

Baptism Changes Everything

Sunday Homily Reflection

At the beginning of Mass today, Father explained why the statues in the church are covered during this season of Lent. This practice helps us enter more deeply into the mystery of Christ's Passion by removing visual distractions and inviting a more interior focus.

With the exception of the statue of the Assumption, which is too high to safely cover, the veiling of images reminds us that something profound is unfolding. It creates a sense of anticipation as we prepare for the celebration of Easter.

As we continue through the Lenten season, we have been hearing a series of powerful Gospel readings from the Gospel of John—each one rich with meaning and closely tied to the theme of Baptism.

Over the past few weeks, we have reflected on the Samaritan woman at the well, the man born blind, and today, the raising of Lazarus. These are not random selections. The Church presents these Gospels intentionally for the catechumens—those preparing to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. But they are also meant for all of us.

Remember Your Baptism

For those of us already baptized, this is a time to reflect on a powerful truth: **Baptism was the most important moment of your life.**

As Saint Paul the Apostle teaches us, it is in Baptism that we receive the Spirit of God. It is our first true encounter with Christ—and that encounter changes everything.

Encounters That Transform

- The Samaritan woman, whose life was marked by disorder and confusion, meets Christ—the Living Water—and finds faith, purpose, and new meaning.
- The man born blind receives not only physical sight, but spiritual vision. Through Jesus, he comes to see the world through the eyes of faith.
- Lazarus is raised from the dead—a powerful reminder that death does not have the final word.

“I Am the Resurrection and the Life”

In the raising of Lazarus, Jesus reveals something extraordinary: He is not only a healer—He is the Resurrection and the Life.

Through Baptism, we are united to Him in His death and resurrection. As we hear in the Church's funeral prayers: *“In Baptism, N. died with Christ and rose with Him to new life. May he now share with Him eternal glory.”*

This is the promise given to each one of us.

Set Free in Christ

Baptism is not just a symbol—it is a transformation. We are no longer bound by sin, no longer trapped in chaos or meaninglessness—we are made new.

As Saint Paul tells us, we become children of the light. And just as Jesus said when Lazarus came out of the tomb, *“Untie him and let him go,”* so too, in Baptism, we are set free.

A Call to Remember

These Lenten Gospels invite us to remember who we are, what we have received, and the new life we have been given in Christ.

Like Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, we are called to believe: **Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life.**

Conclusion

Baptism changes everything.

It is the beginning of new life, the promise of resurrection, and the doorway to eternal life in Christ. And as we continue our journey toward Easter, may we rediscover the joy and freedom of being children of God.