

## The Baptism of the Lord

In today's Gospel we hear John the Baptist contrast his baptism of repentance with the baptism that Jesus will institute. John the Baptist says that he has baptized with water, but that Jesus was the one who is to come and he will baptize with the Holy Spirit. John's baptism was not yet a Christian baptism; it was a preparation for the Christian Baptism we celebrate today, and through which sins are forgiven and the gift of the Holy Spirit is received. In accepting John's baptism, Jesus, though sinless, united himself with all sinners.

Jesus' baptism was the beginning of his public ministry. For many Catholics, their faith is a private matter.

- Is that the case for you?
- If you are public about your faith, when did this begin to happen?
- Has God called you for something?
- How well are you responding to God's call?
- What effect does Christian baptism have on us?
- What does it mean to you to be a baptized Catholic?
- How does the Holy Spirit work in your life?

### Prayer of the Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.  
And kindle in them the fire of your love.  
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.  
And you will renew the face of the earth.

Lord,  
by the light of the Holy Spirit  
you have taught the hearts of your faithful.  
In the same Spirit  
help us to relish what is right  
and always rejoice in your consolation.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.