

## JANUARY FAMILY PRAYER THEME

**Created for Joy:** We are more than an accident of evolution. We are greater than the sum of our biology. God exists. He is good. He loves us. He made us in his image to share in his joy. He takes an active hand in our lives. He sent his only Son to restore our dignity and lead us home to him.

**January Focus; Sacrament of Baptism:** We were created to know, love and serve the Lord. In baptism, we are marked as a child of God. We are counted as one of his own.

Through baptism, each of us belongs to God. From the moment the waters hit our head, we belong to Christ, with His claim above all others. That claim of God becomes more and more important as we wander through the maze of life, with so many individuals and institutions trying to declare ownership over us. Our baptism can remind us that no one determines our worth in this world or in the next other than God. God Himself has made us His people who belong to His prophetic, kingly, priestly nature.

To the prisoner, it means you do not belong to the bars and chains around you.

To the addicted, it means you do not belong to that thing which you crave.

To the dying, it means you do not belong to this body or to that cancer.

To the patriot, it means, you do not belong to this nation..

To the debtor, it means you do not belong to any bank or credit card company.

To the empty and overworked, it means you do not belong to your company.

To the depressed, it means you do not belong to this sadness.

To the abused, it means you do not belong to the person or the memories that hurt you.

... *You belong to God*

And even though it might feel like, look like, smell like, hurt like you belong to all these other things, as sure as water is wet and God is good, I heard a voice out of the heavens say it: You belong to God.

**God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; ... he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him (Acts 10:38).**

Like Jesus, we are anointed in baptism with the Holy Spirit and with power so that we can go about doing good and healing all who are oppressed by the devil. Our anointing is not a decoration or a reward, it is a commission. In baptism we are commissioned to be members of Christ, that is, Christ's arms, feet, ears and mouth. We become other Christs. That is a daunting task. But God empowers us with His Holy Spirit as we go about our Christian duties. God himself is with us as He was with Jesus, so we need not fear the enormity of the challenge before us, for with God all things are possible.

### Prayer of the month:

On the day of our baptism

We were washed clean of all our sins

Through our baptism, we belong to you, O Lord.

May our thoughts and actions

always reflect your glory. Amen

### Suggested Scripture Readings:

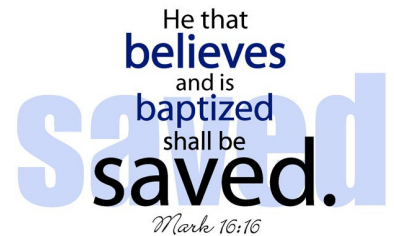
#### Reflecting on Baptism

January 4: Matthew 3: 1-12

January 11: John 3:1-6

January 18: Romans 6: 1-5

January 25: Galatians 3: 23-29



### Suggested Devotion: Rosary: Luminous Mysteries

Start with 1 decade - add more as time allows