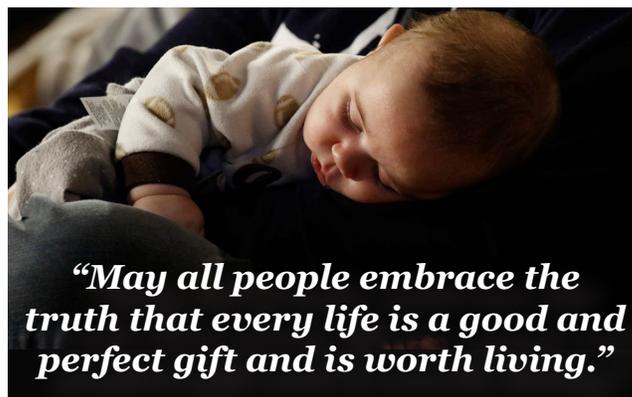




The Baptism of the Lord

The celebration of the Baptism of the Lord marks the end of the Christmas season.

“The origin and foundation of Christian Baptism is Jesus. Before starting his public ministry, Jesus submitted himself to the baptism given by John the Baptist. The waters did not purify him; he cleansed the waters. . . . Jesus did not need to be baptized because he was totally faithful to the will of his Father and free from sin. However, he wanted to show his solidarity with human beings in order to reconcile them to the Father. By commanding his disciples to baptize all nations, he established the means by which people would die to sin—Original and actual—and begin to live a new life with God.” (*United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*)



“May all people embrace the truth that every life is a good and perfect gift and is worth living.”

9 Days for Life

9 Days for Life is a “digital pilgrimage” of prayer and action focused on cherishing the gift of every person’s life. A multi-faceted novena highlighting a different intention each day provides reflections, bonus information, and suggested actions.

Join to receive the novena through the 9 Days for Life app, daily emails, or daily texts: <http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/january-roe-events/join-9-days-for-life.cfm>

Saint of the Week

St. Anthony Abbot
c. 251-356
Feast Day—January 17

Associated with the beginnings of monasticism, Anthony gave his inherited lands and wealth in Egypt to the poor. From the age of about 20 until his death at 105 years old, he lived as a hermit in remote hilltop and desert locations. What is known about him comes from a hagiography written by

St. Athanasius of Alexandria. Around the year 306, Anthony began to accept disciples, founding his first monastery as a collection of hermits’ cells. He cultivated a garden, wove rush mats, and fought many temptations and demons. Visitors sought his wise counsel, collected in the sayings of the “desert fathers,” and the bishops of Alexandria summoned him at age 87 to help refute Arianism. He is the patron of basket and brush makers, butchers, grave-diggers, and skin diseases.



“The Baptism of the Lord” is a short excerpt from the *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults* (Washington, DC: USCCB, 2006) 184.

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Image 1: *The Baptism of the Lord*, Antoine Coypel, LACMA

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