

WORD FROM THE PASTOR

THE BAPTISM OF JESUS AND OUR BAPTISM



Today On Christmas Day, we celebrated the Birth of Jesus: He was manifested to the shepherds and, through them, to the little ones, the poor and the outcasts. On the day of the Epiphany, last Sunday, this revelation was offered to the Magi. This feast has helped us understand that Christ came also for the Gentiles, for those who do not know God; His love is offered to all. And today, it is another manifestation of the Lord that we celebrate: it is John the Baptist who shows it to us; he comes to announce the coming of Jesus who brings Salvation to the world.

This good news was already proclaimed by the prophet Isaiah (1st reading). This text is a message of consolation for a people coming out of 50 years of exile in Babylon: “Here comes the Lord God: **He comes with power...**” In his letter to Titus (2nd reading), St. Paul tells us about **SALVATION** offered to all men; on the day of our baptism, we plunged into the **Infinite Love of God** who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It’s a radical shift that ushers us into a new way of living. With Jesus, it’s a new life that begins. For the new converts, nothing can be the same again. **May we all experience the power of this presence of the Lord in our lives and in our world.**

In the Gospel, we find John the Baptist announcing the coming of the **One who brings “consolation to the world.”** “**I indeed baptize you with water, but one more powerful than I is coming... He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire**” (Luke 3:16). The Holy Spirit is the chief craftsman of Christian baptism. He is He who burns and destroys the sin of the world; He sets us free from the dominion of darkness and sin. He transfers us into the Kingdom of Light which is that of love and peace.

That’s what we discover in the baptism of Jesus. He rejoins the people of sinners who come to perform a gesture of penance. The ones and the others were invited to convert. Jesus didn’t have sin to make Himself forgiven. But by stepping into the waters of the Jordan, it is to rejoin this sinful world that He came to seek and to save. Whatever sin we have, He takes it upon Himself to set us free.

On the day of our baptism, we joined a large family called the Church; the other is also a child of God, all like me; and I must keep account of my relations with him. It’s a call to react against violence, against misery and against everything that degrades humanity. Much remains to be done to establish the Kingdom of Christ in our villages, neighborhoods, workplaces, and places of leisure. **We are all meant to build a Kingdom of Peace and Justice, a Kingdom of Truth and Love. And may everyone be able to say: “You are my well-loved child. You make all my joy. »**

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Dean of Northwest Broward of the Archdiocese Miami – January 12, 2025***