

Our Lady of Good Hope Roman Catholic Church

P. O. Box 159, 671 Water Ave., Hope, BC V0X 1L0
Parish phone number: 604-869-5382 Parish email: ologhope@telus.net
Parish website: ologhope.rcav.org

Father Gordon A. Cook, OMI
Email address: gacook96@gmail.com Cell phone number: 778-928-1641

Baptism of Jesus – January 13, 2019

Weekday Masses

Tuesday to Saturday 9:00 AM

Sunday Masses

Saturday – 4:30 PM (anticipated Mass)
Sunday –9:00 AM

Confessions

Weekdays Tuesday to Saturday – 8:30 AM to 8:45 AM
Saturday - 3:30 PM to 4:00 PM
Always available upon request.

Please pray for our sick and shut in parishioners.

May Our Lord sustain, comfort and heal them through their faith.

Don Appel, Dolores Hampton, Marilyn McKay, Galdino Berti, Yunha Kim, George Stock, Jerzy and Irena Klimczek, Theresa Witjes, Dolores Azevedo, David De Beer, Brian Lloyd, Jackie Belair

Last Sunday Offering

\$ 952 Envelopes Number of envelopes: 35 (46%)
\$ 59 Loose
\$1,473 Weekly Anticipated Expenses

Thank you for your generous support of your Parish.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY: JANUARY 18 – 25

This universal week of prayer encourages Catholics and Christians of all denominations to pray together that all may be one, as Christ desires (John 17:21).

Ordinary Time

On Monday, January 14, 2019 our Church begins Ordinary Time. The colour of the vestments and church will be green. During Ordinary Time, the Church celebrates the fullness of the mystery of the Lord Jesus. The people of God offer praise by celebrating the Paschal Mystery of the death and resurrection of Jesus.

On the first day of the week, the Lord's Day, God assembles the beloved people to hear the Word, to reflect upon it, to offer the living sacrifice of praise, and to eat and drink the banquet of the Lord. Then God sends them forth to proclaim this love by their words and actions.

Sunday is the original Catholic feast day, following the tradition handed down from the Apostolic times, for this was the day of the Lord's resurrection. Today's Catholic communities continue this tradition by celebrating every Sunday as the day of the Risen Lord.

Reflection on the Baptism of Jesus

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord and the close of the Christmas Season. We might ask ourselves, "Why did Jesus, the Sinless One, submit Himself to John's baptism of repentance?" Perhaps a story will help to answer this question.

When leprosy broke out among the people of the Hawaiian Islands in the middle of the 19th century, the authorities responded by establishing a leper colony on the remote island of Molokai. The leper victims were taken by force from their families and sent to this island to live there until they died.

However, moved by their terrible plight, a young Belgian missionary priest, Father Damien, asks to be allowed to minister to these lepers. Having receiving permission, Father Damien goes to Molokai. At first, he tries to minister to the lepers while maintaining a certain distance. But he soon realizes that he has to live among them in order to gain their trust. As a result Father Damien goes and lives among them, but unfortunately, he soon contracts leprosy himself.

The reaction of the lepers is immediate and wholehearted. They embrace him and take Father Damien to their hearts. He is now one of them. The lepers now have someone who can talk with authority about leprosy, about their brokenness, about their rejection, about their loneliness, and about their public shame. Unfortunately, Fr. Damien dies from his leprosy in 1889 at only 49 years of age after sixteen years of caring for the physical, spiritual, and emotional needs of those in the leper colony. Later he becomes known as Saint Damien of Molokai when he is canonized on October 11, 2009.

As we hear in today's Gospel, to show solidarity with the people that He has come to help, Jesus must live among the sinners. To do this, Jesus accepts St. John's baptism of repentance. Jesus, the Sinless One, is identifying Himself with sinners. When Jesus steps into the waters of the Jordan River, in essence He is saying to the people, "I am joining you in your brokenness, your rejection, your sinfulness and your public shame." Jesus doesn't stand apart or put Himself above the people, rather, He places Himself *among* them, as Father Damien does. He joins them where they are, so much so that He is accused of being a sinner, and is treated as a sinner Himself.

St. Katherine of Alexandria

Saint Katherine was a noble and learned young woman of high society in the ancient Roman. She was a Catholic. During the persecution of the Emperor Maxentius, when Catholics were given the choice of worshipping the emperor or being put to death, the governor of Alexandria came up with a plan to humiliate and discourage the Catholics.

He invited Katherine to debate a group of fifty pagan scholars about the merits of Catholicism. Katherine accepted. They gathered in the governor's palace and the discussion began. But the governor's plan backfired. Instead of Katherine being de-converted, the members of the panel were actually converted. They asked for *Baptism* immediately, so as to receive God's grace into their souls. But the governor was furious and condemned them all to immediate death.

At that, they turned to Katherine with concern, worried that without Baptism they would not reach heaven. But the saint explained, *that since they so sincerely desired to receive the Sacrament of Baptism, their own blood would take the place of water, and their own martyrdoms would take the place of Baptism.* These men were willing to give up everything else, only in order to receive grace and eternal life with Jesus Christ.

Distractions When Praying

St. Bernard of Clairvaux was once traveling with a farmer who noticed that the abbot kept his eyes cast downward. When the farmer asked why he wasn't looking at the beautiful countryside, Bernard explained that he wanted to avoid distractions while praying. In response the farmer boasted, "***I'm never distracted when I pray.***" Bernard objected, "I don't believe it. Now let me make a deal with you. If you can pray the *Our Father* without one distraction, I'll give you this mule I'm riding. But if you don't succeed, you must come with me and be a monk."

The farmer agreed and began praying aloud confidently, "*Our Father, who are in Heaven, hallowed be the name . . .*" then after pausing for moment, he asked Saint Bernard, "***Does that include the saddle and bridle, too?***" I think we can relate to having distractions when we pray.