

Homily > The Baptism of the Lord (01/11/2026)

Today we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, the event that marks the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. It is also one of the most beautiful moments in the Gospel because, for the first time, the mystery of the Holy Trinity is revealed clearly: the Son stands in the Jordan, the Spirit descends like a dove, and the Father's voice proclaims, *"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."*

Jesus did not need baptism for repentance. Yet He steps into the waters to stand with sinners, to identify Himself fully with us. This moment becomes a turning point in His life. His hidden years end, and His saving mission begins.

The opening of the heavens tells us that God is no longer distant. God is intervening in human history. The Father reveals who Jesus truly is: not a political liberator or a powerful ruler, but the Suffering Servant spoken of by Isaiah - gentle, humble, and obedient, even to the Cross. The Holy Spirit equips Jesus, not with force or anger, but with compassion, healing, and mercy.

But this feast is not only about Jesus. It is also about us.

When we were baptized, the same thing happened spiritually. The heavens were opened over us. We became sons and daughters of God, brothers and sisters of Jesus, members of the Church, heirs of the heaven and temples of the Holy Spirit. God said to each of us, *"You are my beloved child."*

This is our identity - not our job, not our success, not our failures - but that we belong to God.

And like Jesus, baptism also gives us a mission. We are called to live as God's children:

- by respecting our own dignity and the dignity of others,
- by living holy and transparent lives,
- by rejecting sin, injustice, hatred, and impurity,
- by accepting both joys and struggles as gifts that help us grow closer to God.

Finally, today invites us to renew our baptismal promises - to reject sin and to live for Christ - and to preach the Gospel, not only with words, but with lives marked by love, forgiveness, mercy, and service.

As we continue this Mass, let us thank God for the gift of our baptism and ask for the grace to live each day as truly baptized and beloved children of God.