

# Dear Padre,

**Why do our bishops not marry? Scripture plainly says that they must be the husband of one wife and have faithful children.**

This is an excellent question and brings us face to face with an important truth: for Catholics, the sacred Scripture is not the singular source of our practice and discipline. We also look, with equal authority, to the living Tradition of the Church. The magisterium is entrusted with the authentic interpretation of both Scripture and Tradition.

With this theological and historical context as a necessary background to your question, the answer to your query is this: the lived Tradition of the Church does not support a married clergy, including bishops. Although the Scripture allows for it, and provides some general guidelines, the lived Tradition of the Church does not. The Roman Catholic Church has a celibate clergy and will continue to have a celibate clergy unless and until the magisterium, in union with the pope, determines otherwise. There have been some discussions about changing this discipline, but now there is not much momentum that would suggest any imminent change.

In the wider Orthodox Catholic Church, in union with Rome, there is a provision for a married clergy, but, even in these traditions, there is no exception made for married bishops. Bishops are and will continue to be celibate regardless of what Scripture may allow. ●



ROMEO DE MAJUREL / CATHOPIC

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
January 12	January 13	January 14	January 15	January 16	January 17	January 18
Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	St. Anthony, Abbot	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Sm 1:1-8 Mk 1:14-20	1 Sm 1:9-20 Mk 1:21-28	1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20 Mk 1:29-39	1 Sm 4:1-11 Mk 1:40-45	1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a Mk 2:1-12	1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a Mk 2:13-17	Is 49:3, 5-6 1 Cor 1:1-3 Jn 1:29-34

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



### A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

*In the family, faith is handed on together with life, generation after generation. It is shared like food at the family table and like the love in our hearts. In this way, families become privileged places in which to encounter Jesus, who loves us and desires our good, always.*

HOMILY, ROME, JUNE 1, 2025

ANTONIELLA ULLAURI / CATHOPIC

# Our Parish COMMUNITY

January 11, 2026

The Baptism of the Lord (A)

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 / Acts 10:34-38 / Matthew 3:13-17



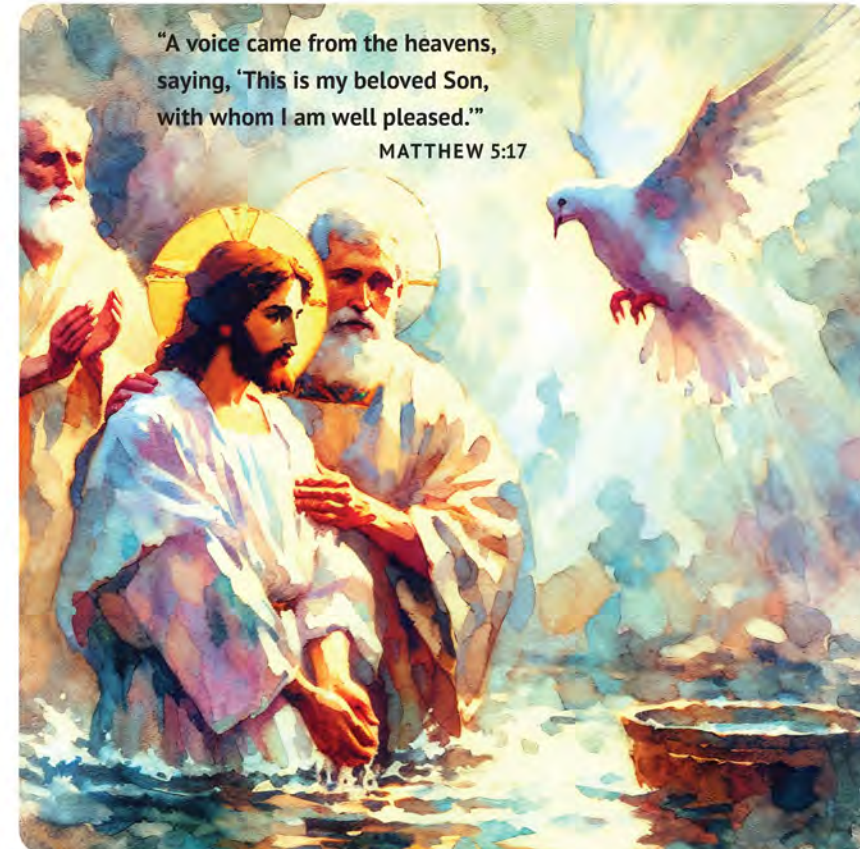
## Jesus, Servant Leader

MIGUEL DULICK

**John, miracle son of Zechariah and Elizabeth, cousin of Jesus** and known as “the Baptist,” offers a “baptism of repentance.” Then Jesus shows up. The eternal Son of God a penitent? John is shocked and resists, saying it is Jesus who should baptize him. But Jesus insists, “to fulfill all righteousness” (Matthew 3:15).

