

Marianist Moments

The conclusion
of the
Christmas
season:

The Baptism of Christ

It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." ~Mark 1:9-11



Jesus was baptized not because He needed cleansing from sin (as He was sinless), but to fulfill righteousness, identify with humanity, inaugurate His public ministry, and anticipate His death and resurrection, signifying He came to unite with sinners to bring them healing and new life, marking the beginning of the Church's understanding of baptism as a sharing in His redemptive work.



- *Fulfilling Righteousness: Jesus stated, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness" (Matthew 3:15). He submitted to John's baptism to complete God's will for humanity's salvation.*
- *Solidarity with Sinners: By entering the waters of repentance, Jesus identified with humanity's brokenness and sin, showing He came to unite Himself with the "lost" to save them, not stand apart.*

- *Inaugurating His Mission: His baptism marked the official beginning of His public life and work as the Messiah, the suffering Servant who would bring healing.*
- *Anticipation of the Cross: The descent into the water symbolizes death and burial, while the rising represents resurrection, foreshadowing Christ's Passion and Resurrection.*

- *Manifestation of the Trinity: At His baptism, the presence of the Holy Spirit and Father's voice declared Jesus His beloved Son, revealing Jesus' divine identity.*
- *A Model for Believers: Jesus' baptism serves as a template, showing how our own baptism initiates us into a life of grace, union with Christ, and participation in His redemptive mission.*

In essence, Jesus' baptism wasn't for Himself but for us, establishing baptism as the initial opening to new life in Him.

From Songs of Ancient Liturgies

*"This is the fountain of life,
water made holy by the
suffering of Christ,
washing all the world.
You who are washed
in this water
have hope of heaven's kingdom."*