

ST IGNATIUS & ST LUKE'S



12 January 2020

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Angelus talk by Pope Benedict XVI

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today, the Christmas Season concludes with the celebration of the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. The Liturgy offers us, in St Luke's account, the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan (see 3:15-16, 21-22).

The Evangelist narrates that, while Jesus was in prayer, after having received Baptism among the many who were drawn by the preaching of the Precursor, the heavens opened and under the form of a dove the Holy Spirit descended upon him. In that moment a voice from on high resounded: "You are my beloved Son. On you my favor rests" (Luke 3:22).

The Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan is recalled and emphasized, although in different ways, by all the Evangelists. In fact, it is part of the Apostolic preaching, since it constitutes the point of departure for the entire arch of facts and words to which the Apostles were to render testimony (see Acts 1:21-22; 10:37-41).

It was held in great importance by the apostolic community, not only because in that circumstance, for the first time in history, there was the manifestation of the Trinitarian Mystery in a clear and complete way, but also because that event began the public ministry of Jesus on the roads to Palestine.

The Baptism of Jesus at the Jordan is the anticipation of his baptism of blood on the Cross, and it is the symbol of the entire sacramental activity by which the Redeemer will bring about the salvation of humanity.

This is why the Patristic tradition has dedicated great interest to this Feast, which is the most ancient after Easter. "Christ is baptized and the whole world is made holy", sings today's liturgy; "he wipes out the debt of our sins; we will all be purified by water and the Holy Spirit" (Antiphon to the *Benedictus*, Office of Lauds).

There is a strict relationship between the Baptism of Christ and our Baptism. At the Jordan the heavens opened (see Luke 3:21) to indicate that the Savior has opened the way of salvation and we can travel it thanks to our own new birth "of water and Spirit" (John 3:5), accomplished in Baptism.

In it we are inserted into the Mystical Body of Christ, that is, the Church, we die and rise with him, we are clothed with him, as the Apostle Paul often emphasized (see I Corinthians 12:13; Romans 6:3-5; Galatians 3:27). The commitment that springs from Baptism is therefore "to listen" to Jesus: to believe in him and gently follow him, doing his will.

In this way everyone can tend to holiness, a goal that, as the Second Vatican Council recalled, constitutes the vocation of all the baptized. May Mary, the Mother of the beloved Son of God, help us to be faithful to our Baptism always.

St Peter's Square, Sunday, 7 January 2007

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. (Mark 1:9)

"The real novelty [here] is the fact that he—Jesus—wants to be baptized, that he blends into the gray mass of sinners waiting on the banks of the Jordan...The act of descending into the waters of this Baptism implies a confession of guilt and a plea for forgiveness in order to make a new beginning. In a world marked by sin, then, this Yes to the entire will of God also expresses solidarity with men, who have incurred guilt but yearn for righteousness....

"Jesus loaded the burden of all mankind's guilt upon his shoulders; he bore it down into the depths of the Jordan. He inaugurated his public activity by stepping into the place of sinners. His inaugural gesture is an anticipation of the Cross. He is, as it were, the true Jonah who said to the crew of the ship, 'Take me and throw me into the sea' (Jonah 1:12). The whole significance of Jesus' Baptism, the fact that he bears 'all righteousness,' first comes to light on the Cross: The Baptism is an acceptance of death for the sins of humanity, and the voice that calls our 'This is my beloved Son' over the baptismal waters is an anticipatory reference to the Resurrection. This also explains why, in his own discourses, Jesus uses the word *baptism* to refer to his death (cf. Mark 10:38; Luke 12:50).

"Only from this starting point can we understand Christian Baptism. Jesus' Baptism anticipated his death on the Cross, and the heavenly voice proclaimed an anticipation of the Resurrection. These anticipations have now become reality. John's baptism with water has received its full meaning through the Baptism of Jesus' own life and death. To accept the invitation to be baptized now means to go to the place of Jesus' Baptism. It is to go where he identifies himself with us and to receive there our identification with him. The point where he anticipates death has now become the point where we anticipate rising again with him."

—Pope Benedict XVI, *Jesus of Nazareth, Volume I*, [2007], pgs. 16-18

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

All who are suffering or sick and all caregivers who minister to the sick: Wesley Jackson, Sister Constance Ward, George Cochran, Mark Anthony Turner, Rachel Fisher, Joyce Doyle, Patricia Ransom, David Hoppe, Jacqueline Chancio, Victoria P.; C. M., C.A., E.D., E.G., W.B., J.M., and J.G.

Please call or email the office to add a name to the prayer list. Before calling, please be sure you have spoken to the person [or a member of his family] about adding the name—we do not want to inadvertently disregard someone's desire for privacy.

Names of those who are sick or suffering will be kept on the list for one month; to keep a name on the list for longer, you must email the parish office.

MASS READINGS THIS WEEK

12 January *The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord*

Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7; Psalm 29: 1-4, 9-10;

Acts 10: 34-38; Matthew 3: 13-17

13 January *Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church*

1 Samuel 1: 1-8; Psalm 116: 12-19; Mark 1: 14-20

14 January *Feria*

1 Samuel 1: 9-20; 1 Samuel 2: 1, 4-8; Mark 1: 21-28

15 January *Feria*

1 Samuel 3: 1-10, 19-20; Psalm 40: 2, 5, 7-10; Mark 1: 21-28

16 January *Feria*

1 Samuel 4: 1-11; Psalm 44: 10-11, 14-15, 24-25; Mark 1: 40-45

17 January *Anthony, Abbot*

1 Samuel 8: 4-7, 10-22a; Psalm 89: 116-19; Mark 2: 1-12

18 January *Feria*

1 Samuel 9: 1-4, 17-19; 10: 1a; Psalm 21: 2-7; Mark 2: 13-17

19 January *Second Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Isaiah 49: 3, 5-6; Psalm 40: 2, 4, 7-10;

1 Corinthians 1: 1-3; John 1: 29-34

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, 11 January

Anticipated Mass for Sunday

4:30 pm Patricia Ransom [Joe and Jackie Chancio]

Sunday, 12 January

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

8 am Pro populo

9:30 am Maureen Elia [Jane Slattery]

11 am Antonio Figueroa [Mark Arbeen]

Monday, 13 January

Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

9 am *no public mass*

Tuesday, 14 January

Feria

9 am Jimmy and Carol Rinaldo and family [Joseph Conklin and Dagny Rughin]

Wednesday, 15 January

Feria

9 am Sister Mary Matthew + [Jane Slattery]

Thursday, 16 January

Feria

9 am Alejandro Bravo Jr. + [Diana Gritz]

Friday, 17 January

Anthony, Abbot

9 am Mary Anne Smith [Edwin Smith]

Saturday, 18 January

Anticipated Mass for Sunday

4:30 pm Gregory Shields [Joe and Jackie Chancio]

Sunday, 19 January

The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

8 am Laura Esther Johnson + [Ladies of Charity]

9:30 am Regina Ryan [Jane Slattery]

11 am Pro populo

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