

ICCH
International Catholic Community of Heidelberg
St. Michael's Church
Kirschgartenstr. 35, 69126 Heidelberg Südstadt
06221/13020 – office Fr. Christof Heimpel

Today's readings:
Is 42:1-4, 6-7/ Is 40:1-5, 9-11 | Acts 10:34-38/
Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7 | Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

Welcome Father Peter

JANUARY 10, 2016 – THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

“You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

The theme of Christ's epiphany reaches its fulfillment in the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. The feast seemingly brings an end to the Christmas season, but Christmas really ends with the feast of the Presentation of the Lord on Feb. 2.

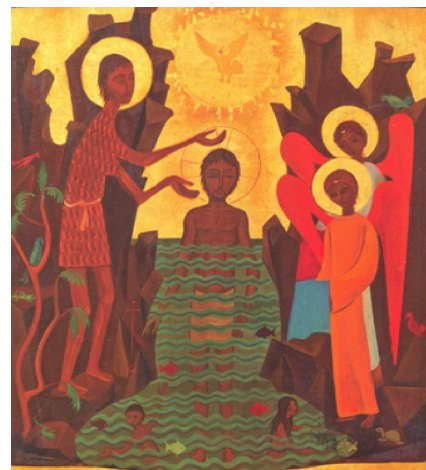
In today's Gospel, when Jesus is baptized, the voice from heaven booms out and names him: “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” This affirmation is the defining moment for the prophet from Nazareth. It is God's declaration of love to God's new Israel; it is God's naming to supreme accountability; it is God's surprise for the world of the proud and powerful.

Through his baptism by John in the muddy waters of the Jordan, Jesus opens the possibility to us of accepting our human condition and of connecting with God the way we were intended to. Jesus accepts the human condition, and this includes suffering and death. In the Jordan, Jesus received his commission. On the cross he completed it. Jesus' baptism by John in the Jordan identifies him deeply with the people he has come to redeem.

We, too, are called to a prophetic career.

When we were baptized into Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death. Our baptism is a public, prophetic and royal anointing. We receive the life of the Church and are called to sustain that faith life. Faith is about concern for others. Faith is a public – not private – responsibility.

Baptism is a call to a prophetic career. To be prophetic is to become involved and to get our hands and feet dirty. Through our own baptism, we can become a light to others, just as Jesus is a light to us, and to the world. Our own baptism fills us with a certain boldness, confidence and enthusiasm, reminding us that the Gospel must be proclaimed with gratitude for its proven beauty.



When we slowly discover the demands of that faith, and where the way of repentance leads, when we can tell good from evil; when we search for what God wants to do in our lives and ask him to help us accomplish it; when we learn as much as we can about God and his world; when we come near to God – at that moment the person for whom the heavens opened is revealed also to us.

May today's feast of the Lord's Baptism be an invitation to each of you to remember with gratitude and renew your own baptismal promises. Relive the moment of the water that rushed over you. Pray that the grace of your own baptism will help you to be light to others and to the world, and give you the strength and courage to make a difference in the world and in the Church.

[Fr. Tom Rosica, shortened from: <http://saltandlighttv.org/blog/category/rosicareflections>; picture: Icon from Taizé]

NEWS

Social Gathering – Time for our first get-together of the year! This Sunday, please stay a while after Mass with the community, sharing each other's company, food and drinks. Bring a dish to share if possible!

Confessions – You are invited to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation next week, January 17, after Mass.

If you would like to be added to our email list please send your contact information to:
infoheidelberg@internationalcatholiccommunity.com