

The Baptism of the Lord – Cycle B

Today we are celebrating the baptism of our Lord.

- Baptism is about sin and our forgiveness.
 - Jesus is the sinless one
- The event also had other significances
 - The first revelation of the trinity
 - God communicates with human directly
 - Jesus begins his public ministry (didn't happen at his birth or teaching in the temple at a young age)

Jesus didn't need to be baptized

- Connection to his human side and connection to us
- Showed the way to be baptized
 - Follow the way of Jesus
 - Just as Jesus started his ministry when he was filled with the HS, we too can start serving once we are filled with the Spirit

In our first reading from the Prophet Isaiah God tells all who are thirsty to come to the water.

- A call to our baptismal calling to be servants of the Lord
- A call to celebrate life with God who promises milk and honey

We are all thirsty – we all long for more meaning in our life

- We are thirsty but we don't know where to drink – or how to drink (This yearning that we have, where is it coming from?)
- We are made in God's image and naturally our hearts long to be connected with our creator – St. Augustine – we were made by God and our hearts long for him.
- We have a natural, ingrained desire to be with our creator – so why do we turn the other way?

We will turn to God when we are hurting and feel despair – kind of like turning to the ones you love the most in times of deep sorrow. Its human nature

- Once we get our fill, we become proud of heart and forget (ref. Hos 12)
 - Moses & Joshua led the Israelites – they forgot
 - Jesus leads us now – we forget once we feel the least bit comfortable
- That's why Jesus can say blessed are the poor because they haven't got proud of heart yet

I recall the recent snow storm how this played out in my life

- Before the storm, we feel comfortable because we can drive to the store, the gas station, the movies, the restaurant, to work, to church (we feel no need for help)
- Snow hits, we are paralyzed (then we become dependent on each other)
- In times of trouble we get help from strangers (people pull together)
- We are meant to be dependent

God's plan is that everyone gets different gifts so that we should come together as a team

We have to turn to God's plan to figure out how it works.

- God's plan for how we should live together as community – be dependent on each other
- God's plan for how we should help each other – be dependent on each other
- God's plan to get each other to heaven – be dependent on each other

We are all thirsty, but we know where to drink, we know how to drink – we come to the Eucharist

- When we partake of the Eucharist regularly, we become alive
 - We are connected to the Spirit
 - We are connected with God's plan for us
 - We are connected with the community as God intended
 - We use the gifts for the benefit of all, our part of the Body of Christ

Returning to the snow storm, cut off, feeling isolated and lost

- I had extra time so I thought I could write this homily (I don't write it without the Holy Spirit)
- But I felt disconnected from the Spirit
- I had withdrawn somewhat into myself
- I was used to communion with the Lord on a daily basis
- I was definitely thirsty and I was not staying in communion with the Lord

We need baptism just as bad as Jesus needed baptism.

- Jesus was baptized to receive the Spirit
- We can identify with that need to receive the Spirit (I certainly noticed the absence of the Spirit)
- Think of those who never experience the presence of the Spirit
- You have been baptized, you can call on the Spirit at any time, there are others who cannot do that.
- We have the Spirit which enables God to proclaim that we are loved, we are his beloved sons and daughters with whom he is well pleased.

Get in contact with God's plan for you.

- Recall your baptism vows – you are filled with the Holy spirit
- Recall your confirmation commitment – you are filled with the Holy Spirit

We are God's blessed sons and daughters with whom he is well pleased

- Try harder to be dependent on your brothers and sisters.