

# The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

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*You might ask,  
"Why did Jesus have to be baptized?  
He was born without sin. He is the Son of God. Why?"  
The answer quite simply is:  
because He wanted to do as we would do.*



Jesus is baptized in front of many. And then a Voice.

A Voice comes from heaven: "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well- pleased."

Imagine. "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well-pleased."

We are reminded that if we are truly Christian...if we have hope of getting to heaven...  
if we want salvation: Do as His beloved Son did.

We must not do as John the Baptist did. We must not do as I, Walter, do.  
Do not do as anyone else does. We need to do as Christ did.

On the day of His Baptism, Jesus began His public ministry for us in a way that would recognize a new way  
of loving. A new way of living.

On the day of our Baptisms, you and I became His adopted daughters and sons.  
On that day, you and I were cleansed of Original Sin.  
On that day, you and I received that tiny, small seed of faith.  
A faith that has grown. A faith that brings us to church, where we worship on bended knee.

As He did, you and I must do. For you and I are called to carry the Good News in our heart.  
And to live the Good News in our daily lives, to the best of our abilities.  
With the words we use. With the actions of our days.  
These are the things that define who we are. If you and I hope to be saved, we must do as He did.  
He welcomed all. Women and men. The good and the not-so-good. It was Christ who included all. It was  
Christ who forgave the sinner. It was Christ who lived compassion. We must do the same.

So we gather together each week to be reminded that we are in the presence of the Divine.  
In our Baptism, we are reminded that we are called to be another Christ. He speaks to our hearts.  
He fills our minds and souls with His loving presence.

We are called to walk out of the doors of our church as another Christ. To live as Christ lives - through all  
of our challenges...at home, at work and everywhere we go. He gives us everything we need to be true  
ambassadors of His love, His compassion, His mercy, His forgiveness.

How can we be saved? Do as Christ did. Today and every day that He gives us life."