

**The Baptism of the
Lord
January 12-13, 2019**

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**Living Catholic in the 808:
Reminder in the Baptism
of the Lord**

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As a further manifestation and "epiphany" of the Lord, we celebrate today the Baptism of the Lord. This mysterious event is a further revelation that Jesus is Christ, the Son of God, with whom the Father is well pleased. But, it is also an important reminder of who we are, especially because we too have been baptized.

We are reminded that we are beloved sons and daughters. Jesus was acknowledged by the Father as his beloved Son. God wants all of us to know that we are beloved as well. This sense of being loved by God is essential to our well-being. Without it, we begin to feel that God does not care or that God is out to get us and only interested in divine retribution. The truth is that God loves us more than we can imagine.

We are reminded that God's love is meant to comfort us in our trials and be experience as a grace of mercy that is freely given. Isaiah speaks of that comfort. It is important to sense God's care and comfort especially when life is not very friendly or comforting. It is essential to know that God is merciful because we are imperfect and in constant need of forgiveness. God gives us that forgiveness without our needing to earn it; all we need to do is ask for and accept it.

We are reminded that this love, comfort, and mercy are given to us so that we can live good lives. With these gifts comes a responsibility. We are entrusted with these blessings so that we can be a blessing to others. We are reminded that we are beloved so that we can remind others that they are beloved. We are shown mercy so that we can show mercy to others as well.

These rich graces are given to us in Baptism. Let us pray that we will let the fire of the Holy Spirit ignite them so that they will empower us to be God's beloved sons and daughters.