



Daily Reflections

January 8, 2018

Scripture

Mark 1: 7-11

This is what John the Baptist proclaimed:

"One mightier than I is coming after me.

I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals.

I have baptized you with water;

he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John.

On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him.

And a voice came from the heavens,

"You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

Our Scripture Reflection

Today we officially end the season of Christmas with the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. In Mark's Gospel text, the Baptism is used as a revelation of Jesus' identity. He is God's beloved Son. This revelation serves as the very meaning of our Baptism. When we are Baptized, we become God's chosen sons and daughters in Christ Jesus. What an honor yet at the same time, what an awesome responsibility. We are called to live what we have become.

Food for your Journey

The story is told about the baptism of King Aengus by St. Patrick in the middle of the fifth century. Sometime during the rite, St. Patrick leaned on his sharp-pointed staff and inadvertently stabbed the king's foot.

After the baptism was over, St. Patrick looked down at all the blood, realized what he had done and begged the king's forgiveness. "Why did you suffer this pain in silence?" the saint wanted to know.

The king replied, "I thought it was part of the ritual."

—Unknown.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dearest Father, At my Baptism I became Your chosen child in Christ Jesus. Help me, Lord, with Your Grace to live in imitation of Jesus each and every day. In so doing may I give You glory and honor and praise. Amen