

Reflection for January 18, 2026

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

(Lectionary 64)

Today's reading from the Gospel of John again focuses on the Baptism of our Lord and its meaning for our lives. If we reflect on Jesus' Baptism, it offers us a chance to renew our baptismal promises and our relationship with Jesus. We hear that St. John the Baptist calls Jesus the "Lamb of God." This moment connects the Old and New Testaments, marking the Messiah's arrival. It begins Jesus' public ministry, reveals His divinity, and invites each of us to form a supernatural relationship with God.

We can relate to the start of Jesus' public ministry in our daily lives. Jesus knew a working life, being the carpenter's son, and the trials of making a living. We can offer our daily work, routine, and activities to God as a labor of love. By modeling the work ethic of Jesus and St. Joseph, we can be certain that our work is both pleasing and fulfilling.

St. John the Baptist's revelation about Jesus clearly shows the divinity of Jesus. Jesus Christ, who existed from all eternity, has now come into the world, our world, to transform each of us. Another way of putting this is that He, the Christ, existed outside of time. Thus, Christ's dominion is over all things. I find this very important in my prayer time, asking God for daily strength – specifically, for Jesus to be with me throughout the entire day, helping me make those daily decisions that reflect Him in all that I do. This 'existence' is always and forever.

With the 'Spirit of God' descending like a dove and coming upon Jesus, we read about the supernatural effects of what this event signifies. Supernatural activities take place all the time; we just need to be aware of them. God is protecting us and allowing for good in our lives. This goodness is a humble reminder in all our activities of God's hand in our actions. Yes, even in times of stress or difficulty, our Lord is maybe protecting us from other dangers or heavier burdens and thus keeping us on that narrow path towards heaven. We just need to trust in God.

As we start our journey into this new year, 2026, let us renew ourselves into being ever-present with Christ during the day, just as if we were standing with St. John the Baptist and Jesus at the Jordan River that day. Remind ourselves that Jesus is truly God, He can do all things. And that we truly look with the eyes of faith at the supernatural activities around us. May you and I love God for His Holy goodness, being amazing Catholics in the living out of our faith.

May God's blessings be with you and your family in this New Year, Brad