



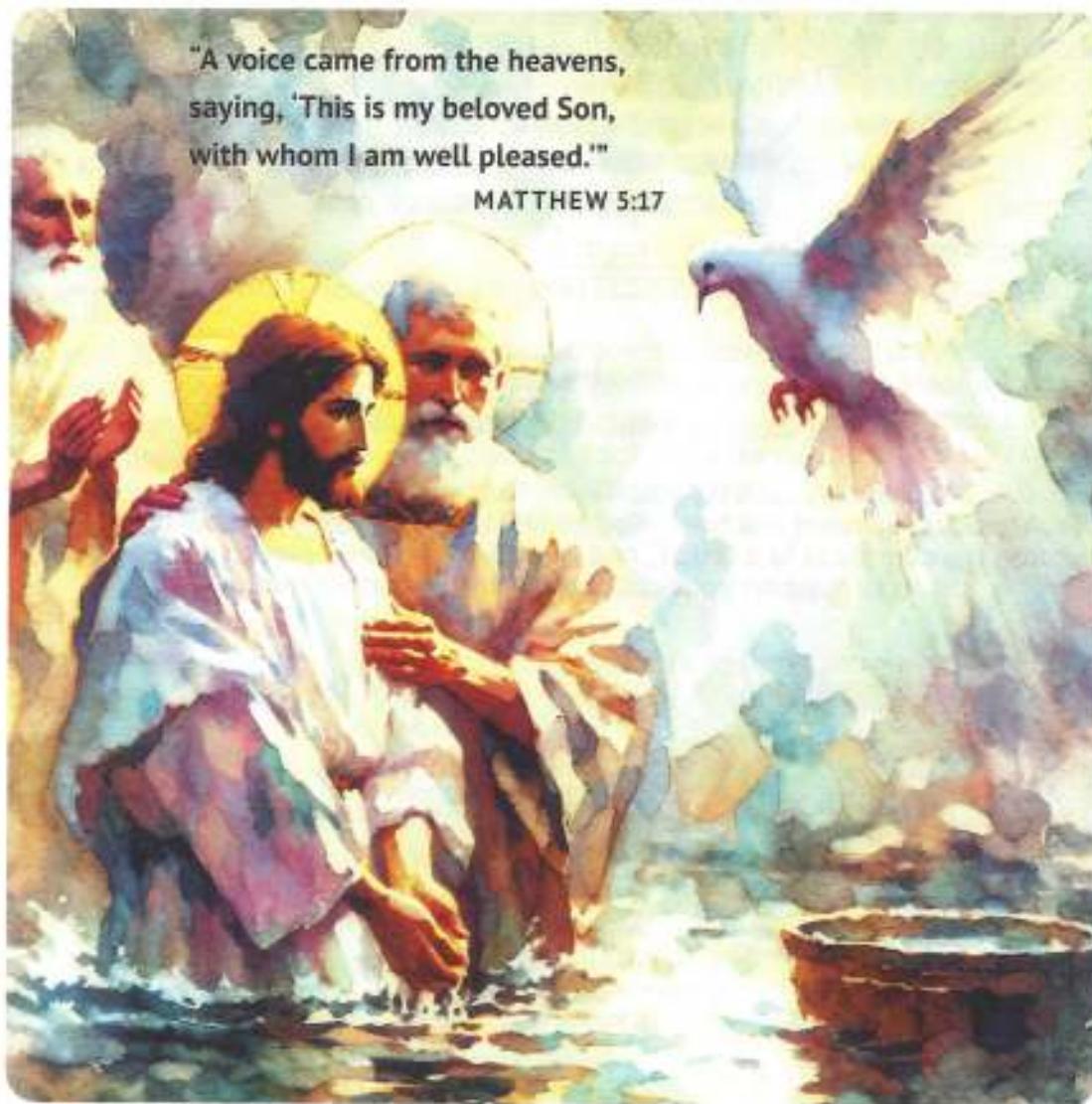
Jesus, Servant Leader

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 3:17

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

ST. BARBARA PARISH

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St. Thomas More Site

302 Chestnut Street
Dalzell IL

Adoration Room at STM Site

Open Daily from 9 am-6 pm

Confession Info

Saturday morning, alternating
between STM Site & HT Site
in the Confessional between
10:30 am-11:15am

Holy Trinity Site

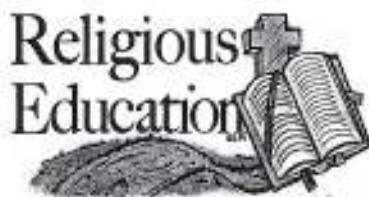
Parish Office
212 S Main Street
PO BOX 159
Cherry IL

Church Office Info

Pastor: Father Thaddeus Tran
Pastoral Assistant: Melissa Pasillas
Office Hours at HT: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9am-1pm
Ongoing Parish Fundraising: STM Rav/Tort. Sale | call 815-252-2215 (leave name/phone #/order) \$9.00/bag

Emergency Number: 779-248-2164

Email: Melissahtc@outlook.com



CCD Classes

Sunday, January 11th—K- 5th Grade CCD Class

Sunday, January 18th —6th-8th Grade CCD Class

Fr. Thaddeus would like to remind all CCD Parents and students that attending Sunday Mass is a MUST, not an option. Parents, please do the best you can to support your children in this important matter.

