

Matt 3:13-17 – Baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist

The first mention of “love” in the New Testament is this testimony of the heavenly Father concerning His love for His Son.

“This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased”

The love of a father for his son set forth in Scripture as the first meaning of love.

God helps us understand His Love us by expressing it as the Love of a Parent for a Child.

Today we go to the banks of the Jordan in order to take part in a mysterious event: Jesus' Baptism by John the Baptist.

Something special in this Scripture.

The presence of the Holy Trinity is clearly affirmed in all the Gospel accounts of the Baptism of Jesus.

Pope John Paul II shares some insights:

“At the centre of the scene we see the figure of Christ, the Messiah who fulfils all righteousness. He is the one who brings the divine plan of salvation to fulfillment, humbly showing his solidarity with sinners.

The Father's voice from heaven resounds above him, proclaiming: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased".

In this way Jesus' deep bond of love with the heavenly Father and his investiture as the Messiah are revealed to all humanity.

The Holy Spirit appears on the scene in the form of a "dove" "descending ... and alighting" on Christ.

The Holy Spirit descends on Jesus as the power of superabundant love.

The whole Trinity is therefore present at the Jordan to reveal this mystery, to authenticate and support Christ's mission and to indicate that with him salvation history has entered its central and definitive phase.”

“God himself is an eternal exchange of love, Father, Son, & Holy Spirit, and He has destined us to share in that exchange of Love”.

This is truly, what our Faith is all about – Learning how to fall head over heels in love with God – who is head over heels in love with us.

A journey that began on our Baptism day, when the Lord poured the fullness of His love deep within each of us. Never to leave us from that day on.

A journey that continues until we come Face to Face with our Lord. On that day, will the Lord see in us, His love being reflected back to Him?

Everything that happened to Jesus lets us know the greatest of gifts is ours in baptism.

God's very own life and love is given to us, and we become the very sons and daughters of the Father, children with an inheritance of everlasting life.

As the water flowed across our head in baptism, the Grace of God flowed into our soul. We became a member of the mystical Body of Christ, His child, and also a friend of God.

At our Baptism, God the Father Himself could say to an Angel - look, look do you see my child, isn't she beautiful, isn't he beautiful

I have poured myself, along with my Son, and our Holy Spirit into the very being of this child. My beloved, born of my sufferings upon Calvary. Do you see her? Do you see him? By my Grace, along with my Son and our Holy Spirit."

As you dip your fingers into the Holy Water Font and make the sign of the cross as you enter Church, remember your Baptism.

- God loves me
- I am God's Child
- You are my sisters and brothers in Christ
- The Holy Spirit Dwells inside of me
- I have Eternal Life

It is by your bath in the waters flowing from the side of Christ in his perfect offering that you have been incorporated into the one, holy, catholic and apostolic body of Christ, his bride the Church.

Phil Collins song "You'll Be In My Heart". 1999 Disney animated feature Tarzan.

For one so small you seem so strong
My arms will hold you keep you safe and warm
This bond between us can't be broken
I will be here don't you cry

Cause you'll be in my heart
Believe me, you'll be in my heart
I'll be there from this day on
Now and forever more
You'll be here in my heart
No matter what they say

You'll be in my heart
I'll be there always
I'll be with you
I'll be there for you always
Always and always

When Jesus was baptized, he came out of the water and heard a heavenly voice say, "You are my beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Listen for this voice today whenever you "come out of the water" — the shower, the snow or rain, the swimming pool, the sudsy kitchen sink.

Glory in heaven and peace on earth, now and forever! Alleluia! Amen!

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