The most important day of our lives is the day of our baptism. We’re configured to Christ and given the greatest gift of all, the hope of eternal salvation. As we conclude Christmas, we remember this gift of salvation that has been offered to all the baptized. This Feast invites us to evaluate how we reflect the grace of baptism in our lives, in our conduct, and how we’re living out our membership in the Body of Christ. After a child is baptized, the priest anoints the head with Chrism and offers instruction. “God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has freed you from sin and given you new birth by water and the Holy Spirit. He now anoints you with the chrism of salvation so that you may remain a member of Christ who is Priest, Prophet, and King.”

By our baptism, every one of us has been anointed a priest of Jesus as a member of His Body. A priest is a person of prayer, who intercedes for others, lifting their needs to God. By our baptism, we’ve been united to Christ and are capable of lifting others to Christ by our prayers. We ask ourselves: Do I pray? Do I pray for the people in my life? Does my family pray together, in the morning, meal times, at bed time? The highest form of prayer in the life of Church is attending Sunday Mass where we honor the Sabbath together as a community of priests, celebrating together Christ’s sacrifice for us as we are fed by His Body and Blood. We ask ourselves: Is Sunday Mass a priority for me and my family or do other things become more important? Parents, do you pray for your children? Children, do you pray for your parents, siblings, and classmates? We’re all called to be mediators and this happens when we pray.

By our baptism, we participate in the prophetic office of Jesus. Prophets proclaim and live the truth that comes from God. Truth isn’t always popular. To live our baptismal calling to be prophets, we must know our faith. Exercising the prophetic office of Jesus requires patience, humility, and charity on our part, proclaiming the Gospel by the example of our lives. We ask ourselves, do the people in my life even know that I’m Catholic or do I do everything in my power to hide this? When asked about my Catholic faith, can I give a reason for my hope in a spirit of humility and love? If I can, then I’m living my baptismal call as a prophet.

By our baptism, we’re called to participate in the Kingship of Christ. A king is someone who takes charge, exercises leadership, and takes responsibility for the world around them. At the Last Supper, Jesus washes His disciples’ feet. Is He in charge? No question. Is He exercising leadership? Yes, by example. Is He taking responsibility for the world around Him? Yes, by His sacrifice. We ask ourselves: do I exercise leadership as modeled by Christ? Do I lead by example? Do I take responsibility for the souls I’m entrusted with? Am I willing to make sacrifices for the wellbeing of my family and community? When we do so, we participate in the Kingship of Christ.

The most important day of our lives is the day of our baptism. We’re configured to Christ and given the greatest gift of all, the hope of eternal salvation.