

Fr. Romeo Evangelista Homily
Sunday, January 11, 2026
Baptism of the Lord
Cycle A

Jesus' Baptism is not about repentance; it is about solidarity. He steps into the water not because he must, but because we must. He chooses to stand where sinners stand. He enters the waters that carry human fear, failure, and longing.

This is the humility of God. He does not shout instructions from heaven. He does not save us from a safe distance. He steps into our world, into our mess, into our story. He sanctifies the waters by entering them.

The Jordan becomes a preview of the entire Gospel. The God who steps into the river is the same God who will touch lepers, eat with sinners, wash feet, go through suffering, and hang on a cross. Nothing human is beneath him.

Many people struggle because they believe they must clean themselves up before coming to God. They hide their weakness, pretend they are fine, and postpone prayer until life feels more respectable. But that way of thinking quietly places distance between us and God – turning faith into a reward for the strong rather than a refuge for the weak.

The Baptism of the Lord tells us the opposite. God meets us where we are, not where we pretend to be. Jesus does not wait for perfect people. He

steps into muddy water. This means that no part of your life is off-limits to God. Not your doubts. Not your broken relationships. Not your past sins. Not your unanswered questions. Baptism reminds us that God is already present in the places we avoid.

Think of the moments when life feels messy –when faith feels dry, when prayer feels difficult, when guilt or shame weighs heavily. It is easy to think, “God must be disappointed with me.” But look at Jesus in the Jordan. He is not standing on the riverbank, arms crossed, waiting for us to improve. He is already in the water. He is already with us. Every time we see water blessed, every time we bless ourselves, we are reminded: God has gone before us into these waters. He knows them. He has claimed them. And he is not afraid of what he finds there.

On this feast, God invites us to stop hiding and start trusting. Bring your real self to him –the wounded, confused, imperfect self. Step into the water with Jesus and let him meet you there. From that place of honesty and humility, new life begins. Grace flows. Healing starts. Mission follows.

At the Jordan, Jesus shows us a God who does not save us from afar but humbly steps into our waters – assuring us that no part of our life is beneath his love. So do not be afraid to come to Him, all He needs is our yes to His will in our lives.