

Prayers of the People - Epiphany 1-ABC (The Baptism of Christ)

As we celebrate the baptism of Christ, let us offer prayers to Jesus the Beloved Son, in whose name we have been baptized, saying: By your holy baptism, Lord, hear our prayer.

For the Church, especially for Michael our Presiding Bishop and Kevin our bishop, that our lives may be empowered by the Spirit to follow where God leads us. By your holy baptism, **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For this Parish Family, that we who are baptized may open our hearts to God's presence in surprising places. By your holy baptism, **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For a new dawning of peace and reconciliation, that those who strive for peace may not tire, and that God will open new pathways for all who are at odds to recognize the good in one another. By your holy baptism, **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all those who suffer from the cold, those who lack the physical and financial resources they need, and for all who are in need of a shepherd's care, remembering especially..... (pause) that they may hear God's affirmation that they are beloved. By your holy baptism, **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those who have died, remembering especially....., that they may receive the fulfillment of that blessed hope bestowed in baptism. By your holy baptism, **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Lifting our voices with all creation, with Mary the God-bearer, John the Baptist and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ. **To you, O Lord our God.**

Celebrant: **Gracious and loving God, you have anointed your people with the waters of Baptism and made us your beloved children. Hear our prayers and fill us with your Spirit that we may share the work of your Son, bringing blessing and light to all in the world, through Jesus Christ our Savior. AMEN.**

In places where there are no Baptisms, the following may be used to introduce the Renewal of Baptismal Vows on page 292:

Dear People of God, through our Baptism into the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we have been reborn into new life in him. I call upon you, therefore, as we celebrate his Baptism, to renew the solemn promises and vows by which we once renounced Satan and all his works and promised to serve God faithfully in his holy Catholic Church.