

The Anointing: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Sunday Bible Reflections by Dr. Scott Hahn
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First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 / Psalm: 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10
Second Reading: Acts 10:34-38 / Gospel: Luke 3:15-16, 21-22



The Liturgy last week revealed the mystery of God's plan - that in Jesus all peoples, symbolized by the Magi, have been made "co-heirs" to the blessings promised Israel. This week, we're shown how we claim our inheritance.

Jesus doesn't submit to John's baptism as a sinner in need of purification. He humbles Himself to pass through Jordan's waters in order to lead a new "exodus" - opening up the promised land of heaven so that all peoples can hear the words pronounced over Jesus today, words once reserved

only for Israel and its king: that each of us is a beloved son or daughter of God (see Genesis 22:2; Exodus 4:22; Psalm 2:7).

Jesus is the chosen servant Isaiah prophesies in today's First Reading, anointed with the Spirit to make things right and just on earth. God puts His Spirit upon Jesus to make Him "a covenant of the people," the liberator of the captives, the light to the nations. Jesus, today's Second Reading tells us, is the One long expected in Israel, "anointed...with the Holy Spirit and power."

The word Messiah means "one anointed" with God's Spirit. King David was "the anointed of the God of Jacob" (see 2 Samuel 23:1-17; Psalm 18:51; 132:10,17). The prophets taught Israel to await a royal offshoot of David, upon whom the Spirit would rest (see Isaiah 11:1-2; Daniel 9:25).

That's why the crowds are so anxious at the start of today's Gospel. But it isn't John they're looking for. God confirms with His own voice what the Angel earlier told Mary - Jesus is the Son of the Most High, come to claim the throne of David forever (see Luke 1: 32-33).

In the Baptism that He brings, the voice of God will hover over the waters as fiery flame, as we sing in today's Psalm. He has sanctified the waters, made them a passage-way to healing and freedom - a fountain of new birth and everlasting life.

ANNOUNCED MASSES
January 12th – 20th, 2019

Saturday 4:30 p.m.	Jan. 12th	Sunday Vigil Franc Kebe – RIP – by Amalia Marzi and the Kebe family
Sunday 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Jan. 13th	Baptism of the Lord Raymond Tait – RIP – by Linda Piper Felixs Rewers – RIP – by Wanda
Monday	Jan. 14th	NO MASS
Tuesday 7:00 p.m.	Jan. 15th	Weekday Mayumi Reyes – For Blessings and Thanksgiving
Wednesday 9:00 a.m.	Jan. 16th	Weekday In Thanksgiving to Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary – by Maryline
Thursday 9:00 a.m.	Jan. 17th	Saint Anthony Deceased Members of Estoya family
Friday 9:00 a.m.	Jan. 18th	Weekday Deceased and Living Members of the Rodrigues family – by Leo and Lavinia
Saturday 4:30 p.m.	Jan. 19th	Sunday Vigil Thanksgiving by Joey and Irene Garma
Sunday 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Jan. 20th	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Special Intentions of Father Jason Felixs Rewers – RIP – by Wanda

**Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed
through the mercy of God rest in peace.**

ENVELOPES FOR 2019 SUNDAY OFFERINGS

Envelopes for 2019 Sunday offerings are at the front of the Church. **PLEASE TAKE ONLY THE BOX WITH YOUR NAME AND NUMBER ON IT.** If you have never used the envelopes and wish to start, please ask for a new box at the Rectory or call (514) 747-4226 during office hours (9 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.) to register. **We request all users to please put your name and address on the first few envelopes for the New Year to ensure proper recording.** Thank you.

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD



Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Baptism of Our Lord. This brings to an end the season of Christmas. The Church recalls Our Lord's second manifestation or epiphany which occurred on the occasion of His baptism in the Jordan. Jesus descended into the River to sanctify its waters and to give them the power to beget sons of God. The event takes on the importance of a second creation in which the entire Trinity intervenes.

In the Eastern Church this feast is called Theophany because at the baptism of Christ in the River Jordan God appeared in three persons. The baptism of John was a sort of sacramental preparatory for the Baptism of Christ. It moved men to sentiments of repentance and induced them to confess their sins. Christ did not need the baptism of John. Although He appeared in the "substance of our flesh" and was recognized "outwardly like unto ourselves," He was absolutely sinless and impeccable. He conferred upon the water the power of the true Baptism which would remove all the sins of the world: "Behold the Lamb of God, behold Him Who takes away the sin of the world."

Many of the incidents which accompanied Christ's baptism are symbolical of what happened at our Baptism. At Christ's baptism the Holy Spirit descended upon Him; at our Baptism the Trinity took its abode in our soul. At His baptism Christ was proclaimed the "Beloved Son" of the Father; at our Baptism we become the adopted sons of God. At Christ's baptism the heavens were opened; at our Baptism heaven was opened to us. At His baptism Jesus prayed; after our Baptism we must pray to avoid actual sin. *(Excerpted from Msgr. Rudolph G. Bandas – Catholic Culture.org)*

HOLY HOUR



Silent adoration every Tuesday evening, following the 7:00pm mass (from 7:30pm to 8:30pm) Also, Adoration every Friday, following the 9:00am mass (from 9:30am to 10:30am). Come and spend some time with the Lord!

"Our Lord hears our prayers anywhere, but He has revealed to His servants that those who visit Him in the Eucharist will obtain a more abundant measure of grace." - St. Alphonsus Ligouri

THE FOOD BANK "OASIS"



Please remember to bring non-perishable food and leave them in the bins at the doors of the church...Thank you.