

Pastor's Letter

January 11, 2026 – Baptism of the Lord

Dear Church family,

When we watch action movies, we are used to seeing the hero save the day and restore order by beating up the bad guy, often with lots of explosions and general destruction. While it might be entertaining and emotionally satisfying on a superficial level, in the real world that kind of mayhem does not result in real and lasting peace and justice. Violence always creates trauma for both the victim of it and the one who carries it out. Both are damaged psychologically and emotionally as well as physically.

When Jesus came to establish justice on the earth, he didn't come with guns blazing. He came to establish peace and justice by living out a peaceful and just life. As Isaiah says in our first reading foretelling the mission of Our Lord, "He shall bring forth justice to the nations, not crying out, not shouting, not making his voice heard in the street. A bruised reed he shall not break, and a smoldering wick he shall not quench, until he establishes justice on the earth." Jesus overcame the evil that was in control of the world not by doing violence but by smothering it in love, the divine love of the Father.

Jesus was baptized in the river Jordan by John, not for his own sins, but in order to identify so closely with sinful humanity that he could absorb our sins into himself and wash them away in his infinite goodness and love. In his death on the cross, he bore the burden of our sins and shattered the power of sin, not by force, but by the overwhelming magnitude of his mercy. The kingdom of God has triumphed and now we are invited to make that kingdom more of a reality here and now as we await its fulfillment at the Lord's return.

We do that by living lives of peace in imitation of the Prince of Peace and by pursuing justice, giving to each human being what is due to them according to their dignity as persons created in the image and likeness of God. We make peace and we build justice primarily by being peaceful and just people. That's who Jesus is and that's who we are called to be as members of his mystical body through our own baptism. May God, through the gift of the Holy Spirit, fill us with his peace in our hearts and true respect for the rights of all.

Blessings,

Fr. Scott

St. Edward Decoration Take down

Please join us after mass on Sunday, January 11 to take down all the Christmas decorations. Thank You



Baptism

August John Thompson
Son of Clayton & Madelyn Thompson