

## Homily Summary – Baptism of the Lord (2026)

**Short Overview:** The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord brings the Christmas season to a close and invites us to reflect not only on Jesus' baptism in the Jordan, but on the profound meaning of our own baptism. Jesus enters the waters not because He needs repentance, but to sanctify the waters, reveal His identity as the beloved Son, and draw us into His own relationship with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Baptism is revealed as a life-changing Sacrament that makes us children of God, members of Christ's Body, and living dwelling places of God's presence.

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### Main Points

#### 1. Jesus Is Baptized for Us

- Jesus has no sin and needs no repentance. He is baptized to make the waters holy, to give us an example, and to reveal that in Him we too are beloved sons and daughters of the Father.
- Through baptism, we share in Jesus' relationship with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

#### 2. Scripture Clearly Teaches the Power of Baptism

- Jesus teaches that baptism is necessary to enter the Kingdom.  
The early Church understood "being born of water and Spirit" as baptism.
- Jesus commands that all nations be baptized.
- Through baptism, we become living tabernacles where God dwells within us.

#### 3. The Effects of Baptism (see the Catechism of the Catholic Church)

- All sin is wiped away, including original and personal sin.
- We become adopted children of God and members of the Church.
- We receive a permanent spiritual seal that can never be erased.

#### 4. Why Baptism Changes Everything

- Baptism makes us a new creation in Christ.  
It plants God's divine life within us like a seed meant to grow.

#### 5. How We Should Respond

- We should desire baptism for all, including infants, as baptism replaces circumcision.
- We should strive to live intentionally as baptized people.
- We should return often to the Sacrament of Reconciliation, which renews the grace of baptism and strengthens us against sin.

#### 6. Beautiful Details of the Sacrament

- The oil of catechumens strengthens the baptized.
- Sacred Chrism consecrates the person to God, just as churches and altars are consecrated.
- Baptism can be administered by anyone in danger of death with the proper intention and formula.

#### 7. Living Our Baptism Daily

- Some remember their baptism; others were baptized as infants; many are preparing for baptism at Easter.
- Mary is our model of living baptism well—receiving God's life fully and saying "yes" each day.
- God speaks the same words to us that He spoke to Jesus: "*You are my beloved.*"

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### Key Bible Verses

- **Matthew 3:13–17** – The Baptism of Jesus
- **John 3:5** – "Born of water and Spirit"
- **Matthew 28:19** – The Great Commission to baptize
- **1 Corinthians 6:19** – "Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit"

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### Catechism of the Catholic Church

- **CCC 1263** – Forgiveness of all sin through baptism
  - **CCC 1265–1267** – Adoption as children of God and incorporation into the Church
  - **CCC 1272** – The indelible spiritual seal of baptism
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## Reflection Questions

1. How often do I remember and live from the grace of my baptism?
2. In what ways am I allowing the "seed" of God's divine life within me to grow?
3. Do my daily choices reflect that I am a beloved child of God?
4. How frequently do I return to the Sacrament of Reconciliation to renew my baptismal grace?
5. What might God be calling me to do now in light of my baptism?

**Rhyme summary:** Today we see Christ in Jordan's stream - Heaven opens wide, and we see God the Father's love supreme. The Spirit descends like a gentle dove, and God wants us all to share in baptism as His children, in His love. Baptized for us, Jesus makes the waters new, and He brings us to share what the Trinity do. Loved, washed of sin, sealed, reborn, reconciled, this is when we hear God say: "You're My beloved child."

## Some Scriptural reasons to come to Mass each weekend

**Exodus 20:8** - "Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy."

**Acts 2:42** - "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

**Hebrews 10:24-25** - "And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

**Luke 22:19** - "Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'"

**John 6:53-54** - "So Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day.'"

**Matthew 18:20** - "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

**Psalms 122:1** - "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'"

**Colossians 3:16** - "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God."

## Additional resources to learn more about God and the Catholic faith

- Check out the resource list available on [www.frmerkley.com](http://www.frmerkley.com)
- Catholic Answers: <https://www.catholic.com/>
- Word on Fire: <https://www.wordonfire.org/>
- Formed: <https://formed.org/>
- The Coming Home Network: <https://chnetwork.org/>
- Catholic Exchange: <https://catholicexchange.com/>
- Dynamic Catholic: <https://dynamiccatholic.com/>
- The Augustine Institute: <https://augustineinstitute.org/>
- Ascension Press: <https://ascensionpress.com/>
- EWTN: <https://www.ewtn.com/>
- The Catholic Company: <https://www.catholiccompany.com/>
- Busted Halo: <https://bustedhalo.com/>
- CatholicCulture.org: <https://www.catholicculture.org/>
- The Thomistic Institute: <https://thomisticinstitute.org/>
- Ignatius Press: <https://www.ignatius.com/>
- Catholic Education Resource Center (CERC): <https://www.catholiceducation.org/>