrés fallecido que amaba profundamente nuestra iglesia, pronto escucharemos nuevamente el hermoso repique de nuestra campana, junto con música sagrada que resonará en horarios litúrgicos específicos. Esta tradición, tan arraigada en las iglesias católicas, une a nuestra comunidad con el legado eterno de nuestra fe.

Mientras caminamos juntos por el Tiempo Ordinario, les invito a vivir este periodo no como algo rutinario, sino como una etapa de transformación espiritual. Es una oportunidad para fortalecer nuestra fe y profundizar nuestra relación con Cristo. Cada domingo, cada pequeño paso en el ministerio de Jesús y cada mejora en nuestra parroquia están interconectados, guiándonos hacia una comprensión más rica de nuestra misión como comunidad.

Aprovechemos este tiempo con entusiasmo, generosidad y un espíritu de gratitud. Que el Tiempo Ordinario sea un recordatorio constante de la alegría de vivir en la luz de Cristo.

Con mis oraciones y bendiciones,

Mons. Cuong M. Pham

SAINT OF THE WEEK

In a monastery in Kilkenny, Ireland, the priest Fiacre was renowned for his piety and gift of healing. When the flood of visitors asking for his prayers became overwhelming, Fiacre moved to France, where he built an oratory to the Blessed Virgin, a hospice, and a hermitage for himself.

Even though Saint Fiacre had moved all the way to France to find peace and quiet, many people still came to him for healing, both spiritual and physical. Saint Fiacre treated every visitor as though he were Christ himself. He cared for the sick, using his gardening skills to grow herbs and medicines.

After his death, people still flocked to the Saint Fiacre shrine and many were miraculously healed. Today, the feast of Saint Fiacre is celebrated in many places in France.

Saint Fiacre is the patron saint of gardeners, cab drivers, and the sick. Saint Fiacre never turned away a person in need. He will never turn us away if we ask him to help us. Let us ask Saint Fiacre to help us to meet and care for all the people in our lives with kind cheerfulness as he did.

Prayer for Baptism

Oh God, You desire each of us to be a part of Your sacred family, called and invited into relationship with You. May the grace of our Baptisms surround us anew, who are beloved and chosen by You. Amen.

FEAST OF SAINT BLAISE

Catholics traditionally receive a blessing of the throat on the feast day of St. Blaise, who was a bishop and martyr of fourth-century Armenia. During the blessing, a cross is formed from two blessed candles that are held over the throat. In our parish we will do this blessing at both the 8:00am and 12:00pm on February 3, 2025.

DIGGING DEEPER INTO SUNDAY'S READINGS

First Reading: The prophet Isaiah brought words of comfort and hope from God to the Israelites exiled in Babylon. Is there someone in your life who needs hope for the future?

Second Reading: Paul challenged Titus to reject godless ways and worldly desires. Do you have any family or friends you consider a role model in living an exceptional life?

Gospel: The Holy Spirit affirms Jesus as the Christ, the beloved Son of God. When do you sense the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life?

PURGATORIAL SOCIETY

We remember our deceased loved ones by having them prayed for at Mass on every first Friday of the month (the day traditionally dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus) as a meaningful way to express our love. Enrollment is $10 per name. Those enrolled the Purgatorial Society will be remembered for a whole year. Currently enrolled: **Maria Cruz, Sra. Torres, Juana Castañeda, Francisco Quintero, Austria Lopez, Maria Barcena, Ismael Ozuna, Roberto & Rosario Lucena, Jenny Villanueva, Ulises Meza, Nelson Morales, Julio Cesar Valentin, Anabel Garcia Barcena, Sandra Garcia, Rodolfo Avila Lazaro, Jesus Pinzon Villanueva.**

PRAYING FOR THE SICK

Prayer is one of the most powerful tools we have. It's a way for us to communicate with God and obtain His divine intervention. It can help sick people get well again and also gives us the strength in our own weakness and suffering. If you wish your loved ones who is sick to be prayed for at our daily Mass, kindly contact our parish office to place their names in our Prayer List.

GOSPEL MEDITATION

In my second year of theology studies, I went to confession to a priest visiting the seminary for a three-day retreat. My heart wasn't in it. I was going through the motions. I confessed my sins and waited for his response. The priest said, "For your penance, I'd like you to go into the chapel and repeat the words **'You are my beloved Son, with you I am well** pleased' (Luke 3:22) until they mean something to you." Easy penance, I thought.

