

# BREAKING OPEN THE WORD



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January 12, 2014

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Lectionary: 21

Gospel [mt 3:13-17](#)

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. John tried to prevent him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?" Jesus said to him in reply, "Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed him. After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened for him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

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## Spiritual Reflection:

When we see or hear of a dove in Catholic settings we often think about the Holy Spirit. Early readers of the Gospel though from a Jewish heritage would have thought of a sacrifice for sins because poor people would offer two doves as a sin offering. Jesus is our offering for sin. When we screw up, He forgives us and pays the price for our sins. May we imitate His example.

## Spiritual Questions:

1. How can we make amends for our sins?
2. Why was Jesus baptized if He had not sinned?
3. How can we honor Jesus' sacrifice for us?
4. How can we help others overcome sin?
5. What does it mean to you that we are sons and daughters in God through our Baptism?