

The Baptism of the Lord – January 11, 2026



Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. John tried to prevent him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?" Jesus said to him in reply, "Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed him. After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened for him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

-Matthew 3:13-17

A Peace Church?

"Are they trying to make the Catholic Church a peace church?" This sentiment was among the reactions to the pastoral letter that our U.S. bishops issued some years ago, called The Challenge of Peace (1983). I recall finding that response provocative and illuminating. I knew what the speaker meant: there are Christian denominations such as the Quakers and Mennonites that have made peacemaking and even pacifism a dominant theme in their devotion and action; and no historian has ever grouped Roman Catholics in that category.

But as soon as I recognized that fact, I had to ask, "Why not?" Is not peacemaking central to the teaching of Jesus? There was no doubt of that in our bishops' minds when they wrote their peace pastoral. And they were echoing powerful statements from recent popes. ("If you want peace, work for justice," said Pope Paul VI.) Each of this Sunday's readings invites us to ponder the centrality of peace and justice in the mission of Jesus and in the mission of any of us who claim to be his disciples.

The selection from Isaiah contains the famous figure of the Servant of Yahweh. Commentators have debated long and hard whether this servant stands for Israel as a whole or for an individual within Israel. The consensus now is that, in the full context of Isaiah 40-55, the servant stands for both; that is, the figure of the servant represents Israel in her mission to be a light to the nations, and at the same time the language points to the role of a person within Israel who enables her to fulfill that mission. The poem is written as a divine oracle, and the words promise a special endowment of the Spirit of God, thus marking the mission as prophetic. It is also in the language of kingship ("establishing justice on the earth"), with the startling difference that this reign will come about not through military conquest but through conspicuously nonviolent means ("a bruised reed he shall not break, and a smoldering wick he shall not quench").

The Gospel account of the baptism of the Lord alludes to this passage from Isaiah by combining the descent of the Spirit of God with the divine voice's reference to the Son "with whom I am well pleased" (Matt 3:17; Isa 42:1). Against this background, the exchange between John the Baptist and Jesus, unique to Matthew's account, makes profound sense. -

Cont...Attempting to prevent Jesus from joining the conversion ritual, John says, "I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?" To which Jesus replies, "Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Does this exchange recall otherwise neglected sayings of John? More likely it is an expansion by Matthew, answering a doubt some may have had about the propriety of the Baptist seeming to have a superior role here.

The clarification is profound. The question of superiority is secondary to the fact that each is "fulfilling all righteousness"—a word special to Matthew's Jewish vocabulary meaning to do the will of God. Here righteousness means especially to carry out the peace and justice mission articulated in the Servant passage echoed by the heavenly voice. It is the righteousness spelled out concretely in the Sermon on the Mount (see Matt 5:6, 10, 20; 6:33), where Jesus clearly calls his followers to nonviolence and love of enemies.

When Luke summarizes the meaning of the baptism of the Lord in the speech of Peter to Cornelius's household in Acts, he draws on this same portrait of the Servant in Isaiah.

You know the word [that God] sent to the Israelites as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all, what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the holy Spirit and power. (Acts 10:36-38)

The thrust of this biblical teaching suggests that any community calling itself Christian is necessarily called to be, in a profound sense, a peace church. Our Pope and bishops have been trying to call our attention to this for some time now. -Dennis Hamm, SJ

Readings For The Baptism of the Lord

Reading I: Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7

Reading II: Acts 10:34-38

Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

Readings For Next Sunday

Reading I: Isaiah 49:3, 5-6

Reading II: 1 Corinthians 1: 1-3

Gospel: John 1:29-34

St. Bernard Rosary Program Report: 11,447!

Rosaries prayed last 2 weeks =252 Cumulative= 11,447 Please pray the Rosary on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays before the 12:15pm Mass.

FINANCE

1st Collection= \$3,456

AMA Goal = \$31,700 Pledges= \$33,773 Gifts= \$33,488

Parish Rebate= \$1,788

Come Celebrate Fr. Bernard's Birthday

When: January 25th 2:00pm

Where: Pinochi Room - St. Bernard Parish Hall

What: It's a potluck so bring a dish to share.

We need lots of food, sweets, and salads

St. Bernard's Phone Prayer Line

For those who are interested in joining the prayer chain or anyone with a prayer request, please call Alan / Illeen at (707) 442-6844.

