

Baptism of the Lord – Sunday January 11, 2026

This weekend we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord ending our Christmas season and marking the beginning of Jesus' public ministry and Ordinary Time for us.

In the Gospel we hear, Jesus comes to the Jordan to be baptized by John. At first, John resists given who Jesus is and he humbles himself before Him. But Jesus insists on receiving John's baptism of repentance, not for Himself – but for us, for the salvation of the world. And then when Jesus comes up from the water, the heavens open, the Spirit we hear “descends like a dove”, and the Father's voice proclaims His pleasure and love for Jesus. So much happening in such a short scene – John recognizing the Lord, Jesus being baptized, the Proclamation of God. Despite all of this, we are called through this Gospel to deeply profound and personal reflection: so I ask you to consider what part of this Gospel strikes you most?

- Is it John's humility, recognizing his need for Jesus?
- Is it Jesus' willingness to be baptized, even though He is without sin?
- Or is it the descent of the Holy Spirit and the Father's voice, publicly affirming who Jesus truly is?

Each of these moments reveals something profound about God and about our own faith.

John's humility reminds us that faith begins when we recognize we are not in control. John could have claimed authority – none of the people in this crowd would have thought twice had he baptized Jesus. People were coming to him in great numbers. He had influence, but when Jesus appears, John steps back. He knows his place. That kind of humility is not weakness—it really is a great strength.

It's a great freedom to be able to say, “Lord, I need You more than You need me.” Our own baptism calls us to that same humility – to acknowledge daily our need for God's grace. Then we have Jesus Himself. He doesn't need baptism, he has no sin to repent of and yet He enters the waters with the others who do need the baptism of repentance. Because the same Incarnate Son who entered into the human life in all aspects, good and bad - chooses to stand with us. And in doing so, He sanctifies the waters of baptism by His presence.

Jesus shows us that no one is above obedience to the Father's will. If even the Son of God submits to God's plan, how much more are we called to trust and surrender?

Our baptism isn't just a ritual—it is an invitation to follow Jesus in obedience, even when we don't fully understand where it will lead. Then the Spirit descends, and the Father speaks – a moment of revelation. The Trinity is present: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God publicly declares His love and delight in His Son. *"This is my beloved Son."* These aren't just words spoken to Jesus, they echo into our own lives too. Through our baptism, we become sons and daughters of God and we too are claimed, named, and loved. We may not hear a voice from heaven, but the truth remains the same: **You are God's beloved.**

In the second reading, St. Peter proclaims that God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit and power, and that Jesus went about doing good, healing, and setting people free. His baptism launched His mission. The Spirit doesn't descend simply to comfort Jesus—it empowers Him to serve. The same is true for us – as our baptism isn't just about belonging; it is about being sent. We are anointed to live differently. We are called to bring Christ into the world through our words, our choices, our compassion, and our courage. Baptism gives us a mission: to do good, to stand for justice, to heal what's broken, and to witness to God's love.

So friends, I ask you today, recall your own baptism – find the date and put it on your calendar. Mine is April 19. Maybe you were an infant and don't recall it or maybe like me, you were baptized later in life. But whether you remember it or not, it changed you. You were marked as Christ's own forever. You were given the Spirit. You were welcomed into God's family and you are still a part of that family – an important member!

Ask yourself:

- Do I live as someone who knows I am loved by God?
- Do I walk with humility like John?
- Do I strive to follow God's will like Jesus?
- Do I allow the Spirit to guide my daily choices?

The Baptism of the Lord reminds us not only who Jesus is—but who **we** are. Beloved children of God, called, claimed, and sent into the world to reflect His light. May we live our baptism each day with faith, courage, and joy.