At the very beginning of his ministry, Jesus is humbling himself, much as he did toward the end, when he washed the feet of his disciples. Then it was Peter who would resist what seemed inappropriate by the standards of this world. Jesus is giving us an example, the way of the servant leader, as described in today’s beautiful passage from Isaiah. Jesus is the servant leader, the Father’s Son, over whom the Holy Spirit danced like a dove, and the Father, with his booming voice from the heavens, said of him, “This is my beloved Son!” (Matthew 3:17).

Jesus allowing himself to be baptized may seem like a contradiction, but given all that follows, we know he is offering his followers a consistent model of what he expects from those who choose to be his disciples. As St.



“A voice came from the heavens, saying, ‘This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.’”

MATTHEW 5:17

Paul would later write to the Church in Philippi, “Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped” (Philippians 2:5-6). ●

### Reflect

*This week, I’ll think about my baptism, when I was called to serve as Jesus served.*



LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY



The  
**Catholic Church**  
in Pocahontas County  
West Virginia

OUR MISSION

Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. (Matthew 28:19-20, NAB-RE)

ST. JOHN NEUMANN PARISH & CHURCH OFFICE, 714 Tenth Avenue, Marlinton WV 24954  
ST. MARK THE EVANGELIST MISSION, 92 Catholic Church Road, Rts 250 & 92, Bartow WV 24920  
ST. BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX CHAPEL, 6332 Snowshoe Drive, Snowshoe WV 26209  
Telephone: St. John Neumann 304-799-6778, St. Bernard of Clairvaux 304-572-0847  
Website: [PocahontasCatholic.org](http://PocahontasCatholic.org)  
E-mail: [Pastor@PocahontasCatholic.org](mailto:Pastor@PocahontasCatholic.org)

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

“This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”  
(Matthew 3:17, NAB-RE)

ANNOUNCEMENTS & NOTES

- **Schedule of second collections** for 2026 is included with this week's bulletin.



- **Christmas decorations** at St. Bernard Chapel will be taken down this week. Decorations at our other Churches will remain until the *Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple* (February 2) – the end of the “old” traditional Christmas season.
- **Senior lunch** is this Tuesday (January 13) beginning at 11:30 a.m. at Marlinton United Methodist Church. You *don't* have to consider yourself old to come!
- **Women's Retreat** “Finding God in the Everyday” is scheduled for March 20-22 at St. John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston. Catholic singer-song writer and speaker John Angotti will lead the retreat. Please note that the women's retreats fill up very quickly, so schedule immediately if you might be interested. For information contact Geri Wright (304-552-3662 or [GWright@dwc.org](mailto:GWright@dwc.org)), Sandi Hudson (304-549-4009 or [SHudson0155@gmail.com](mailto:SHudson0155@gmail.com)), or Anna Marie Troiani (304-907-0171 or [ATroiani@csjoseph.org](mailto:ATroiani@csjoseph.org))
- **Second collection next Sunday** at St. John Neumann and St. Mark the Evangelist is for the Church in the developing world (divided equally among the collections for Latin America, Central and Eastern Europe, and Africa).



Patty Bryant  
Margaret Bryant  
Ann Burke  
Danielle Cade  
Dick Connor  
Drema Moore  
Cynthia Olson  
Quinn Riffle  
Tristan Sizemore

EUCCHARIST THIS WEEK

Monday	8:00 a.m.	St. John
Wednesday	8:00 a.m.	St. John
Friday	8:00 p.m.	St. John
Saturday	5:30 p.m.	St. Bernard
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	St. John
	11:30 a.m.	St. Mark



St. John Neumann Church is open for private prayer every day during daylight.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered before each Eucharist or by appointment, and at St. Bernard on Saturdays 4:30-5:00 p.m.

