

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD—Year B—M12-D10-Y2021

01. Today we celebrate the Baptism of Our Lord which officially brings an end to the Christmas Season. During this Holy Season, we have been celebrating **the coming of God's Son among us and His manifestation to the world** — but the Baptism of Our Lord is the celebration of another manifestation to the world—**the manifestation NOT ONLY of God's Son, but of the Blessed Trinity.**
02. Because AS THE SON is baptized in the waters of the Jordan, **the Voice of the Father is heard, and the Presence of the Holy Spirit is seen** — and so the revelation of God's Son in that moment as **the Anointed One, the Chosen One**, is also a **manifestation of the Most Holy Trinity.**
03. And so, the Baptism of Jesus reveals to us NOT ONLY that Jesus is God's chosen Messiah—but that **the very nature of God is relational—that God's very own nature, God's very own Being is Persons in loving relationship with each other.**
04. And that **God, from all eternity, is a Family**—that He was never alone, but was ALWAYS a Family—a **Family of three Divine Persons in loving relationship**—in an ETERNAL EXCHANGE of infinite love — the Father begetting the Son and giving Himself completely to Him — **the Son coming from the Father and giving Himself completely to Him in return** — and the Holy Spirit coming from BOTH the Father AND the Son—**the Spirit being the result, the personification, or rather, the very Person of this infinite love between the Father and the Son.**
05. And the Baptism of Jesus ALSO shows us that **God's greatest desire from all eternity was to extend His OWN Divine Family, and to make each of us a member of His Family** — which is why each of us was created, and WHY EACH OF US IS HERE — **to be**

members of God's eternal Family in Heaven—to be part of that ETERNAL EXCHANGE OF INFINITE LOVE between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

06. In other words, God didn't create us because He was lonely or bored — He didn't create us for His own amusement or entertainment — because from all eternity, God was a **perfectly happy and self-sufficient Family within Himself—not needing anything or anyone else to complete THAT FAMILY or to complete His happiness** — but, being LOVE ITSELF, God created us **because He had so much love WITHIN Himself**, that He wanted to share that love OUTSIDE HIMSELF — and so He created us in His own image, and His own likeness, **to be like Him, and to be part of His very own Family — to share His own Divine Nature, His own Divine Life, and His own Divine Love with each of us.**
07. And it's because God is infinite, and because God is love— **that God's very own love is ALSO infinite and limitless — so infinite, so limitless, and so abundant, that this love could not be contained in the Blessed Trinity alone**—but spills outside the Trinity, creating NEW LIFE, AND NEW MEMBERS to be part of God's own Divine Family.
08. And this is the **primary purpose of our OWN Baptism** — in other words, our OWN Baptism is the very first step in becoming part of God's eternal Family in Heaven. And so, **OUR Baptism is our invitation, our incorporation into this eternal exchange of LIMITLESS LOVE between the three Persons of the Trinity.**
09. For we are all created by God **to be loved, and to love in return — there is simply no higher purpose or calling in this life—to love and to be loved.** And all God desires FROM us, and all God desires FOR us—is **to receive all the love He has to give which is infinite just as He IS INFINITE**—to become part of that

eternal exchange of limitless love between the Three Persons of the Trinity.

10. This is one of the main reasons why we are baptized in each of their names, **the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit** — for the Trinity’s very own life and love, **their love for each other, and their love for us, is infused within us at Baptism. PAUSE**
11. One of the best descriptions I’ve ever heard about **the dynamic between the Persons of the Trinity, this exchange of infinite love, comes from one of my all-time favourite superhero films: Superman the Movie** starring Christopher Reeve.
12. As Jor-El, Superman’s father, is about to send his son to earth, he speaks these words to him: *“You will travel far my little Kal-El, but we will never leave you, even in the face of our deaths. The richness of our lives will be yours. All that I have, all that I’ve learned, everything that I feel, all this and more I bequeath you my son.*
13. *You will carry me inside you, all the days of your life. You will make my strength your own, see my life through your eyes, as your life will be seen through mine. Thus, the son becomes the father, and the father, the son. This is all I can give you, Kal-El.*
14. In this beautifully written monologue, we see that Superman’s father gives his son, Kal-El, everything that he has to give—**everything that he is and everything that he has—to the point that he and his son become one.**
15. It’s somewhat like this with the Trinity—the Father gives Himself **COMPLETELY** to the Son—**everything that He is, and everything that He has**—to the point that they are **SO ONE**—that to see the Son is to **ALSO** see the Father.
16. And, in a similar way, at our Baptism **the Father gives Himself COMPLETELY to us**— everything that He is, and everything that He has — **His OWN DIVINE LIFE** — **His very own Son, and His very**

own Spirit—to point that we are forever changed and become like Him, sharing in His Divine Nature.

17. But our Baptism is not MEANT to be JUST A onetime event—something that happened many years ago, that we don't remember, and that we never have to really ever think about again — because **even though Baptism is about being changed into something better—this change is ON-GOING—and we are constantly invited by God to continue on this path of change which began with our own Baptism.**
18. In other words, GOD IS PURE, UNSELFISH LOVE—and to be truly a member of God's own Divine Family—and to be part of **this infinite exchange of love between the Persons of the Trinity, we have to become like God** — that is we have to become PURE, UNSELFISH LOVE OURSELVES—which often takes more than a lifetime to achieve.
19. For this reason, it's very fitting that we celebrate the Baptism of Our Lord at the beginning of a new year **because Baptism itself is about a new beginning** — a new opportunity for change — an opportunity **to change for the better, and to become love itself.**
20. So, as we begin this New Year, and as we reflect on the meaning of this great Feast—we are invited to consider the on-going call of our **OWN Baptism—and whether we are truly responding to God's invitation to become part of His own divine Family—to become part of that exchange of infinite love between the Persons of the Trinity.**
21. Because no matter how good things are for us—God wants EVEN more for us — **and one of the very best ways to receive all that He has to give us, and all that He has to offer us, is to continue on this path of change for the better** — to cooperate with this on-going invitation for change which we received at our

Baptism — to continue becoming the change GOD wants to see in the world and in the Church.

22. And so, as we begin a New Year, let us not ONLY consider the state of our bodies and how to improve them — but let us consider the state of our souls as well—**and the improvements we need to make to get our souls into the best shape possible.**
23. And let us keep these things in mind as we do so — **that TRUE AND LASTING change is about progress, NOT PERFECTION — about realistic goals, NOT LOFTY ONES — about challenging ourselves, NOT OVERBURDENING OURSELVES.**
24. And let this be one of our New Year's resolutions—**to be true to the call of our OWN Baptism—and to continue responding to God's gracious invitation to become love itself just as He is love itself. AMEN.**