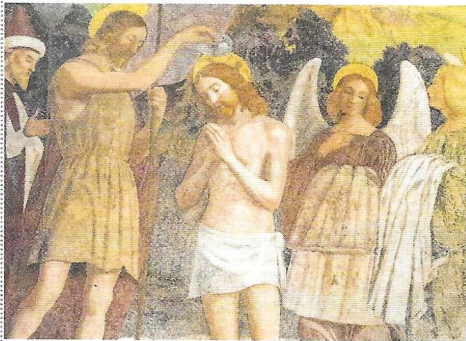


# Dear Padre,

## Why did Jesus have to be baptized? Did he have original sin like us or was there another reason to be baptized?

**J**esus is God and did not have original sin like us. He is like us in all things except sin. The baptisms John performed did not free people from their original sin. The people who came to John to be baptized were declaring



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that they were going to change their ways and reform their lives. They promised to turn away from sin and follow the commandments. The baptism of Jesus was different. When Jesus was baptized, God revealed who Jesus is and commissioned him to begin his mission on earth.

There were three significant components to Jesus' baptism. First, the skies opened above

Jesus. The prophet Isaiah prayed that God would tear open the sky and come down to earth (Isaiah 63). This was a sign to the people that God was coming down to earth. A new era was beginning. God was no longer "locked up" in the heavens.

Second, the Spirit of God, in the form of a dove, descended from the sky and hovered over Jesus and the water. This takes us back to the first moments of creation when the spirit of God hovered over the waters. The Spirit was a sign to the people that a new creation was being made.

Finally, a voice declared that Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus is the new Adam, who will begin the new creation. Let us call the Holy Spirit to be within our hearts and send us forth, as Jesus was sent, to proclaim a new creation founded on the love and peace of our Savior.

Fr. Paul J. Coury, CSSR  
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

## Calendar

### Monday

JANUARY 10

Weekday

1 Sm 1:1–8

Mk 1:14–20

### Tuesday

JANUARY 11

Weekday

1 Sm 1:9–20

Mk 1:21–28

### Wednesday

JANUARY 12

Weekday

1 Sm 3:1–10, 19–20

Mk 1:29–39

### Thursday

JANUARY 13

Weekday

1 Sm 4:1–11

Mk 1:40–45

### Friday

JANUARY 14

Weekday

1 Sm 8:4–7, 10–22a

Mk 2:1–12

### Saturday

JANUARY 15

Weekday

1 Sm 9:1–4, 17–19; 10:1a

Mk 2:13–17

### Sunday

JANUARY 16

Second Sunday  
in Ordinary Time

Is 62:1–5

1 Cor 12:4–11

Jn 2:1–11

**Do you have  
a question  
for the Padre?**

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org)  
to send your question  
and to learn more  
about Dear Padre.



## A WORD FROM Pope Francis

*After these thirty years of hidden life, Jesus' public life begins. And it begins precisely with his baptism in the River Jordan. But Jesus is God; why does Jesus get baptized?... Because he wants to be with the sinners. For this reason, he gets in line with them and does the same thing they do.*

ANGELUS, BAPTISM OF THE LORD, JANUARY 10, 2021