But to my surprise, I struggled to say those words. I sensed a strong interior resistance blocking them. How could God be well-pleased with me? He couldn't be, I thought. A battle within me ensued. Two hours later, the resistance vanished, and I found myself able to speak, and claim as my own, those marvelous words. I emerged from the chapel with a new, deep, peaceful conviction that I was indeed God's beloved son.

Those words are a precious gift from heaven to all of us. Jesus' baptism, which we celebrate this week, offers them to us. Are we willing to receive these words anew? Many things can block this deepening of our baptismal identity: failings, sins, disappointments, traumas, problems, and so on. Yet God's love is always greater.

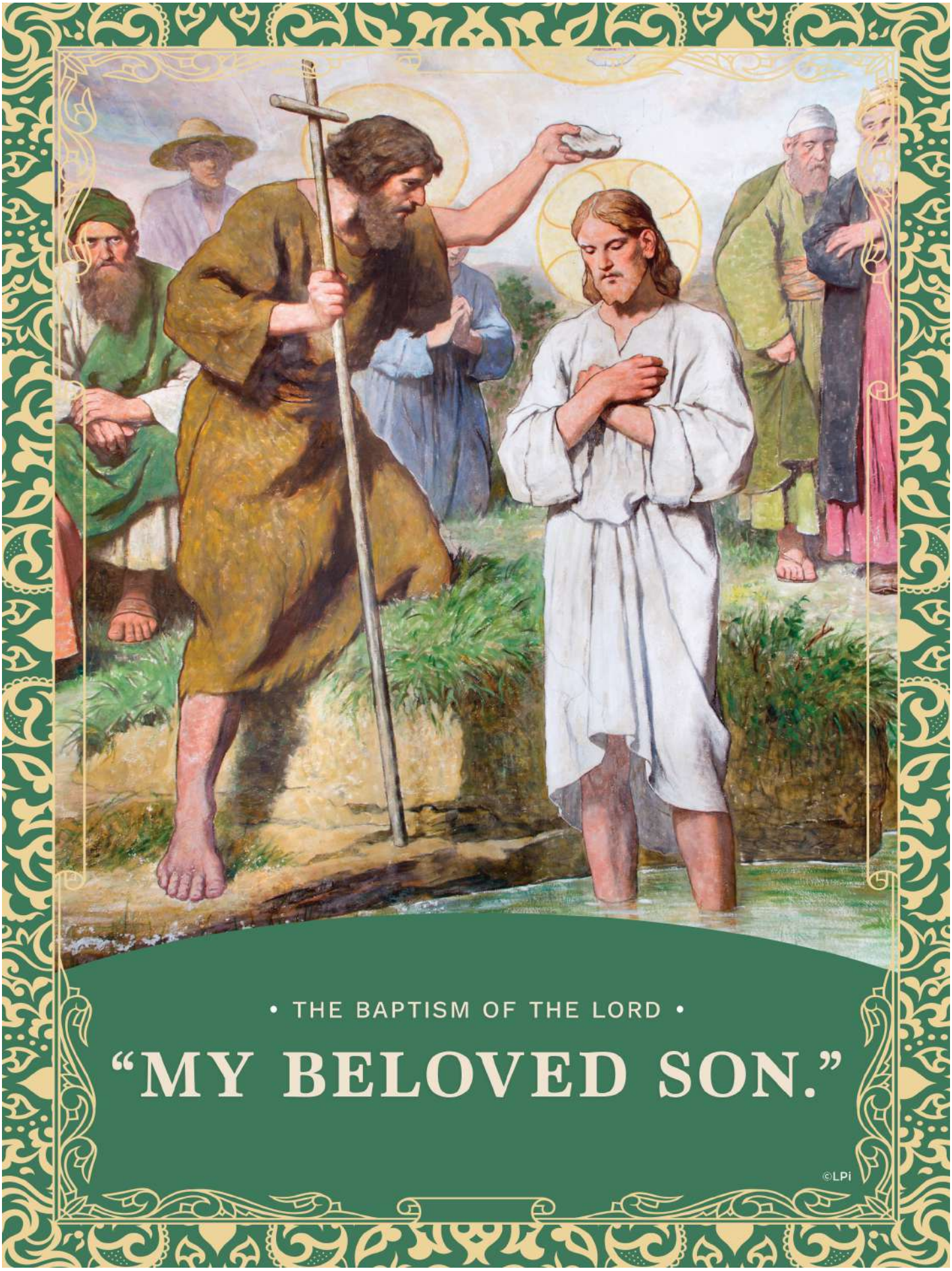
This week I challenge you to prayerfully repeat these words over yourself or perhaps over someone you're struggling to love until those words find a home in your heart.

