Baptism of the Lord • January 13, 2019 • Jesus Is Filled With the Holy Spirit

Weekly Discussion Questions
For the Parish Bulletin
Life Question: What leadership do you offer in your faith community?
Gospel Question: How do you live out the Baptism claim on you for service in the Church and world?

LIFE AND GOSPEL QUESTIONS BY AGE LEVEL
Adults
What does Baptism empower? How can we live out Jesus’ claim on us in Baptism faithfully?

Visions (Grades 7-8)
Life Question: What makes belonging to the Christian community important to you?
Gospel Question: How does John the Baptist help Jesus begin his work?

Venture (Grades 4-6)
Life Question: What kind of service work inspires you?
Gospel Question: How do the Father and Holy Spirit bless Jesus at his baptism?

Good News (Grades 2-3)
Life Question: What happens at Baptism?
Gospel Question: Who does this Gospel show will be with Jesus in his work?

Promise (Grades K-1)
Life Question: What happens at Baptism?
Gospel Question: Who belongs to Jesus’ family?

Seeds (Preschool)
Life Question: What happens at Baptism?
Gospel Question: What did the priest or deacon say when he baptized you?

About the Gospel
After Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit came down in the form of a dove. A voice from Heaven said, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.” Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are each present for this important event at the beginning of Jesus’ public ministry.
Visit www.usccb.org/bible/readingstoday to read this Sunday’s Scripture.

In Church
Bless yourself with the holy water in the font when you enter and leave the church as a reminder that you were baptized into God’s family. Imagine God’s voice saying to you, “You are my beloved son/daughter; with you I am well pleased.”

Question of the Week
What difference does being baptized make in the choices you make?

Family Prayer
Thank you, Lord, for making us members of your family through Baptism.

Acerca del Evangelio
Después del Bautismo de Jesús, el Espíritu Santo descendió en forma de paloma. Una voz del cielo dijo: “Tú eres mi Hijo, el predilecto; en ti me complazco”. El Padre, el Hijo y el Espíritu Santo, cada uno está presente en este momento importante al comienzo del ministerio público de Jesús.
Visita www.usccb.org/bible/lecturas para leer las lecturas de este domingo.

En la Iglesia
Haz la Señal de la Cruz con agua bendita de la pila cuando entres y salgas de la iglesia para recordar que fuiste bautizado en la familia de Dios. Imagina la voz de Dios que te dice: “Tú eres mi Hijo, el predilecto; en ti me complazco”.

Pregunta de la semana
¿Son tus decisiones diferentes porque te han bautizado?

Oración en familia
Señor, gracias por hacernos miembros de tu familia por el Bautismo.
Gathering Ritual

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🎵 Play and sing “He Came Down/We Are Marching” from the Venture/Visions Music CD (CD-1, #7). Lyrics are available to download and print at gospelweeklies.com/lyrics.

SPRINKLING RITUAL
Begin with a sprinkling rite to remind the children of their baptisms. Have older children sprinkle holy water from a bowl, using an evergreen sprig.
Leader: Let us pray. Today we celebrate Jesus’ baptism when God the Father calls Jesus my beloved son and when the Spirit of God comes upon Jesus to lead him into teaching and healing people. Like Jesus, we are God’s beloved sons and daughters who continue the mission Jesus begins after his baptism.
Older children sprinkle water.
Leader: Let us make the sign of the cross when we feel the holy water touch us. It will remind us we were each baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Responsorial Prayer
Based on Sunday’s Second Reading
Leader: In Jesus, we see the kindness and generous love of God.
All: Jesus appeared to save us and show us God’s mercy.
Leader: In Baptism, we receive the water of rebirth and renewal.
All: The Holy Spirit comes upon us as the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus.
Leader: God pours out love on us through Jesus our savior and the Holy Spirit.
All: God’s gifts make us holy and full of hope for eternal life. Amen.

Gospel Reading
Leader: Let us prepare to listen to the Gospel. Loving God, open our ears to hear your call.
All: Open our eyes to see the Spirit in our lives.
Leader: Open our hearts to live the Gospel.
All: Open our hands to reach out to others as Jesus did.

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke. Use the Gospel in reader parts from Venture or Visions.

Gospel Reflection
This Sunday’s Gospel shows us that Jesus belongs to many groups. First, Jesus joins the crowds of people who listen to John the Baptist preach and decide to turn toward God. Jesus belongs with people who are seeking God and seeking to show justice and mercy toward each other.
Second, the Gospel shows us that Jesus belongs to a divine community. God speaks from the cloud and affirms who Jesus is: “You are my beloved Son.” The Holy Spirit comes upon Jesus, so Jesus is not alone when he begins his mission. Jesus’ divine family is with him, this community that lives three in one love.
Third, Jesus begins his work after his baptism and gathers together a community of followers. The Sacrament of Baptism welcomes each one of us into that community. We belong with Jesus, his Father, and the Holy Spirit. We belong to the community that continues Jesus’ work of healing and teaching.
Let us go now into our sessions to learn more about the Christian community to which we belong. What does Jesus call us, his beloved brothers and sisters, to do in our world?

Closing Prayer
Leader: We praise God the Creator who shares life with us.
All: God is above and beyond us, beneath and behind us.
Leader: We praise God who shares humanity with us.
All: God is with us and among us, beside us and before us.
Gathering Ritual

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Leader: We praise God who gives us life and inspires us to love others.

All: God is around and within us, here and now.

Leader: In Jesus Christ, we are God’s beloved.

All: The Spirit is upon us to bring forth love and justice.

Leader: We pray to be bringers of justice and peace.

All: Strengthen our resolve to make peace where we live. Come, let us walk in the light of God this Advent season.

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