

Happy Baptism of the Lord! 1/12/2020

We celebrate the baptism of Jesus. We want to remember our own baptism and give thanks to God who gave us birth through water and the Holy Spirit and has made us a 'royal priesthood, a holy nation, chosen race, a people for his own glory. This celebration ends the Christmas season and ushers us into the ordinary time. It is so important that we celebrate the baptism of the Lord to remember the start to our journeys of faith, just as baptism marks the beginning of the Christian journey; a start to a life of grace.

Jesus was baptized not because he had any sins like us; He was holy from conception; he had no original or personal sins. He is the Holy one of God. So why was he baptized in river Jordan? The Gospel says that when Jesus came to the river to be baptized John resisted saying 'no you should be the one to baptize me' and Jesus says that it needed to be so to fulfil all righteousness. Jesus was baptized to show us what his ministry was about-to take away the sins of the world. St. Paul calls Jesus the new Adam. Jesus as the new Adam descends into the waters of baptism with the whole of humanity to call us to repentance and to take away the sins of the world.

When we are baptized, we are immersed into the mystery of God. The words which the priest uses goes like "Delilah, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" We are baptized into the Holy Trinity, it's a new birth which enables us to call God as our Daddy. One of the several things which happens to us at baptism is the sealing of our souls with an indelible mark which remains eternally on our souls. God puts that seal on us to mark us for his kingdom; we belong to him forever. Baptism makes us children of God and members of Christ's mystical body. During baptism we make a promise to reject Satan and all his deceptions. We choose to believe in God, to love him and to live for him by loving our neighbor as ourselves.

Today as we renew our baptismal promises, we shall affirm our belief and love for God our Savior. Let us think carefully of those words. Baptism makes us a new creation so let us make the effort to strive for that. It's a call to constant renewal. The purpose is to become sons and daughters of God who are pleasing to him.