

From the Desk of Father Ed:

Dear Parishioners,

This Sunday the Church in her wisdom gives us the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Jesus' Baptism in the Jordan by John marks the end of the Christmas Season and the beginning of His public ministry. It is a manifestation of the Blessed Trinity. The Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity, in the form of a dove descended upon Jesus, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. The Father's Voice, the First Person of the Blessed Trinity, came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son..."

Jesus' presence in the Jordan River recalls when Joshua led the Israelites out of the desert. The Jordan River parted and Joshua brought them into the Promised Land. Through the Baptism that Jesus endured, that is, His Cross, the heavens were opened for us.

John the Baptist was the voice calling people to be baptized in the Jordan as a sign of their repentance and a turning away from sin. Jesus entered the waters of the Jordan to be baptized by John even though He was not a sinner. Jesus, a divine person, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity was and always will be without sin because God is all good and perfect. Jesus who is divine took on our human nature in the womb of Mary His mother. Jesus brought all of our humanity into the waters to cleanse us of our sins. He completed that act on the Cross when He suffered and died to take away all of our sins.

Jesus' act of being baptized in the Jordan and on the Cross sanctified the waters of our Baptism. At our Baptism all of our sins were taken away and we were made members of Christ's Mystical Body, the Church, and children of the Father, and given the gift of the Holy Spirit.

At the completion of today's Feast the Church returns to the season of Ordinary Time. As we come to the end of the Christmas Season let us be thankful for all that God has done for us and for the many graces that He has showered upon us. Let us pray to hold onto these graces by being obedient and faithful to the Church, by growing in virtue, and like our Blessed Mother, ponder and reflect in our hearts the mysteries and the love that our God has for each one of us.

Parish Life:

A special thanks to all of our parishioners who continue to be so generous in supporting our parish, especially during this Christmas Season.

Our Lady Queen of Peace, pray for us,

Father Ed,

Pastor