

1st Reading: Is 60:1-6
Responsorial: Ps: 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13
2nd Reading: Eph 3:2-3, 5-6
Gospel: Lk 3:15-16, 21-22:

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Prior to this particular reading, we find in Luke 3, John the Baptist preaching repentance for the forgiveness of sins. John's ritual of baptism had to do with repentance—it was a symbolic representation of changing one's mind and going a new direction. Being baptized by John demonstrated a recognition of one's sin, a desire for spiritual cleansing, and a commitment to follow God's law in anticipation of the Messiah's arrival. If the baptism performed by John the Baptist was meant as a sign of repentance of sin and conversion to a new way of life, it's reasonable to ask: *Why did Jesus, as the sinless Son of God, receive baptism?* Each of the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) includes the Baptism of Jesus marking the inauguration of His public ministry. This mark of divine blessing is accompanied by the voice of the Father in heaven who proclaims, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased" (Mt 3:17). This mysterious utterance reveals Jesus as the Son of God, the One sent from the Father to accomplish the salvation of the human race. In this dramatic scene we already grasp the identity and function of the Most Blessed Trinity — we see the Father as the One who begets and sends the Son to redeem the human race, the Son as the obedient servant who accomplishes the will of the Father, and the Holy Spirit as the Sanctifier who empowers the mission of redemption. Drawing profound parallels between Jesus' baptism and our own, we can see that, just as Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son at the Jordan, so too, we receive a new identity in baptism as adopted children of the Father. Jesus Christ — namely, the Son — freely shares His very nature with us through the transforming waters of baptism. At the moment of our spiritual rebirth in the font, the Father beholds us with delight, exclaiming, "This is my beloved son, this is my beloved daughter with whom I am well pleased." Christianity first and foremost is about whom we have become in Christ before it is about what we do or how we act. This saving act of spiritual adoption draws us into the very life of God and His merciful grace." ([Bishop Donald Hying, What Is the Meaning of Jesus' Baptism? Simply Catholic.](#))

Question of the Week: "With you I am well pleased." What are you doing right now that is pleasing to God? How does it feel to live that way?



Family Activity

What do you know about your baptism?

I was baptized at _____

I was baptized on _____

The name of the priest or deacon was _____

My Godmother is _____

My Godfather is _____

I wore _____

Light the baptism candle to the left by coloring in the flame - or as a family, light your child's candle from their baptism. Remember that each baptized carries the light of Christ with them.




CatholicKidsMedia
[YouTube - Baptism of the Lord](#)

BAPTISM SYMBOLS - How have you noticed these in recent baptisms in your church?

Learn more here: Thecatholicspirit.com - Symbols of Baptism (Family Faith Builder)



Links for More Ideas & Activities

- catholicculture.org - The month of the Holy Name of Jesus (Adult Faith Builder)
- TeachingCatholicKids.com - January and the Holy Name of Jesus
- catholicicing.com - 2022 Printable Liturgical Calendar For Catholics (Free!) (Family Faith Builder)
- Vibrantfaithprojects - My Name (Family Faith Builder)

Ordinary Time Begins!

- USCCB.org - Ordinary Time (All Ages)
- Catechist.com - What Catholics Should Know About Ordinary Time (All Ages)