St. Barbara Daily Mass Intentions for the Week of January 12, 2026

Monday	01/12		† No Mass
Tuesday	01/13	9:00 am	STM Site
Wednesday	01/14	5:30 pm	HT Site
Thursday	01/15	9:00 am	HT Site
Friday	01/16	9:00 am	STM Site

St. Barbara Mass Intentions for the weekend of January 17-18, 2026

Saturday	01/17	4:00 pm	ST. Thomas More Site	† Tony Panizzi
Sunday	01/18	9:00 am	Holy Trinity Site	† For the Parishioners

GOD MANIFESTED HIMSELF AT THE JORDAN RIVER

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord is a liturgical bridge that connects the Christmas season to Ordinary Time. During the Christmas season we pondered the Incarnation, Nativity, Presentation in the Temple, and Epiphany. Today, we see Jesus manifesting Himself to the world as He began His three years of public ministry.

Jesus begins His ministry through an act of deep solidarity with the fallen human race. John the Baptist had been preaching in the desert and offering a baptism of repentance. John's baptism was not the same as our baptism today. Instead, it was only a sign of one's willingness to turn away from sin and turn toward God. Jesus, of course, had nothing to repent of. He was sinless in every way. But that didn't stop Him from freely choosing to receive the baptism of repentance. Why would He do that?

Simply put, Jesus chose to unite Himself with fallen humanity, taking upon Himself our own sins and suffering their consequences. He humbly allowed Himself to be identified as a sinner in need of repentance. This was done out of love for us and out of His longing to become one with us so that we could become one with Him.

By bowing His sacred head to receive the baptism of repentance, Jesus united Himself and His divinity to everyone who had already chosen to repent. When we repent, we meet Jesus in that same water of repentance.

As we commemorate Jesus' baptism liturgically, we celebrate the fact that our Christian baptism was the beginning of this new unity with the Holy Trinity. But we also celebrate our oneness with God, which is renewed every time we make an interior act of repentance for our sins. If we fully understood what happens every time we acknowledge our sins and repent of them, we would never grow tired of repenting. (Excerpted from: mycatholic.life)



Church Announcements

RESCUE LIVE

Mark your 2027 calendars for our diocesan spiritual revival as part the 150th celebrations. Rescue Live with Fr. John Riccardo and ACTS XXIX will take place at the Peoria Civic Center on **Saturday, March 6, 2027**. Rescue Live gives Catholics the opportunity to be overwhelmed by the power of the gospel, surrender their lives to Jesus, and become mobilized for mission. The day consists of a series of 5 talks by Fr. Riccardo, small group discussion, fellowship, music by The Vigil Project, and a Eucharistic procession. Please call the office for further infos if you are interested.

FREE POINSETTIAS

Now that Christmas season is over please feel free to bring as many poinsettias home as you like. Again thank you for your donation towards the purchase of the poinsettias.

Latest Offering's
January 4th Weekend
St. Barbara Parish
Total Collections:
\$3,355.00

Order Now:
Your Diocese of Peoria
150th Anniversary Book

Contains:
Diocesan History and a
2-page spread for each church
with photos and brief history
and much more!

Contact your parish to order.

This book is only \$40
being printed
once - so be
sure to order
yours before it's
too late!!



Next Confessions
Confession on
Sat. January 17th
10:30am-11:15am
HT in the confessional

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. ●

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



PHOTO: GREGORY M. SCHMIDT

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,	Second Sunday
1 Sm 1:1-8	1 Sm 1:9-20	1 Sm 3:1-10,	1 Sm 4:1-11	1 Sm 8:4-7,	Abbot	in Ordinary Time
Mk 1:14-20	Mk 1:21-28	19-20	Mk 1:40-45	10-22a	1 Sm 9:1-4,	Is 49:3, 5-6
		Mk 1:29-39		Mk 2:1-12	17-19; 10:1a	1 Cor 1:1-3
					Mk 2:13-17	Jn 1:29-34

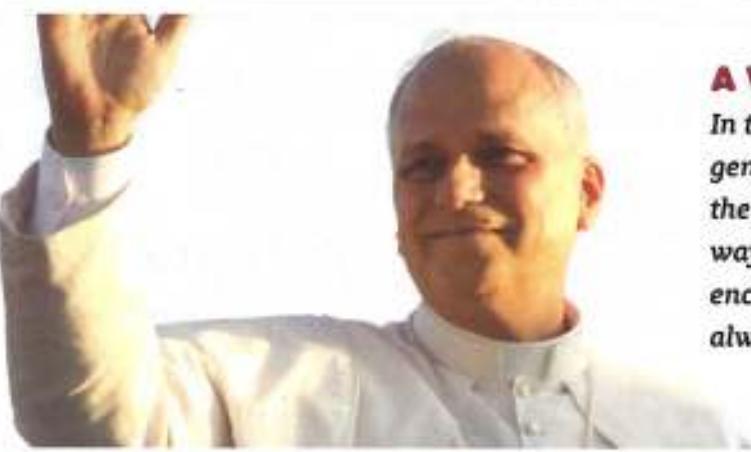
Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to 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



ANTONELLA ILLARI / CATHOLIC