

## THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

*“Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees,; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry...”*

*Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend, that you may know prudence. I will give you a good gift, forsake not my law. For I also was my father's son, tender, and as an only son in the sight of my mother: And he taught me, and said: Let thy heart receive my words, keep my commandments, and thou shalt live.*

*- Matthew 3:10-11, Proverbs 4:1-4*

John the Baptist is the perfect example of what can happen when children are exposed early to Christ. Through the grace of the Visitation John becomes the “voice” crying out in the wilderness. John knows his place. He knows he is the messenger not the Message. He knows he is not even fit to loosen Jesus’ sandal strap. John also knows that he must decrease so that Christ may increase. Like St. Paul, John is to say, “It is no longer I that live but Christ that lives in me.” To help create a “culture of life” I must raise up sons and daughters to be like John. I must teach them by my example to be voices crying out in the wilderness of this world. It is only possible to set this example when I decrease so that Christ might increase in me. Then and only then will I hear a voice say to me and my children, “you are my beloved in whom I am well pleased.”

## THE WEDDING AT CANA

*When the wine failed, the mother of Jesus said to him, “they have no wine.” And Jesus said to her, “O woman what is this to me and to thee? My hour has not yet come.”*

*For whereas he had always feared God from his infancy, and kept his commandments, he repined not against God because the evil of blindness had befallen him, but continued immovable in the fear of God, giving thanks to God all the days of his life.*

*- John 2:3-4, Tobias 2:13-14*

“What is this to me and to thee?” With these words Jesus reminds his Mother that whatever happens to Him will affect her. He subtly reminds her of the prophecy of Simeon, “And thy own soul a sword shall pierce, that, out of many hearts, thoughts may be revealed.”

As a parent my heart is pierced many times. I suffer both with and because of my children. Mary knew that this miracle would begin her suffering but she asked Him to do it anyway because of the love she has for us her adopted children.

Suffering is an unavoidable experience for parents. Yet when I am suffering with or because of my children I have a great opportunity to save souls by turning more fully to God. Parents must both follow and echo Mary’s words and tell our children to “do whatever he tells you.”

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Etc.  
Additional clause: ...of thy womb, Jesus, who transformed water into wine.

## THE PROCLAMATION OF THE KINGDOM

*“See that you do not despise one of these little ones; for I tell you that in heaven their angels always behold the face of my Father who is in heaven.” ...but Jesus said to them, “Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.”*

*Ye that fear the Lord, love him, and your hearts shall be enlightened. My children behold the generations of men: and know ye that no one hath hoped in the Lord, and hath been confounded. For who hath continued in his commandment, and hath been forsaken? or who hath called upon him, and he despised him?*

*- Matthew 18:10, 19:14, Sirach 2:10-12*

“...the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe the Gospel.” With these words Jesus begins His ministry. He goes on to call all men to holiness through Himself. When a child comes into our life our world changes. From that point on nothing ever stays the same and the whole history of the human race is changed. Man is made in the image and likeness of God. This is readily apparent in the face of the young. I must hear the words of Christ as I hold my children in my arms. The kingdom is present within these precious gifts. In order for me to proclaim the kingdom to my children I must repent and believe the Gospel. I must repent of my selfishness, anger, and pride. I must believe in the Gospel and the truth that Jesus calls me and them to be with Him in paradise. When I read the Gospel I should believe what I read, preach what I believe, and practice what I preach.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Etc.  
Additional clause: ...of thy womb, Jesus, who was baptized by John.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Etc.  
Additional clause: ...of thy womb, Jesus, who proclaimed the Kingdom and forgave sins.

## THE TRANSFIGURATION

*And he was transfigured before them and his face shone like the sun, and his garments became white as light. And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is well that we are here; if you wish, I will make three booths here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah."*

*That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the word of life: That which we have seen and have heard, we declare unto you, that you also may have fellowship with us, and our fellowship may be with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.*

*- Matthew 17:2,4, 1 John 1:1,3*

"Out of the mouths of babes" so the saying goes. One of the most beautiful qualities of children is that they speak their minds. They do not hide emotions. They are open and honest about their feelings. During the transfiguration Peter is like a child. In his excitement he blurts out what on the surface seems like a silly statement. But it is not silly for those with childlike faith. Peter, like many children, was so caught up in what was happening he did not want it to end. He is like a child who never wants to come off the merry-go-round. Peter saw Christ for who He was and did not want things to go back to normal. When I reach the point where I see Christ for who He truly is, God, I will also be transfigured. I will not want to come off the beautiful ride of faith. Lord, help me to not look at You in a generic way as friend or brother. Help me to see You, with childlike faith, transfigured and radiant as Lord and Savior then I too will never want to leave Your side.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Etc.  
Additional clause: ...of thy womb, Jesus, who was transfigured on Mt. Tabor.

## THE INSTITUTION OF THE EUCHARIST

*And he took bread, and when he had given thanks he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body which is given up for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And likewise the cup after supper, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood." A dispute arose among them, which of them was to be regarded as the greatest.*

*For we are the children of the saints, and look for that life which God will give to those that never change their faith from him.*

*- Luke 22:19-20, 24, Tobit 2:18*

There is a great difference between having childlike faith and being childish. My children have faith that I will hold them, feed them, and protect them. They do not ponder the reason why I would do this, they simply have faith. However, they become childish when they are jealous of each other assuming I love one more than the other. The disciples acted in much the same way in Luke's Gospel. With childlike faith they believe Jesus when He says, "this is my body, this is my blood". Immediately afterwards a debate ensues over who is the greatest or who is loved more. My children must be taught that faith is a gift freely given to us from God the Father through the Son. I must protect them from those who would try to take their faith. I should feed them with both the Word, Scripture, and the Word made flesh, Jesus in the Eucharist. I must teach them that we are all loved by God equally, from the worst sinner to the greatest saint. I must teach them not to be concerned with the gifts God has given others but with their own gifts and how to use them to give Him glory.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Etc.  
Additional clause: ...of thy womb, Jesus, who gives me His Body and Blood in the Eucharist.

## The Luminous Mysteries of Children



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These unique meditations on children and what they can teach us are from the book Rosary Meditations for Real Life by James M. Hahn (CCL Teaching Couple). This book also addresses such topics as marriage, death, addiction, the Mass, and work. In addition there are powerful mysteries written from a first person point-of-view as seen by those in the mysteries.

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Scripture taken from the Douay-Rheims Version

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