

BAPTISM OF THE LORD Year C

When Fr. Anselm was here he preached on the Epiphany

He said that Epiphany = a revelation – a new understanding

Magi have an epiphany – a new understanding of God in the infant Jesus

Baptism of JC we have another epiphany – there is a new understanding of Jesus –

We hear God say, “*You are my beloved Son, with You I am well pleased*”

Let’s see if we can have an epiphany – with a new understanding about baptism.

Were you paying attention to today’s Gospel?

How many kinds of baptism does today’s Gospel talk about?

2 – The first is Jesus’ baptism by water

The second is the baptism WE receive (not water) ‘**with Holy Spirit and fire**’

How does this happen?

When do we receive baptism of fire?

Listen:

- John went all around the country telling people to repent and to ask God for forgiveness.
- After they repented of their sin and received God's forgiveness, then John baptizes them.
- They were baptized to show that God had forgiven their sins & given them a fresh start.
They were washed clean, & called to a new way of life
- Jesus stood before John the Baptist and saw those who had been baptized before Him
 - People realizing that the change had to begin with themselves.
 - Imagine the long line of people coming to John – *and JC last in line.*
“After all the people had been baptized ...”
& The Holy Spirit descends on Him in the form of a dove & they hear
“You are my beloved Son, with You I am well pleased”
- Jesus is baptized & filled with the HS
 - So the 1st baptism in today’s Gospel is Jesus’ baptism in water
 - I said the 2nd baptism in today’s Gospel is ours – with HS and fire
 - J the B says “He will baptize you with the HS and fire”. What’s this?
 - Remember Pentecost? Wind of HS blows thru house & tongues of fire!
 - What does fire do? – it purifies (sterilize a needle) – **cleaner than water!**
 - Apostles – filled with HS, filled with that fire and it spreads.
- Today we need Jesus – and we need to release the power of HS we receive in baptism!
 - *In baptism we receive cleansing of water – and power of the fire*
- We can join Jesus in the Jordan River & Apostles in the Upper Room
 - We are filled with that same fire of the HS
 - & it is our turn TO SPREAD THE FIRE.

- Baptism is an **Initiation** into People of God a **Call** to discipleship & a **Commission** to ministry
Baptism initiated Jesus’ ministry

Just like Jesus – In Baptism WE are **initiated, called and commissioned.**

- As you dip your hands into those miniature baptismal fonts coming into church remember:

YOU are INITIATED, CALLED and COMMISSIONED, to be a Catholic Christian

- Father says to us: “You are my beloved, in whom I am well pleased – Go and be my disciple”