

**STAR OF THE SEA, CANSO
ST. AGNES, LITTLE DOVER
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL, QUEENSPORT
ST. JOSEPH'S, PORT FELIX**

PASTOR: FR. JONATHAN NNAJIOFOR, 366-2927
CONGREGATION OF NOTRE DAME 358-2346

*The complete text of this bulletin is also available on the parish's website at
www.cansoparishes.org*

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD ~ JANUARY 12, 2025

WEEKEND MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 18 - Port Felix - 6:00 pm - ♥*For the Faithful*

Sunday, January 19 - Star of the Sea- 11:00 am - ♥*For The Faithful*

WELCOME AND THANK YOU - to Fr. Jim O'Neal who will be celebrating Mass with us. We appreciate your presence and hope you enjoy your stay.

ANNOUNCEMENT *I would like to inform all parishioners that I will be away for some weeks after Christmas to visit my family. The Parish Office will remain open for all your needs. – Fr. Jonathan*

REFLECTION TODAY'S READINGS - *The Mandate of Our Baptisms*

It is at His Baptism that Jesus is declared the loved Son of God. Interestingly, Jesus is called 'beloved', but if you look at His life, the term 'beloved' contradicts the very idea of it. In a worldly sense, the term 'beloved' refers to one who is pampered, over-cared for and over-protected. However, Jesus is none of these; rather, He is chosen to suffer for the world. With His baptism, Jesus assumes the responsibility of redeeming a world that rejected Him from the very moment of His birth to the moment of His death on the Cross. Our Baptism calls us to the responsibility to carry out God's work in the world. The question then becomes: As a baptized Christian, how do I prove myself to be a beloved child of God? The baptism of Jesus powerfully reminds us of the baptism each one of us received. Although most of us were baptized at a very tender age, we need to take time to understand properly why we were baptized and the deeper implications of our baptism. We were baptized in the name of the three divine persons. It means we entered into a very intimate relationship with the three divine persons who are dwelling in us and are actively at work in and through us. Baptism has washed

away our sins, and we are all living members of the mystical body of Christ. With our baptism, we have become living temples of the Holy Spirit and are empowered to work as servants of Christ Jesus, sharing in his ministry of Prophet, Priest and King. Do I reflect on the transformation that took place in me when I received baptism? Am I living in accordance with the baptismal commitment I made?

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

Star of the Sea (24)	445.00
Christmas (2)	50.00
New Years Day (3)	42.00
Fuel (3)	90.00
Initial (9)	120.00

St. Agnes (1)	20.00
New Years Day (1)	20.00
Initial (1)	5.00

St. Joseph (14)	155.00
Loose	10.00
New Year's Day (14)	137.00
Initial (5)	37.00

MEMORY TREES

St. Agnes	\$610.00
Star of the Sea	\$1,000.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$10.00
St. Joseph	\$585.00

These donations are a wonderful way to remember those we loved and were dear to us. Thank you so very much to all.

You Are God's Beloved

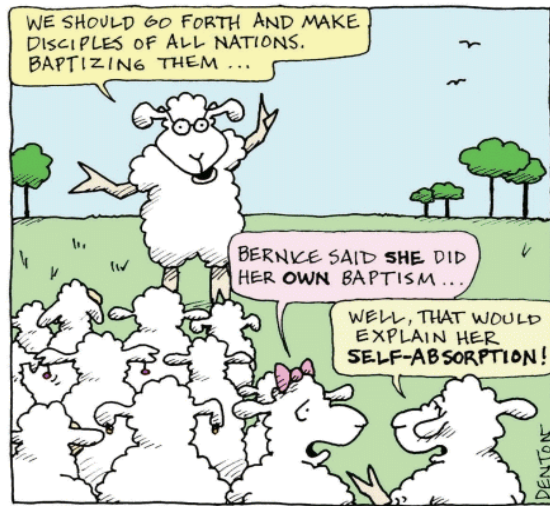
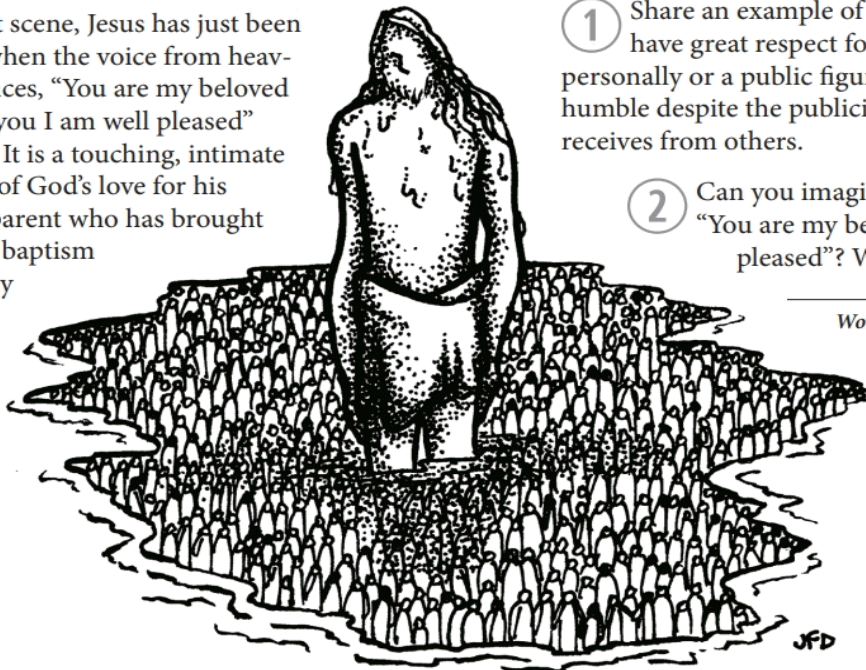
This Week's Readings at Mass

- ▶ Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 - The servant of the Lord
- ▶ Acts 10:34-38 - The good news of peace
- ▶ Luke 3:15-16, 21-22 - Baptism of Jesus

John the Baptist is an intriguing figure in the Gospel of Luke. Immediately before this passage, John was drawing large crowds to listen to him speak. He wasn't coming into the big city and towns to tour; he was staying out in the desert region, in Jewish history a place symbolic of hardship, trial, and personal encounter with God.

John had the reputation of being a bit of a wild man out there, dressed in camel's hair and eating locusts and wild honey while preaching repentance. The people were going out in droves to see for themselves who this man was that everyone was talking about. Obviously, there was something compelling about what John was saying and how he was living. Many were so taken by his message that they wondered if he was the promised Christ. Their respect for him didn't go to John's head, however, and he remained humble, insisting that he was only a servant for Christ.

In the next scene, Jesus has just been baptized when the voice from heaven announces, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased" (Lk. 3:22). It is a touching, intimate statement of God's love for his son. Any parent who has brought a child for baptism could easily say the same. If we believe that God loves



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"I, the Lord, have called you for the victory of justice."

Sheepish Question:

How does my baptism with Christ compel me to serve others?

us even more than we can imagine loving others, then it is not a leap to say that as adopted sons and daughters of God, we can trust that God feels the same for us.

Questions of the Week

- 1 Share an example of a person whom you have great respect for (someone you know personally or a public figure) who manages to remain humble despite the publicity or admiration he or she receives from others.
- 2 Can you imagine God saying of you, "You are my beloved; with you I am well-pleased"? Why or why not?

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