

## Gospel Reflection

As a church musician I have had the privilege of providing the music for hundreds of weddings over the years. I often turn my attention to the parents. I marvel at the wonderful expressions of love and pride that emanate from those parents as they witness their children's love blossom before them. This is the sentiment I am reminded of as I listen to today's Gospel. At the beginning of Jesus' public ministry – at the moment of his baptism in the Jordan – we glimpse the love emanating from Father to Son. The Father's voice, coming from the heavens, declares that this one is his beloved son, in whom he is well pleased

What is it that made Jesus pleasing to his Father? And what makes us pleasing to God? The prophecy announced in today's first reading gives us a glimpse of the kind of person who is found pleasing in God's eyes. Too often we see these prophecies fulfilled solely in Jesus. As people baptized into Christ Jesus, we, too, can be the fulfillment of these prophecies. In baptism, we are called to be people who establish justice on the earth; we are summoned to be the light for people who are blind; we are charged with being the servants of God. This work is not easy. It demands the strength that comes only from a deep relationship with God. Today is the day to begin anew to grow in our love for God. Let us strive to become those who are the beloved of God, those in whom God is well pleased.

*Copyright 2006, World Library Publications.  
Used with permission.*

## KEEPING FAITH FIRST FAMILY FUN

*Mathew 3:13-17*

M J F A T S K V B N B J S  
C P U E N T N W X Y O S V  
V Z L D E S A E L P E S T  
F V F R V D O G V N A I L  
C B I N E K G M S A R X J  
B S L Y R J F U J I E O W  
D A L L P I O I P E H H R  
O R P A T E S S H N S U X  
V I U T T J O R D A N U P  
E Y I H I H C I A I J P S  
G N G D E S C E N D I N G  
G I S D V F M K T C H Q X  
R I R M Q N F X L G U W P

***Find these words from the Gospel passage.***

BAPTISM	JORDAN	DOVE
FITTING	FULFILL	GOD
HEAVENS	JESUS	JOHN
DESCENDING	PLEASED	PREVENT
RIGHTEOUSNESS	SON	SPIRIT

## Disciple's Reflection & Questions of the Week

***The Baptism of the Lord***  
*1/13/08*

*Mathew 3:13-17*  
*Faith-Sharing*  
*Questions of the Week*



***Our Lady of the Assumption***

435 Berkeley Ave.  
Claremont, CA  
[www.olaclaremont.org](http://www.olaclaremont.org)

## Call to Prayer

*We begin by calling upon God:*

**In the Name of the Father,  
and of the Son, and of the  
Holy Spirit, Amen.**

*We then pause for a moment to listen with  
our hearts to this week's Gospel passage...*

**The Word of God:** *Matthew 3:13-17*

### ***The Gospel according to Matthew***

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."

### ***The Gospel of the Lord***



### **Gospel Glossary**

**Jordan:** the river that flows into the Dead Sea, mentioned numerous times in the Old Testament as the site of miracles and important events

**John:** also called John the Baptist, the son of Mary's cousin, Elizabeth

**Fitting:** suitable or appropriate

**Fulfill:** to complete something or to satisfy a requirement

## Faith Sharing

### **Questions of the Week**

- Do I believe that I am "beloved" by God and that he is "well pleased" with me? What difference does it make in my life?
- How am I living out the ministry that flows from my baptism?

## Closing Prayer

*Almighty and eternal God,*

*At his baptism, you revealed  
Jesus as your beloved. Keep us,  
your children born of water and the  
Spirit, true to your calling. We ask  
this through Jesus Christ, your Son,  
our Lord.*

*Amen.*

**The Baptism of the Lord**