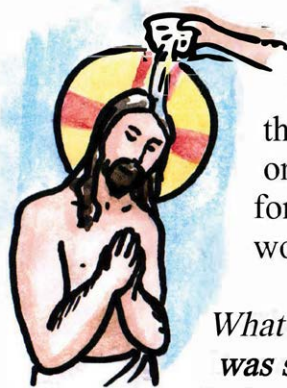


The Kids' Catholic Virginian

“Let the little children come to me” – Matthew 19:14

Jesus begins his mission



January 12, we celebrate the baptism of Jesus. After living with his mother for thirty years and working as an ordinary carpenter, it was time for Jesus to start his special work.

What was Jesus' special work? It was showing people the way to God and taking away their sins!

When you were baptized, God was getting you ready for a special job, too. He was giving you grace so that you could grow closer to him and bring other people closer to him, too.

How can you help bring others closer to God?

thekidsbulletin@gmail.com



SAINT SUPERHERO

St. Paul the First Hermit (also St. Paul of Thebes)

•Feast: January 15

•Patron: children, hermits, and those who like being alone to think about God

SAINT PAUL THE HERMIT WAS BORN IN THE 200'S IN EGYPT. HIS PARENTS DIED WHEN HE WAS YOUNG. WHEN A PERSECUTION BEGAN, HE HID IN A NEIGHBOUR'S HOUSE.



BUT HE WAS AFRAID THAT HE WOULD BE FOUND, SO HE RAN AWAY TO THE DESERT.



SAINT PAUL DIDN'T GROW UP THINKING THAT HE WOULD BECOME A HERMIT. BUT WHEN HE REALIZED THAT HE COULD BEST SERVE GOD BY LIVING BY HIMSELF AND PRAYING FOR PEOPLE THAT'S WHAT HE DID. YOU CAN PRAY THAT GOD WILL SHOW YOU HOW YOU WILL BE ABLE TO SERVE HIM BEST!

THERE HE HID IN A CAVE, INTENDING TO RETURN HOME WHEN THE PERSECUTION WAS OVER.

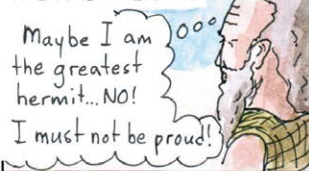


HOWEVER, HE LOVED THE QUIET SO MUCH THAT HE DECIDED TO STAY IN THE DESERT!

SAINT PAUL GOT WATER FROM A SPRING AND FOOD AND FROM A TREE NEARBY.



HE PRAYED AND LIVED A HOLY LIFE IN THE DESERT, BUT WAS TEMPTED TO THINK THAT HE WAS GREAT BECAUSE HE WAS THE FIRST HERMIT.



HOWEVER, HE SOON MET SAINT ANTHONY OF THE DESERT, WHOM HE REALIZED WAS HOLIER THAN HIMSELF. PAUL LIVED UNTIL HE WAS 113 YEARS OLD!

Ask the Bishop



Q. What was your favorite toy as a kid? - Zelda, 7 Blessed Sacrament, Harrisonburg

A. I had lots of favorite toys as a kid. But as I think about it, the one that gave me the most enjoyment over the longest period of time was not exactly a toy – it was my bicycle! I first learned how to ride and balance myself on two wheels sometime around the first grade, but don't remember getting my own bike until a few years later.

Q. What's your favorite movie?

- Gerardo Alfonso Amaya Rivera, 5th grade, Blessed Sacrament, Harrisonburg

A. This is a hard question to answer. I've enjoyed many movies over the years. My favorite genres of movies are science fiction, like "Star Wars," and fantasy movies, like "The Lord of the Rings."

Q. What is your favorite book other than the Bible?

- Alexander, 5, Blessed Sacrament, Harrisonburg

A. In elementary school, I didn't like reading. I remember my parents and teachers constantly trying to get me to read books to improve my reading skills and comprehension. But I did enjoy comic books and artistic drawing. As I grew older, I learned to appreciate reading many fiction and non-fiction books. In recent years, I've enjoyed reading biographies of people like the famous architect, Frank Lloyd Wright, and history books about events in the U.S. and significant eras in the Catholic Church.

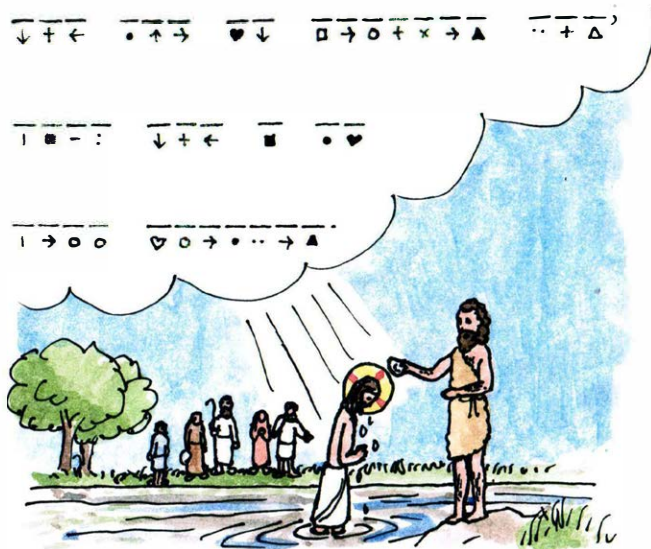
Q. Are we allowed to make up new Advent songs?

- Beatrice Anne Pasquarell, 7, Holy Spirit, Christiansburg

A. Sure! God made us with the capacity to be creative, in cooperation with the Holy Spirit, who is the creative power of God. God invites us to use our creativity to offer prayer, praise, adoration, worship, and petitions to him. Just one suggestion for someone writing a new Advent or Christmas song: ask someone who knows the teachings of the Church – like a priest or catechist – to review the verses and make sure they accurately express our beliefs.

The Baptism of the Lord

January 12, 2025



Luke 3.15-16, 21-22

After Jesus was baptized, a voice came from the clouds and said something to Jesus. What did it say? Use the code to find out!

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A B D E H I L M N O P R S T U V W Y

Kids 12 and younger: make sure to check with your parent/guardian, then email Bishop Knestout YOUR question. AskTheBishop@catholicvirginian.org Include your full name, age, and home parish.