

**THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD      JAN. 10, 021.**

*Sometimes when we recall the great stories of our faith as described in Sacred Scripture, it didn't unfold with the kind of **clarity**, we often try to ascribe to it. There were catastrophic events, wars, occupation and exile and such...which **severely tested their faith**. And the average Joe going about his or her life had to do his or her best to sort through all of that and make some sense of it. **Find God and faith in a world that didn't always fit into a nice neat package.***

Today we gather to remember and celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. We see Jesus coming to John as he stood on the threshold of his public ministry, as he fully and faithfully embraced the work the Father had placed before him. As he continued to fulfill his role in God the Father's plan, did he know exactly what lay before him? Did he always see a clear picture of how his life would unfold? I think it's safe to say that he didn't ALWAYS know, in that Scripture tells us that **he grew in wisdom and age**. However, Jesus wasn't just divine. He was human too. And so, in his humanity it's quite possible, that Jesus had to **struggle to understand exactly who he was and what it all meant**. Yet, that didn't stop him from stepping out in faith each day, to serve God in all things in every word and in every action.

Most of us can't always easily connect the dots or see God's fingerprints in the circumstances in which we find ourselves. Occasionally we may get the glimpse of what God is up to or what our role is in the drama that is unfolding. However, for most of us, those memorable moments are few and fleeting. Most of us in the end, like many before us, are simply asked to do our best to take what we believe in faith, take our life experiences, take the ups and downs of life and **still find the courage to do what we can to serve God...even though we might not see the path ahead**.

That's partly what our own baptisms are all about. When we emerged from those waters, **we didn't do so alone....** we did so united with Christ in a very particular way, united with his death and resurrection. And this bond we have with him is more than just some kind of spiritual life insurance. No, this union with him is also a union **with his mission**, a pledge to continue his work on this earth.

And it's ok if we can't make sense of it all. It's ok if we wonder what it all means. But let's not let our fears, doubts, uncertainty, keep us from being the people God created us to be. Rather, let's take each of our baptisms with the greatest seriousness....as a promise to continue to **forgive** when it's not easy, to show **compassion** and **kindness**. And to **love** without counting the cost.