Father John Muir

AT MY GRANDSON'S BAPTISM, THE PRIEST PUT A BIB ON THE BABY. I DO NOT REMEMBER SEEING THIS BEFORE. WHY IS THIS DONE? IS IT SOMETHING NEW?

When an adult is baptized, there is a part in the ceremony when the newly baptized is vested in a white garment. It is symbolic of the changes that baptism brings in the life of the baptized as they are freed from the bonds of sin and brought into the saving grace of Christ. Realities that are so profound are symbolically presented so that we might better grasp and understand them.

Infants are often dressed in a baptismal dress, which is the baptismal garment. In some places, the bib is used as a kind of baptismal garment. At the place in the ceremony where the investiture takes place, the bib is used. Some are poncho-like and fit over the baby's head. Others are simply placed on the baby's chest. If the baby is dressed in a white garment, nothing else is needed. The prayer says it all: "See in your white garment the outward sign of your Christian dignity... bring that dignity unstained into the everlasting life of heaven." In baptism, we are given our purpose and goal in life as believers and this is symbolized by the white garment.



• THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD •

"MY BELOVED SON."

©LPi

REGISTRACION PARROQUIAL

BIENVENIDO

Registrarse permite que nuestra parroquia les pueda servir sus necesidades espirituales. Por favor devuelva este formulario en la colecta o déjelo en la oficina parroquial. Su participación fortalecerá su fe y su sentido de pertenencia en la familia de Dios.

Nombre(s): _____

Dirección:_____ **Apt**_____

Ciudad:_____ **Estado**_____ **C. Postal**_____

Teléfono: _____

E-mail: _____

POR FAVOR MARCAR:

[ ] Nueva Registración *[ ] Cambio de dirección*

[ ] Prefiero Sobres *[ ] Donaciones en línea*

BENEATH THE SURFACE

Mini Reflection: It makes perfect sense that everyone thought John the Baptist was the Messiah. He was the guy pouring the water. But the Messiah was the man who came to be baptized. He was the one who descended into the waters, submerging himself in our experience of death and pain and sorrow.

When I was seventeen, I wasn't sure that I wanted to be confirmed. It was a rough period in my life, and I was having some intense questions and doubts. It upset my mother, understandably. She knew that, at such a pivotal and difficult moment, I needed the grace of the sacrament more than ever. So, she called our priest and asked him to talk to me.

After that meeting, I made the decision to be confirmed.

To be honest, I can't remember anything he said to me. All I remember is that he sat with me. He listened to me. He let me talk and talk and talk (and cry). And when he said whatever he said, whatever it is that I cannot remember, it was obvious that he had listened to me.

Reading today's Gospel, it makes perfect sense that everyone thought John the Baptist was the Messiah. He was the guy pouring the water. Of course it seemed natural that he would be "the one." The one they were all waiting for. But instead, the Messiah was the man who came to be baptized. He was the one who descended into the waters, submerging himself in our experience of death and pain and sorrow and in doing so, he sanctified it. He made it a means of redemption.

Jesus is our Savior, yes. When we dig ourselves a hole of sin and confusion and we can't climb out, he is the one who brings us back to the surface. But he doesn't pull us out; he lifts us. He jumps down into the pit. He looks around. He offers his hand, gives us a leg up, and by his strength and not our own, we are brought back into the light.

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.

Baptism of the Lord • Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

GOSPEL

Your Dad says, "Wash your hands, please. It is almost time to eat." After you wash your hands really well, your Dad smiles. He says, "That's my boy. You did a good job!" In today's Gospel, it was time for Jesus to be baptized. After his baptism, Jesus talked to God his Father in prayer. Jesus did everything his Father asked. God was happy with his Son and said, "I'm pleased with you."

PRAYER

God, I want to make you and my parents happy.