

Homily - 10 January 2021 - Baptism of the Lord - Mk 1:7-11
By: Fr. Paul Magyar

John the Baptist has prepared the way of the Lord. He prepared humanity, he prepared us to receive Christ. John ventured into the wilderness and found the voice of God. By the power of the Word of God, John came out from the wilderness and showed us how we can find a way out of the wilderness of sin. John prepared people by teaching them how to examine their conscience. Make your path straight: climb out of the hole of omission by doing more good deeds. Then when you face the mountain of sin, you will be ready to climb it and conquer it. Repent your sins, say your act of contrition and reconciliation will follow. Then you will see your goal which is Christ.

John baptized people in the Jordan river for the forgiveness of sins. Just like we do today, the waters of baptism drown all the sins, especially original sin. The water of the great flood is the same water used in baptismal water. Jesus becomes baptized by John in order to infuse and fully immerse the Holy Spirit into the sacrament of Baptism itself. Baptism is the gateway to all the other 6 remaining sacraments. Through baptism we enter into the way, the truth and the life. We set one foot into heaven after we are baptized. Thus, essentially simultaneously living in heaven and earth at the same time.

The opening of the heavens when Jesus gets baptized shows the end of the separation between God and humanity and a new closer communication with heaven and earth. The spirit descends in a dovelike fashion followed by the voice of God. God affirms the name and His relationship to his son Jesus. Psalm 2:7 is quoted here by Mark the gospel writer. At each baptism the parents name their children and the sacrament of baptism affirms the significance and purpose of that name; as it specifically identifies this new unique child of God.

Jesus, "God saves", is God's beloved son. He is God himself, He is the Holy Spirit. The mystery of the Trinity is revealed to all the people during Jesus' baptism. Jesus is the new hero, who will save us from sin. So he wastes no time and as all hero's do, ventures into the wilderness to face Satan, the most powerful villain of all.

Praying for all of you
Fr. Paul Magyar