

Do you know the date of your baptism?

In today's liturgy, we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Here we witness the manifestation of Jesus at his baptism, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." For a Christian, new life begins at one's baptism and on your baptism day, the minister of the Church had invited you with these words, "The Christian Community welcomes you with great joy. In his name I claim you for Christ our Saviour by the sign of the cross. I now trace the cross on your forehead..."

Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons and daughters of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission: "Baptism is the sacrament of regeneration through water, in the word."

Jesus baptism, clearly communicates his choice of mission: he stood among sinners for baptism to say that he came for them. Jesus became one among us to save us; He shared all the human experiences, except sin which he took away from us through his passion, death and resurrection.

Further, the Gospels firmly describe the differences between the baptism of John the Baptist and that of Jesus: the baptism of John is the penitential rite, it is for a person who publicly considers himself a sinner and seeks for forgiveness. But the baptism of Jesus offers us the gift of the Holy Spirit, “He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and Fire.” The Holy Spirit recreates and offers new life.

The baptism of Jesus is truly an entry of God into our history: it is the gift of the Spirit that makes us new creatures and calls us into the Church.

In today’s second reading Paul urges us, “Beloved: the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to reject godless ways and worldly desires and to live temperately, justly and devoutly in this age, as we await the blessed hope.”

The freedom is given unto us; to welcome the Spirit and to live a godly life or we live after the desires of the world. The gift of the Spirit gives us new faculty: New faith, New Hope, New love.

Today, take a moment to know the date of your baptism and to rethink of your baptism, as a foundational event of your life. Are you thankful to the Lord for the gift of the Holy Spirit you have received? The new life is given to us as a seed to be nurtured: so if you are, parents or

educators you have the responsibility towards who is entrusted to you.

Dear friends let us thank God for the gift we have received and ask him the grace to rediscover it better and to live it in the fullness of the Spirit.