

# The Baptism of the Lord

January 10, 2010

***“I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming.”***

***-- Luke 3:16***

Today’s readings speak to rebirth and renewal through the living waters of Baptism.

In the first reading, Isaiah prophesizes that the people of Israel would be restored to their homeland through the coming Messiah. This good news was not only to be hoped for in secret, but was to be proclaimed from the mountaintops.

Saint Paul speaks directly to the “bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.” Baptism is the fundamental core of our faith, and faith is a gift from God that cannot be merited. Yet once we receive this gift from God, we must respond to it by living as children of God.

Today’s Gospel explains that the baptism offered by St. John only gave us the possibility of turning from our sins, while baptism in Christ makes us children of God. Our Baptism invites us into the life of the Trinity--which is why we hear the voice of the Father and see the Holy Spirit in the form of the dove on the occasion of Jesus’ Baptism.

***Prayer: Lord, through the renewal of my Baptismal vows help me to live my divine sonship and Christian dignity. As your child, I share in the dignity of your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Allow me to live in solidarity with all of my Christian Brothers and Sisters and act in accord with your divine will. Amen.***

## **Readings:**

**Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11;** <http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/isaiah/isaiah40.htm>

**Psalms 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30**

<http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/psalms/psalm104.htm>

**Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7;** <http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/titus/titus2.htm>

**Luke 3:15-16; 21-22;** <http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/luke/luke3.htm#v15>