Eureka Holy Mass Schedule

Saturday, January 10

3:15 Confession St. Joseph Church

4:00 pm +Dianne Luzzi St Joseph Church

Sunday, January 11 The Baptism of the Lord

7:30 am +Erling Dellabalma St. Joseph Church

9:00 am Mass for the People Sacred Heart Church

10:30am +Barbara Masterson & +Brad Masterson St. Bernard Church

12:15 pm(Sp) +Omar Melecio Ramirez Sacred Heart Ch

Monday, January 12

12:15 pm +Paul Windham St. Bernard Church

Tuesday, January 13

7:30am Margaret Ford & Nicholas Pepper St. Joseph Ch

Wednesday, January 14

12:15 pm Int. Erin Ford St. Bernard Church

6:00 pm Adoration & Confession Sacred Heart Church

7:00 pm Mass No Intention (Sp) Sacred Heart Church

Thursday, January 15

7:30am No Intention St. Joseph Church

11:30am Mass No Intention St. Joseph Hospital Chapel

Friday, January 16

12:15 pm Dr. Jack & Mary Walsh St. Bernard Church

1-2 pm Adoration & Confession St. Bernard Church

Saturday, January 17

3:15 Confession St. Joseph Church

4:00 pm Mick & Fran Wahlund St Joseph Church

Sunday, January 18

7:30 am +Hugo Pompati & Family St. Joseph Church

9:00 am +Paul Windham Sacred Heart Church

10:30am +Chad Kryla St. Bernard Church

12:15 pm(Sp) Mass for the People Sacred Heart Church

Please Pray For: Suanna Rowell, Josephine Silva, Jo Ann Dellabalma, Ann Marie DeSimone, Bill King, Martin & Martha Fosnaugh, Claudia Vess, Chris Miller, Mary Alpers, Basil, Santos, Bosco, Maria, Mario, Pio, & Mariano Mainus, Nancy Allen, David Russell, Sonny, Garrett Anderson, Dottie Barrett, Harvey & Mary Anne Bennett, Mildred Perrone, Marian Griffin, Massimo Matteoli, Gary Cormier, and Obdulia Walter

Please Pray For Our Beloved Departed:

Erling Dellabalma, Paul Windham, Nick Giannini, Juvenal (John) Regalo, Evo Fannuchi, Dianne Luzzi, Rose Ann Hurst, Tom Long, Joe Thompson, Colleen Cruz, Gina Costa, Rodrigo Reyna Sanchez, Jerry Bronder, Madalenne Smith, Bruce Amado, Doris Davy, Stella Reyes, Mary Antonelli, Mary Ellen Hadley, Sara & Carmen Scrivner, Camille Regli, Fred Avelar, Delores McBroome, and Gus Cricchio

J Rophe- Free Ultrasounds, Help and Support

J ROPHE MEDICAL provides no-cost limited obstetrical ultrasounds to patients between 7-16 weeks pregnant in a confidential and professional setting, where each client is treated holistically with the utmost care and respect. All services are free. Open from 10 to 4 Mon--Thurs, Call 707-444-0423 for an appt.

The Pregnancy Care Center offers compassion, direction, and hope to those facing life decisions. All services are FREE and CONFIDENTIAL. 24/7 Option line: 800-712-4357 Open Mon, Tues, Th, Fri 10-3 707-442-2345 Free pregnancy testing, childcare supplies & clothing, counseling, prenatal & childbirth education

The Funeral for Erling Dellabalma will held on Wed. Jan. 14th at St. Bernard Church with Rosary @ 9:30am and Mass @ 10am followed by a reception in the parish hall.

The Funeral for Dr. Paul Windham will be January 10th, 2026 at St. Bernard Church, Rosary @ 9:30am and Mass @10:00am. (R.I.P.)

WALK FOR LIFE West Coast -January 24, 2026

Celebrate and walk for life at the 22nd annual Walk For Life West Coast on Jan. 24th, 2026 in San Francisco. Rally begins at 12:30pm at the Civic Center Plaza followed by the walk along Market Street to the Embarcadero. For more info: walkforlifewe.com

Walk for Life West Coast – San Francisco

January 24, 2026 The Santa Rosa Diocesan Council of Catholic Women invites you to join fellow Catholics and pro-life advocates from across California and beyond as we stand up for the littlest among us at the 22nd Annual Walk for Life West Coast. Transportation Provided: Bus departs at 7:30 a.m. from St. Joseph Catholic Church 150 St. Joseph Way, Cotati Destination: St. Mary's Cathedral, San Francisco Return bus departs San Francisco at 4:15 p.m. Cost: \$40 per seat (includes light snack and beverage) Students ride free(Only 10 seats remaining) Join us for this powerful witness to life and dignity.

ICF-Betty Chinn Homeless Ministry PBJ Drive

To increase the amount of food reserves this winter for Betty Chinn's ministry to the homeless the Italian Catholic Federation Branches in Humboldt County will be coordinating a peanut butter and jelly donation drive at St Bernard, Sacred Heart, St Mary, St Joseph, and Assumption Parishes. Donation boxes will be in the vestibule of the church for your donations from now until February 8th Super Bowl Sunday. Please leave your donations in the boxes. At the end of the donation drive the ICF will award the parish with the most peanut butter and jelly donations as Champions of PBJ Super Bowl!

A Message From Humboldt Co. Correctional

Facility Thank you for your kind donations of Christmas cards and candies! This year we were able to create over 350 gift bags to be distributed to the inmates. The holidays can be a really tough time here and these small gestures mean a lot. The staff and inmates are most grateful for this program and sincerely appreciate your generosity.

To God In Family - Holy Family Monastery

On the Monastery's patronal feast of the Holy Family, Sunday, Jan 11th, there will be a tri-tip roast dinner at the parish hall after the 1:00pm Mass at **Assumption Church**. The celebration is both in honor of the Holy Family and of the Dr. Joseph Arcidi Family, who are unfortunately moving away. The Monastery is providing the meat, potatoes, broccoli, buns and beverages. A few salads and deserts are welcome. I will be away from **Jan 12 - Jan 16**. There will be no weekday Masses at the Monastery those days.

-Fr. Joseph O'Hara, Holy Family Monastery