

**Fr. O'Connor Homily January 10<sup>th</sup> 2021**  
**The Baptism of the Lord**

I heard this verse on the radio the other day, "When it rains look for the rainbow. When it's dark look for the stars." In this celebration of Jesus' baptism we see plenty of light.

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, did He realize that he was the Son of God and the second person of the Blessed Trinity? Maybe not. The Gospel tells us that "Jesus grew in wisdom and age and favor before God and Man."

When Jesus was baptized in the Jordan by John the Baptist, a transformation occurred in His life. He heard His father's voice, "You are my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."

It must have been at that moment that Jesus began to understand more fully what His mission was as the Spirit came upon Him. Immediately he was led by the Holy Spirit for a 40 day retreat in the desert. It was there that he was tempted by the devil.

Then Jesus returned to His home in Galilee. He announced His mission to His neighbors in words written by the Prophet Isaiah. "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord."

Jesus didn't need to be cleansed of original sin but now He understood more clearly His mission -to proclaim the reign of God.

At baptism you and I were transformed as well. We were absorbed into the Body of Christ, we became members of the Body of Christ. We too received a mission, to proclaim that God is love, that Jesus is knocking at the door of every person's heart, that he wants to come in and have supper with us, that God forgives us, that he puts our sins far away from us, that God is love, that God is pure light.

This is your baptismal glory, your mission for life. Now prepare to experience God's transforming love in the Eucharist.