

The Baptism of the Lord

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| First Reading: | Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 |
| Resp. Psalm: | Psalm 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 |
| Second Reading: | Acts 10:34-38 |
| Gospel: | Matthew 3:13-17 |

[Full Readings can be found here!](#)

1. HEAR

Grab your bible and look up the Gospel reading. Don't have one? No worries you can find the Gospel reading by clicking [HERE](#).

(Bishop O'Connell's Gospel Reflection page.)

As an alternative to reading the Gospel, you can watch a short video with the proclamation for adults by clicking [HERE](#). (YouTube, Visualword channel, 1:25 min.)

Children can also watch a video proclamation of the Gospel by clicking [HERE](#).

(YouTube, Saddleback Kids channel, 1:50 min.)



2. PRAY

Today the Church celebrates the Baptism of Our Lord Jesus and invites all Christian disciples to renew their own baptismal promises.

At baptism we were made into disciples of Christ at a very young age, because our parents wanted to give us the greatest gift: life eternal with God.

We invite you, your family or friends to gather at home for a short rite for the renewal of your baptism. *(It is possible that when you go to Church today, there too you will be asked to renew your baptism, and that is OK.)*

As disciples, we are asked to say "yes" to the Lord each and every day, just as when our parents said "yes" to God the day of our baptism. If you are not yet baptized, you can witness how those in your home or your friends renew their baptismal vows.

(Please prepare a prayer space with a Bible, a crucifix, a bowl of clear water, a small branch for sprinkling, a large white candle and small candles for each person who will participate. If possible, place pictures of the baptism of any of the members of the family or friends who might be joining you.)

RITE OF RENEWAL OF YOUR BAPTISMAL PROMISES

Leader: Dear brethren, through the Paschal Mystery we have been buried with Christ in Baptism, that we may walk with him in newness of life.

And so, let us renew the promises of Holy Baptism, which we once renounced Satan and his works and promised to serve God in the holy Catholic Church.

And so I ask you:

2. PRAY (continued)

Leader: Do you renounce sin, so as to live in the freedom of the children of God?

All baptized: I do.

Leader: Do you renounce the lure of evil, so that sin may have no mastery over you?

All baptized: I do.

Leader: Do you renounce Satan, the author and prince of sin?

All baptized: I do.

Leader: Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?

All baptized: I do.

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead and is seated at the right hand of the Father?

All baptized: I do.

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

All baptized: I do.

Leader: And may almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and bestowed on us forgiveness of our sins, keep us by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord, for eternal life.

All baptized: Amen.

Next, each person will have the opportunity to bless someone else present with water, as a reminder of their baptism. You can choose to have parents bless their children and vice versa, the children can bless their parents. Or, each person can bless another person in the room until all have been blessed. As each person is being blessed, they sign themselves with the Sign of the Cross.

(If someone in the group is not baptized, they can help carry the water from one person to the next and hold the branch for the sprinkling.)

After all have been blessed, close this time of prayer by reciting the “Glory Be...” Then, they may sing along to a baptismal hymn, such as the one found [here](#). (YouTube, Phil le channel, 2:55 min)

3. TALK

After the prayer service, gather your family and/or friends for a brief conversation. If possible, bring out the pictures of your own baptism, or of someone else in the family who is present.

In today’s Gospel, we read how Jesus was baptized by John in the Jordan. He didn’t need to be baptized but did so to give us an example of what it will mean to follow him.

Reflect together in the following questions:

- Looking at the picture of your own baptism or that of someone else, what do you notice?
- What special gift you know it was bestowed on you at your baptism?
- Give an example of how that gift has helped you in your life so far.