



The feast of the Baptism of the Lord marks the conclusion of the Christmas season and begins the First Sunday in Ordinary Time. On Christmas, Jesus, the Son of God, manifested himself as a Child. At the Epiphany, he revealed himself to the Gentiles as the Savior of not just the Jews, but of all people. Today, on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, he manifested as the beloved Son of God the Father with the Holy Spirit resting upon him and guiding him as he begins his public ministry.

The feast of the Baptism of the Lord reminds us of our own Baptism. Through Baptism, we are cleansed of our sins, and we become beloved sons and daughters of God. Baptism also is an entrance into a new life of faith and continue into eternity. When St. King Louis IX was asked which day is the most important day of his life, he responded by saying it was his day of Baptism and not his birthday or the day of his coronation as King of France. His argument was that Baptism was the beginning of a life that would continue for eternity in the everlasting glory of heaven. Finally, Baptism gives us the privilege of sharing Christ's ministry of healing and preaching the Good News.

On this day, let us remember the significance of our Baptism and be grateful for this wonder gift! This is also a day for us to renew our baptismal vows by consecrating ourselves to the Holy Trinity and "by rejecting Satan and all his empty promises," which our profane world is constantly offering us through its mass media of communication.

Let us ask Our Lord today to make us faithful to our Baptismal promises.

Let us thank Him for the privilege of being joined to His mission of preaching the 'Good News' by our transparent Christian lives of love, mercy, service and forgiveness.

I also want to recognize the following benefactors:

- For the Year of the Family banners as well as those who designed and helped put up these beautiful banners: Ray and Mary Sanchez, Sylvie Chavez, and Reyna Garcia.
- For the Nativity set: Emanuel and Gina Avina, Lulubel Stala, Kelly Sweeney, Rich Macias, Evelyn Subero, and Lidia Mendoza.
- For the beautiful monstrance: Rafael and Lupita Abundez.

Thank you!

May the Lord bless you for your generosity!

Sincerely in Christ,
Rev. Philip M. Lam, CRM