**BAPTISM OF THE Lord January 12, 2025.**

Every Sunday nearly all of us come to this holy place and do the same thing, do the same action. “Say a prayer? We dip our fingers in holy water and make the sign of the cross. That’s true, right? Signing ourselves with holy water is one of those things we’ve done hundreds of times, and as a result, often don’t even realize we’re doing it. It’s **just what we Catholics do**. But why?

Some of us would probably say something along the lines of, “**For spiritual protection**.” And that is not a bad answer. Others the main reason the church invites us to make this simple act is to **remind us of our baptism.** And yet, I wonder how many of us actually **think about our baptism** as we do this gesture?

Today we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, a day on which we recall a day in the life of Jesus two thousand years ago. But also recall each of our own baptisms. So often we think about our individual baptism as some kind of “event”. Sadly, we sometimes treat it as a box that we’ve “**checked off** “in our life of faith.

We don’t do this simple act simply to “remember.” We also do it to “recommit” ourselves to the promises we made. In a certain sense, each time we bless ourselves with holy water it is as if we are **coming out of those waters once again**, dying and rising to a new kind of life-a life uniquely **bonded to and committed to Jesus.**

In other words, it’s a way of saying, “God, I’m still willing to do what **you ask. I am still willing to walk the path you have placed before me.** I am still willing to take your hand and **follow where you lead**.”

If that is the case, do we still want to do it?

Sometimes we become so familiar with some things that we do these things and say these often without considering what they mean and what they are **implying.** If we are not careful, they can become not unlike the way we say, “God bless you” when someone sneezes, even though we might not unlike the way we say, “God bless you” when someone sneezes, even though we might not really mean anything of the sort.

**“And a voice came from heavens, saying,**

**“This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”**

And so, each and every time we dip our fingers in holy water and make the sign of the cross may we recommit ourselves to Jesus, **renew our desire to serve him, follow him, and love him.** And through the grace of God, may our lives come to reflect more perfectly the life God wants for each of us - that, one day, God might look at each of us, see a little bit of his Son, and be **pleased with what he sees.**