

FOR THE WEEKEND OF JAN. 10-11, 2026

The Baptism of Our Lord

Gospel Reading

Mt 3:13-17

Then 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."

Intercession

May our love of the Lord and belief in his mercy help us turn away from sin and turn toward our life's mission. And may we help others know the Father's redeeming love through our support for the Catholic Ministry Appeal.

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John, knowing Jesus' true identity, is hesitant to baptize his cousin. In fact, he tries to prevent it, questioning, "I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?" John doesn't understand Jesus' request, but he does it anyway. Why? Because Jesus asks it of him.

What a great example of trusting in the Lord's plan for us. Many times, God's ways are a mystery to us. We may not always understand God's plan for us, but that doesn't mean there isn't one. There is. And it's a plan that was formed for us before we were even born: "For I know well the plans I have in mind for you...plans for your welfare and not for woe, so as to give you a future of hope" (Jeremiah 29:11).

When we give ourselves over to God and trust that his will is best, he will give us the strength to meet the challenges that living our mission brings. And when we support faith-sustaining initiatives like the Catholic Ministry Appeal, we become this strength for others, helping them live their God-given mission as well.

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We meet the Holy Trinity in this Sunday's Gospel. Though without sin, Jesus, the Son, descends into the water to be washed clean. In doing so, he leads by example. And he will repeat this act of repentance at the end of his earthly ministry when he dies on the cross.

After Christ emerges from the waters, the heavens open and the "Spirit of God" descends like a dove. The Holy Spirit is present at Jesus' baptism, and it will accompany Christ throughout his life, helping him to remain steadfast in his love of the Father and to abide in the Father's plan for him.

At the end of the Gospel reading, God the Father declares, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." This marks the beginning of Jesus' ministry. He is the Messiah, the promised one the Father has sent. In submitting to John to be baptized, he sets an example of humility that will be central to his ministry. He becomes the servant-leader, trading power for service. Moreover, he demonstrates that service is a different kind of power, one rooted in love.

When we support initiatives like the Catholic Ministry Appeal, we bring Christ's love to those who need it most. Thank you for prayerfully considering giving to the Catholic Ministry Appeal.

Social Media Post/Content

Photo: Image of a dove flying, ideally through parted clouds

Header: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." – Matthew 3:17

Copy: May we seek to please our Heavenly Father in our words and deeds. Through our support of such initiatives as the Catholic Ministry Appeal, we can be Christ for others and build God's kingdom here on Earth.