



*From the Desk of Father Peter*

## *The Baptism of the Lord*

*This Sunday, we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. The public life of Jesus began with His Baptism by John in the River Jordan; this officially marks the end of the celebration of the Christmas season even though the Church allows us to celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2. In cooperation with the Holy Spirit who descended over Jesus in the form of a dove, Christ accepted His mission. He came to fulfill all that was right, submitting to the Father's will. Jesus consented to baptism and His death for the remission of our sins, and is the source of the Spirit for all humanity. It is through our baptism that we, as Christians, are sacramentally assimilated to Jesus. We take His mission. John had been proclaiming the words of the prophets to the people and teaching lessons of charity, repentance, truthfulness, honesty, and justice in everyday life. As Christians, each of us can rightly say that God has called us. We have heard at one time or another that we are "children of God." But what does this mean? By our faith, we are instructed that if we face difficult and challenging times in life, Christ is there with His compassion. By the grace of our baptism, we call upon him to help us in those moments, and many times, by His grace, we are saved. As God's children through baptism, we are blessed with the faith of His loving kindness and mercy to meet life's struggles. We approach the Lord, the Lamb of God, with humility and repentance, knowing that in HIM, ALL WILL BE WELL. As we are in the first month of*



*the year 2025, what a joyful and comforting thought that is. In Christ we pass from worry to peace, from pain to comfort; however it is up to each individual to ask Jesus for His help and grace in those areas challenging us. There are demands placed upon us when we accept the challenge to be a follower of Christ. There will be joy that comes from accepting the message of Christ and following it in our lives, there will also be suffering that comes to those who prefer darkness. We do not want darkness to blind our eyes. We want the light of Christ to illuminate our way in the world. Just as prayer was essential in the ministry of Jesus, it must be essential in our own lives, too. This is how we will be able to reach our goal, to one day be called to be with Christ in the heavenly kingdom—a Kingdom where there will be no more suffering, no more darkness, only rejoicing with the Saints and angels. Let us then, work and pray that we may develop and nurture that personal relationship with Jesus that God asks of us. Such a relationship is what will guide and comfort us through this life and welcome us to the next.*



*Peace and blessings to all in the New Year!*

*Fr. Peter*