



## **The Baptism of the Lord**

The Christmas season ends with the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, celebrated this year on January 9. I would like to share with you a brief reflection on Baptism and the commitment we make as Baptized Christians. The sacrament of Baptism is one of initiation. Through our Baptism, we become sons and daughters of God, and are given the grace and strength to carry out the commitment that we are asked to make. Because of our Baptismal commitment, we are called to go out and bring God's Good News (the Gospel) to others and help make His presence known to them.

We are the ones asked to open the eyes of the blind (the ones who are living their lives in spiritual darkness, not knowing the Lord.) We are the ones asked to help bring prisoners out of spiritual confinement, for only in Jesus do we have true freedom. God does the healing and freeing, but so often He works through us. We are His instruments.

Jesus Himself went through Baptism and this shows most clearly His humanity and His willingness to put Himself in our place. We can say that Jesus truly experienced all of human life, except sin. Jesus clearly identifies with us. Let us pray that we might be strengthened so that we can live out our Christian Baptismal commitment to love all people and share the Good News of Jesus Christ with them. Let us pray that we may recognize that we are sons and daughters of God through our Baptism, and that fact makes us brothers and sisters to one another.

*Father David*



## **Capital Campaign**

I would like to report that we are very close to reaching the goal of our capital campaign (which is \$250,000.) Thus far we have raised almost \$245,000. I wish to sincerely thank all those who participated. Your generosity is most appreciated and will allow us to keep our parish complex beautiful and in good working order for years to come. If you have not yet made a gift to the campaign, please consider doing so. It would be great if we could reach our goal by the end of January. Thank you, again, and may God bless all of you!

*Father David*