

Prayers of the People – Epiphany 1C – The Baptism of Christ

Intercessor 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, hear us, we pray.*

For the Church, especially for Sean our Presiding Bishop, Kevin our bishop, and Audrey, bishop of Central Pennsylvania, that in this New Year we may be a Light to those who are searching for direction and a sign of hope for those searching to begin again. By your holy baptism, *hear us, we pray.*

For a new dawning of peace and reconciliation, that those who strive for peace may not tire and that God will open new opportunities for opponents to recognize the good in one another. By your holy baptism, *hear us, we pray.*

For the members of Congress, that God will empower them with wisdom, courage and foresight that they may faithfully serve in their charge to promote the well-being of all people. By your holy baptism, *hear us, we pray.*

For those lacking food or heat, those who work with refugees and those fleeing violence, and for all who are in need of our prayers..... that in Christ the Beloved they may find new hope and peace. By your holy baptism, *hear us, we pray.*

For those who have died, remembering especially....., that having been reborn in baptism, they may rejoice in the radiance of God's glory. By your holy baptism, *hear us we pray.*

Lifting our voices with all creation, with Mary the God-bearer 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.