



Things to Ponder

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The Baptism of The Lord

Dear Parish Family,

Today the Christmas Season officially ends and we enter once gain into Ordinary Time. The transitional story, however, is anything but ordinary. It is that of the Baptism of Jesus. The heavens were opened. The voice of the Father was heard; and the Spirit appeared I in the form of a dove.

Baptism is the cleansing of the soul and the commissioning of the servant. Obviously, the Son of God needed no purification; but his acceptance of John's baptism is a sign to us of his acceptance of the mission given him by the Father. What began at the Jordan would culminate in Jerusalem on the third day. Christians are those who freely choose to link their destiny, their hopes, with the way, the truth, and the life who is the Risen Lord. While most of us were embraced by the Father and filled with the Spirit as infants, every year at Easter we are asked to re-affirm our choice of this path to glory. How am I being asked in 2016 to suffer so as to rise with Him? A commentator spoke of this distinction in this way:

“This reluctance of ours to accept
daily what we received once is not surprising, surely, since the
power of the spirit is the strength
to make ourselves weak, the ability
to choose vulnerability, to
become servants.”

Blessed Epiphany,

Rev. Bill Foley

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