

Saint Paul the Apostle Church

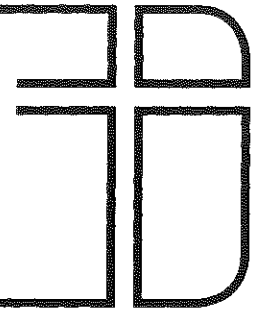
Conventual Franciscan Friars

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Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

January 10, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

As we gather to celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, it is a wonderful time to remember the words and symbols of our Baptism: the water, candle, Anointing with the Holy Oils of Catechumen and Sacred Chrism, and the clothing with the white Baptismal garment. Every symbol and the prayers are significant as we are welcomed into God's family.

The Anointing with the Oil of the Catechumen, a tradition dating back to the first century of the Church is a sign of welcome as we prepare to receive the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist). The water purifies us and removes the stain of original sin, the Anointing with the Sacred Chrism means that we now share in the life of Christ the Priest, Prophet, and King. The candle lit from the Baptismal Candle first blessed and lit every year at the Ester Vigil represents the Light of Christ, which we are to carry burning brightly living and walking as children of the Light. The words said over the white Baptismal garment: "you have become a new creation and have clothed yourself in Christ".

Baptism makes us a new creation and transforms us giving us new life in with and for Christ. Adults that I have had the privilege of accompanying to the waters of Baptism have shared with me how they felt at the moment they came up from the Baptismal waters: "cleaner than they ever imagined and full of new life" are some of the many comments they have shared with me.

Mark's Gospel explains very well the immediate effects of Jesus' Baptism in the Jordan and in particular the voice from the Heavens proclaiming: "***You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased***" (***Mark 1: 7 – 11***). Almighty God who created us into a fresh new creation has also made us his beloved with whom he is well pleased. May this feast bring great renewal to us as we contemplate on the Baptism of the Lord and the wonderful effects and graces we received from our own Baptism.

In preparation for the Holy Mass outdoors, a friendly reminder to please bring your own chairs and necessary personal items for outdoor weather conditions.

Before being admitted into the seating area, your temperatures will be taken and please be advised that everyone over the age of two, **MUST** wear a mask. The physical distancing of six is to be observed at all times except for married couples and family units as long as there is six feet of distance between families.

Please note that the Dispensation from the Obligation to attend Sunday Mass as well as holy Days of Obligation is still in place until further notice and the Sunday Mass is still available online via our You Tube Channel **St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church-Pismo Beach BEGINNING EVERY SATURDAY AT 5:30 PM**. Our Daily Mass is live streamed over the same You Tube Channel Monday – Friday at 8 AM.

Finally, our parish website <https://www.stpaulspismo beach.com> contains the most recent weekly bulletin, links to the Online Mass on Sundays, as well as links to my weekly message to you, updates from Bishop Garcia and myself as they become available, and a safe user-friendly option for online giving. If you need assistance with the online giving system, please contact our Parish Administrative Assistant Christopher Garza at admin@stpaulspismo beach.com as well at his direct telephone extension **(805)773-2219 Ext. 102**.

For those of you unable to make it to Mass at this time and wish to continue sending in your weekly contribution you may continue do so by the US Mail, dropping it off at the Rectory using the Rectory door mail slot, or using the online giving option described above. In order to keep an accurate record of your offerings, please include your weekly contributions envelope as well as write it on the check. No donation is too small and all are joyfully received with great gratitude.

God's blessings to all of you on this Feast of the Baptism of the Lord and always.

Peace and love,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Jacob Carazo, OFM Conv." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fr. Jacob Carazo, OFM Conv.

Pastor