

# Integral Faith

"Homily helps and liturgy resources highlighting care for our common home."



## Homily Helps, Petitions, and Bulletin Notices for the Baptism of the Lord, Cycle B (10 January 2021)

### Homily Helps

#### † Scripture passages to note:

**Isaias 55:** All who are thirsty, come to the water! ... The rain and snow come down ... till they have watered the earth making it fertile and fruitful.

**Psalms 124:** You have drawn water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

**1 John 5:** Whoever is begotten by God conquers the world.

**Mark 1:** One mightier than I is coming after me. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.

#### † Comment for the day:

We all know that water is essential for life. We humans are currently spending lots of money and lots of time searching our solar system, and even planets beyond in our universe, to find water. Water covers most of our earth, but it is proving hard to find in the great beyond. Unfortunately while we are searching for that basic liquid elsewhere, we are polluting it here with plastics and oils, mine filings and coal ash, chemicals and trash.

If water is essential for physical life, it is also central to life in Christ through the sacrament of baptism. Clean river and lake water washes our bodies outside. When taken in, it nourishes our organs inside and enables their life-giving processes. Water slakes the thirst of our planet and our bodies, making them fertile and fruitful. Because Jesus came to bring us abundant life, it is no wonder than he insisted on being baptized himself, not so much to be cleansed as to be filled with joy and ready to share life with others by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Appreciation of those we baptize brings us great joy.

Among the many dimensions of care for our common home, water is basic. As careful as we are about all the details of preparing for baptism, we need to be equally attentive to the quality of earth's water. Our responsibility to make clean water available all our brothers and sisters is not unlike Jesus' final command to his disciples: make disciples of all nations, baptize them, enable them to draw water joyfully for both body and soul from the springs of salvation.

As John the Baptist baptized Jesus, so we are all baptized in Christ by his love. Part of our responsibility as disciples is a call to baptize others with water, clean water, body- and soul-healthy water.

#### † Passages from *Laudato Si'* to note:

28. Fresh drinking water is an issue of primary importance, since it is indispensable for human life .... Sources of fresh water are necessary for health care, agriculture and industry.

This resource is provided by Catholic Climate Covenant in collaboration with the Integral Faith Team, a group of male and female religious, priests, and lay people dedicated to serving the Church.

29. One particularly serious problem is the quality of water available to the poor. Every day, unsafe water results in many deaths and the spread of water-related diseases, including those caused by microorganisms and chemical substances.

30. Even as the quality of available water is constantly diminishing, in some places there is a growing tendency, despite its scarcity, to privatize this resource, turning it into a commodity subject to the laws of the market. Yet access to safe drinkable water is a basic and universal human right....

### Related Prayers of the Faithful

**Option 1:** That all of us will support efforts to keep earth's water clean and drinkable for all, remembering the water of our baptism and the importance of water for every form of life, we pray to the Lord....

**Option 2:** That all of us blessed to be baptized will celebrate daily the constant pouring forth of the Spirit so all who thirst will come to the water with us to experience the endless flow of God's love, let us pray to the Lord....

### Further Resources

Feedback: [IntegralFaithForLife@gmail.com](mailto:IntegralFaithForLife@gmail.com)

Webpage: [www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help](http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help)

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