

Deacon Tony's Homily For the THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

How many of you were baptized as infants?

How many were immersed in the water?

What does Jesus' Baptism mean for us? Do we feel a **solidarity** with Him?

Even though Jesus had no sin, He was immersed in the water of penance for sin.

As He came out of the water He showed His solidarity with sinners.

Solidarity is a two way street. Being one with God certainly has many blessings but there are also obligations to fulfill the mission that God calls us to .

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We see Baptism as the first of the sacraments of INITIATION. The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines Holy Baptism as:

**“ the basis of the whole Christian life,
the gateway to life in the Spirit,
and door which gives access to the other sacraments.”**

Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as son's and daughters of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in Her mission: “Baptism is the sacrament of regeneration through water and the Word.”

Did Jesus need any of these blessings? No. Jesus instituted the Sacraments that we would need to fulfill the mission that God gave us at our own Baptism. However, while Jesus was at prayer, the Holy

Spirit descended upon Him from heaven, in the form of a dove, and a voice was heard,

“YOU ARE MY BELOVED SON; WITH YOU I AM WELL PLEASED.”

This was the Lord’s commissioning. To go forth and live His life according to the will of the Father.

Our Baptism is a sign of our co-operation in God’s plan of redemption.

So even as infants begin with their calling by inviting non practicing Catholics from their families and friends to their baptism, to repeat their own vows from their baptism and maybe light a spark of new life that might call them back to the Church.

The symbols contained in the Sacrament of Baptism, are the signs that this Sacrament is a Sacrament of a lifetime.

The **water** is a symbol of new life whereby we are born anew.

The **Holy Oils** are a sign of God protecting His children with a protective seal.

The **Light of Christ** is a very penetrating light, that shows us things in our hearts that only God can show us.

The **White Garment** of Christ is from the instruction to turn your back on your old way of life and put on the garment of Christ. In a simple phrase

BE CHRIST TO OTHERS

The final blessing is of the ears and lips:

That we hear the message of Christ with our ears and share it with our lips.