

January 11, 2004

By Father Charles Bowes

## *Baptism of the Lord*

*Our baptism makes us like Jesus with a mission to share the faith.*

There are some significant differences between the baptism of Jesus as it appears in Saint Mark's gospel and how it appears here in Saint Luke's account. The most important of these is how public and communal the event is here in Saint Luke's gospel. Whereas in Saint Mark, Jesus is baptized alone, here Jesus' baptism is seen as one among many. Jesus and the people are linked, connected. In fact, Jesus is seen as the last person baptized: "After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized," the text reads.

The reason for this is to show Jesus as the first Christian. Jesus is the example of what it means to live out a Christian life. Thus the Christians of that early Christian community who first heard this story are encouraged to follow their Master, to witness to the faith even to the point of martyrdom.

We witness to our faith day in and day out, at home, at work, in school, through our buying habits and how we spend our leisure time.

Today, at each of our Masses this weekend, we're privileged to hear a witness to the helpfulness of our parish retreat and a way of connecting with the Spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ. I'll ask Mrs. Klich, our Pastoral Associate, to introduce our speaker.

**Our baptism makes us like Jesus with a mission to share the faith.**