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ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH
Vanderhoof, BC

Baptism of the Lord

Year A

January 11, 2026

"After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."



HOLY TRINITY
CHURCH MISSION
Saik'uz First Nation, BC

PASTOR: Rev. Pier Pandolfo
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EUCCHARIST

Saturday St. Joseph.....5:00 p.m.

Sunday St. Joseph.....9:30 a.m.

Sunday Holy Trinity.....12:00 noon

Tues & Thurs.....6:30 p.m.

Wed & Fri.....9:00 a.m.

RECONCILIATION

By appointment.

BAPTISM

Contact Father Pier for more information.

MATRIMONY

Please contact Father Pier for an appointment at least six months

PRAYER REQUESTS: For Brenda Antoine, Mackie Basil, Julio Bonilla jr., Cooper Cursley, Evelyn Embree, Ronald Gilmore, Brent Gray, Ellen Haynes, Patrick Irving, Halli & Hunter Krawczyk, George LaBrash, Jennifer Lock, Della Morin, Eunice Nash, Virginia Power, Dorothy Ranck, Ian Scott, Madeline Scott, Vanessa Stewart, Gerry Theissen, Mike VanDusen, Arthur Wiens, and for all who are ill or in need of God's healing grace.

The teachings of Jesus overflow with direction that can seem almost impossible to live by, "Let go and let God" is one particularly difficult lesson, given our inclination to take control of any personal situation. Often we only turn to God for help in dire straits and when we have dug a hole too deep for us to escape independently. The Baptism of the Lord narrative is a straight forward message about letting go and letting God, in any circumstance. John the Baptist feels unworthy to baptize Jesus and says he should be baptized by Jesus instead. Jesus answers: "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Fulfilling all righteousness is living God's will. The baptism of a sinless Jesus reveals his human side and his desire to be right with God, all the while foreshadowing his mortal death on the cross in atonement for the sins of humanity.

In his humanity, Jesus later questions God's will by asking if death on the cross could be avoided, similar to the way we seek alternative solutions to those offered by God. Jesus acquiesced to God's will, showing us how to seek and pray for God's help in the most trying of times. In doing so, we too are the beloved with whom God is well pleased.

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Parish Goal: \$13,952 Actual to Date: \$9578 Amount to Goal: \$4374

Today we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. In most years, this feast is celebrated on the Sunday after Epiphany. When Epiphany falls on either January 7 or 8, the Baptism of the Lord is celebrated on the Monday after Epiphany.

In today's Gospel we hear John the Baptist contrast his baptism of repentance with the baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John the Baptist says that he has baptized with water, but that the one who is to come will baptize with the Holy Spirit. John's baptism was not yet a Christian baptism; it was a preparation for the Christian Baptism we celebrate today, and through which sins are forgiven and the gift of the Holy Spirit is received. In accepting John's baptism, Jesus, though sinless, united himself with all sinners.

The baptism of Jesus is reported in each of the three Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Clearly, Jesus' baptism was an event of great significance for Jesus and for the early Christian community. Mark and Luke report the story from Jesus' perspective; the voice from heaven is addressed to Jesus. In Matthew's Gospel, the voice from heaven speaks to all who are present. The descent of the Holy Spirit on Jesus at his baptism shows that something new is beginning through the baptism and ministry of Jesus.

The baptism of Jesus is considered an important manifestation of God in the person of Jesus, another epiphany. Jesus' baptism inaugurates his mission. Mark's Gospel moves quickly from the report of Jesus' baptism to Jesus' temptations in the desert to his ministry in Galilee after John's arrest. The end of the ministry of John the Baptist is the beginning of Jesus' ministry. In an analogous way, our Baptism inaugurates our mission as Christians.

Surprisingly, on this the last day of the Christmas season the Gospel does not tell a story from Jesus' childhood. Instead the Gospel reveals Jesus' relationship to God: the Son of Mary and Joseph is also God's own Son. We believe that through Baptism we are also made children of God.



Christmas-Feast of the Lord's Baptism. Taking our identity to the world. The Baptism of the Lord marks the end of our Christmas season. This feast day celebrates once again the revelation that Jesus is the Son of God. But this feast is also a bridge to the task to take this message to the whole world. In Mark 1:9 we read 'And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."' Here Jesus appears to be the only one who hears the proclamation. In Mark 9:7 we read 'and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!" Here the proclamation is heard by the disciples. Finally in Mark 15:39 we read ' And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died,[c] he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!'", and we know that the world has received the message.

Homework: pray this week for our newly baptized.

Congratulations to our newly baptized: Matthew Saharchuk, Caron family Richard, Desiree, and Freya.

Thank you: to all who helped with the celebrations of Advent and Christmas. Our Advent and Christmas decorations helped set the atmosphere of prayer; our Creche scene helped keep Jesus central to our activities; our volunteers who participated with Christmas in the Park helped share our faith with the township of Vanderhoof; our Christmas and New Year's Eve socials helped bring us together to laugh and to play; thank you. Let us be pleased with one another.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: Jan 19-23: St. Joseph's is hosting the event Tuesday, January 20 at 7pm with Evening Prayer and Taize Prayer. Come to share with our Christian brothers and sisters. The full schedule of the week is available in the foyer.

From Fr. Pier to all who shared cards and gifts with me, Thank you; your thoughtfulness and generosity to me over the holiday season was uplifting and inspirational. Thank you. May God reward you for your kindness.

ALPHA Advertisement: start inviting people for our February course.

LHC Life Healing Choices: pray for this program's participants; next offering of the course is October 2026

Transformed lives, transforming community: mission statement for evangelization;

Intimate encounter with God through an open heart: mission statement for prayer;

PARISH ACTIVITIES: **Jan 13 CWL meeting 7pm**

PARISH ACTIVITIES: **Week Of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 20, 7pm**