

Good First.

The Baptism of the Lord



January 11, 2026

OPENING PRAYER

Lord, help me to seek You and Your purposes above any other pursuit in life. I can easily be distracted by the temporary but keep me focused on the eternal. Help me to not just talk of a relationship with You but truly live it in my daily life. You are aware of my every worry, and Your Word promises that when I put You first, You will take care of everything else, according to what You know is best for me. Amen

MATTHEW 3: 13 – 17

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. John tried to prevent him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?"

Jesus said to him in reply, "Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed him. After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened for him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Prioritize TIME WITH GOD

Pray with Scripture

- First Reading: **Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7**
- Second Reading: **Acts 10: 34-38**

Pray through Song



SCAN ME

Pray to Live as God's Beloved

Lord, help us to live each day as your beloved children, hearing your voice and putting you first in all we do.

REFLECTION

At Jesus' baptism, we witness one of the defining moments of His life and ministry. The heavens open, the Spirit descends, and the Father's voice is heard: "This is my beloved Son." Before Jesus performs a miracle, before He preaches a word, His priority is clear, listening to and doing the will of the Father. Everything else flows from that.

We often talk about our priorities, plural. But the word priority was once singular. You can only have one first thing. When we try to make many things "first," we end up scattered and exhausted. Health, family, work, success, faith, all important, yes, but when everything is first, nothing truly is. Too many priorities leave us spread thin and unsure of who we really are.

Jesus shows us another way. His single priority was obedience to the Father. And in His baptism, He not only reveals who He is, the Beloved Son, but reveals something essential about us. In our own baptism, God speaks a similar word over our lives: You are my beloved son. You are my beloved daughter. This is not something we earn or achieve; it is a gift we receive. Before we do anything for God, we belong to Him.

That identity matters because so much of our lives is spent trying to prove our worth. We define ourselves by success or failure, by productivity, roles, or recognition. But all of those things can be taken away. What remains is who we are in God's eyes. Baptism gives us a new and lasting identity, we are children of the Father, filled with His Spirit, sharing in His very life.

To put God first, then, is not to neglect the rest of our lives. It is to live from this identity rather than striving to create one. When God is first, our time, our relationships, our work, and even our sense of self begin to fall into place. From that one priority, **hearing God's voice and saying yes**, everything else finds its proper order.

So as we begin this series, the question is simple but challenging: am I living from my identity as God's beloved, or am I trying to become someone else? Do I have many priorities, or do I have one, and is God truly first?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- What did you hear in the homily or reflection this week that stayed with you or caught your attention? Why do you think it stood out?
- Think back to a Baptism you have witnessed; perhaps of a child, a friend, or even your own if you know the story. What do you remember? What struck you about that moment, and how did it feel to watch or recall it?
- At Jesus' baptism, the Father says, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." Where, if at all, have you experienced God speaking that same truth over your life "You are my beloved child"?
- The reflection speaks about the difference between having many priorities and having one true priority. Where do you feel the pull to define yourself by roles, success, productivity, or something else instead of your identity as God's beloved?
- Where do you struggle most right now to trust God's love or to put God first? What might it look like (very concretely) to let God be first in that area this week?