

Baptism of Jesus
Our Baptism and Confirmation
Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Scriptural references:

Matthew: Ch 3 vs. 11-17

Mark: Ch 1 vs. 7-11

Luke: Ch 3 vs. 15-16; 21-22

John: Ch1 vs. 29 -34

Other scriptural references:

Acts: Ch 1 vs. 1-5; Acts 2 vs. 37-41

Romans Ch 6 vs. 1- 4

Why was Jesus Baptized?

When we think of baptism, we think about the forgiveness of original sin*, of entering into a community of believers, and becoming a child of God... In Baptism we receive three gifts of the Holy Spirit: **Faith, Hope and Charity***... But we are human... totally human... Jesus is God; **the Word** that eternally existed with the Father. He is God. He has never sinned. But Jesus became one of us. He was very human and in his humanity he came into this world, a world filled with corruption and sin... He showed us that through baptism we can be united to God and transformed. If we use the graces given to us at baptism we can resist sin.

In the readings we see that God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are present (The Holy Trinity). The baptism event for Jesus was also the affirmation of His unity and sameness with God. It also marked a new direction in His life from a carpenter in Nazareth to something much more, which was His real life's purpose: His true mission was to spread the Good News (Gospels) of salvation, to present a deeper understanding of God. Jesus made God a loving reality, not to be feared. He called God, **ABBA** which is **DADDY**! He wanted this relationship to be ours as well. "**OUR FATHER ...**" He ultimately came to sacrifice His life so that we can fully enter into God's kingdom...

* Original Sin..... What is it? Original sin has been described in many ways. Some describe it as being a stain on one's soul from the moment of our conception. It is like a shadow or spot that must be washed away. But there is a better way to understand it.

Original sin is more of a condition that we are born into. WE come empty into this world, vulnerable to all the corruption, fear, selfishness, cruelty, and dysfunction that this world offers. It is a vulnerability that is not our own fault. Mary was born without original sin. From the moment she was conceived she was bestowed a very special gift: **GRACE*** She had God's life within her from the earliest moments of her life. She was like pre-baptized at the moment of her conception, hence she is called the **Immaculate Conception**.* **In Luke Ch 1 vs. 26-30**, the angel, Gabrielle tells Mary that she has found favor with God--- "Hail Mary full of **GRACE....**

A very smart man, Bishop Robert Barron explains it like this: In Baptism God's life is given to us, even though we are guilty by association of all humanity's history. We are drawn into the very life of God, and become truly a child of God. Original sin is like a baby who is born addicted to drugs. The baby never took the drug, but the mother did. The baby is affected by what the mother did. We are also effected by our "parents" which can also be described as all

the generations of people who lived before us and have conditioned this world to not be what God intended. In other words we are born into sin. Only the outside help of God can remove this vulnerability, by giving us spiritual strength. But we must work with this **GRACE! It is not a one and done thing!**

Grace is a free gift that flows from GOD! It is God's very self; His life! But like all gifts it can be used or tossed aside! God does not force His will on us, but invites us to be united with HIM. It is in Him that we have life, and a real purpose. Outside of Him, is where confusion, superficiality, and sin exist. And our earthly parents, and the Church have the responsibility to guide us in the acceptance, use, and understanding of this gift.

Baptism is the sacrament from which all the other sacraments depend. It is referred to as a sacrament of **INITIATION. It is the foundation wherein we begin or spiritual journey and union with GOD! Baptism is the moment when we are drawn out of this world and into the Life of the TRINITY: FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT.**

The Gifts of the HOLY SPIRIT: Faith, Hope and Charity...

What are they? In your own words describe what they are.....

FAITH_____

HOPE_____

CHARITY_____