The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is available any time upon request.



Please call the Church office (304-799-6778) if you know of a parishioner who is sick, in the hospital or nursing home, homebound, deployed, or in prison.

To report an incidence of suspected child sexual abuse, please contact your local law enforcement agency, or you may confidentially contact WV Child Protective Services at 800-352-6513.

To report suspected cases of sexual abuse by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, please contact the Diocese at 888-434-6237 or 304-233-0880.

To report suspected cases of sexual misconduct or sexual abuse by a bishop or eparch, please contact [ReportBishopAbuse.org](http://ReportBishopAbuse.org) or call 800-276-1562.



**Fund for the Poor**  
\$2,261.06 distributed in December  
in direct aid for those in need.



Lectionary for Mass for use in the Dioceses of the United States, second typical edition, Copyright © 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine; Psalm refrain © 1968, 1981, 1997, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved. Neither this work nor any part of it may be reproduced, distributed, performed or displayed in any medium, including electronic or digital, without permission in writing from the copyright owner. Used with permission.

## BAPTISM OF THE LORD - Year ABC(A)

### First Reading (Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7)

Thus says the LORD:

Here is my servant whom I uphold,  
my chosen one with whom I am pleased,  
upon whom I have put my spirit;  
he shall bring forth justice to the nations,  
not crying out, not shouting,  
not making his voice heard in the street.  
a bruised reed he shall not break,  
and a smoldering wick he shall not quench,  
until he establishes justice on the earth;  
the coastlands will wait for his teaching.

I, the LORD, have called you for the victory of justice,  
I have grasped you by the hand;  
I formed you, and set you  
as a covenant of the people,  
a light for the nations,  
to open the eyes of the blind,  
to bring out prisoners from confinement,  
and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness.

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10,  
*Grail translation, 1963*)

*Response:* The Lord will bless his people with peace.

O give the Lord you sons of God,  
give the Lord glory and power;  
give the Lord the glory of his name.  
Adore the Lord in his holy court.

The Lord's voice resounding on the waters,  
the Lord on the immensity of waters;  
the voice of the Lord, full of power,  
the voice of the Lord, full of splendor.

The God of glory thunders.  
In his temple they all cry: "Glory!"  
The Lord sat enthroned over the flood;  
the Lord sits as king for ever.

### Second Reading (Acts 10:34-38)

Peter proceeded to speak to those gathered  
in the house of Cornelius, saying:  
"In truth, I see that God shows no partiality.  
Rather, in every nation whoever fears him  
and acts uprightly  
is acceptable to him.  
You know the word that he 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.  
He went about doing good  
and healing all those oppressed by the devil,  
for God was with him."

### Gospel Acclamation (*cf.* Mark 9:7)

The heavens were opened  
and the voice of the Father thundered:  
This is my beloved Son, listen to him.

### Gospel (Matthew 3:13-17)

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."

## Reflection

In baptism, each of us *becomes* a Christian, and each of us *becomes* a brother and sister to other Christians.

What we were changes to what we have become.

Jesus' baptism was different. We hear the words of God the Father "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." Jesus *did not* become the Son of the Father, he is eternally the Son of the Father. The scene we have in the Gospel is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit together.

So in our own baptism, we call upon the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit to bring us together.

**11 January 2026**  
**Baptism of the Lord**

*Penitential Rite*

Lord Jesus, you are mighty God and prince of peace:

Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you are Word made flesh and splendor of the Father:

Christ have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are God of all nations and savior of all peoples:

Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins,  
and bring us to everlasting life.

*Prayer of the Faithful*

Almighty Father, by our baptism we are brothers and sisters of one another, and so we lift up our needs and the needs of all people to you in prayer:

- for the Church, that we will promote peace where there is conflict, we pray
- for leaders of nations, that they will work together for the good of all people, we pray
- for Catechumens preparing for baptism, we pray
- for peace where Christ was born, we pray
- for an increase in vocations to Church ministry, we pray
- for those who have died, that they will have the gift of eternal salvation, we pray
- and for your other intentions

*(pause)*

for all our intentions spoken and unspoken, we pray

Merciful Father, through baptism you call us to holiness, so we ask you to hear our prayers and help us always to discern your will. We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.