

From the Pastor:

At our baptism we were told, “...***you have become a new creation and have clothed yourself in Christ.***” Each Sunday we come to worship, transformed by our baptism, even if we are not conscious of it. Baptism has given us new life, and we are clothed in Christ no matter what we wear. For so many of us, that moment long ago is not in our memory, but is embedded into the memory of our spirit, full of new life in Christ each day.

Many people approach the Church for baptism, primarily parents seeking it for children. I always like to ask them why they seek the sacrament, and I receive a variety of responses. Sometimes people fear for their child if they are not baptized; many of us were raised to believe that. In 2007 the Vatican released a document under our Holy Father at that time, Pope Emeritus Benedict that claimed that the idea of limbo was “***unduly restrictive view of salvation***”. Add to that, it was never truly a teaching of the church, although it was taught well into the 20th century. Hopefully, we are baptizing our children as the first step in a journey of becoming that is our Catholic life and hope. For adults who are catechumens, seeking entry into the Church, the choice of baptism is a deep commitment. Either way, it is powerfully profound.

Lastly on the topic of baptism, I like to think about Saint Pope John Paul II on his first papal visit to Poland where he visited his hometown church. Upon entering his first act was to go to the font, kneel down, and kiss it, because his baptism at that spot was so significant to him. May we each find such joy and gratitude in our own as we celebrate this Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

The new year has begun and work will begin in earnest to become integrated as a family of parishes. The holidays were certainly very different this year, but we did come together and offer the opportunity to worship at each location. There are far too many names of staff and volunteers to thank individually by name, but how grateful I am for the wonderful people of these parishes. Let us all pray together that we become an even more powerful light of Christ in the world now that we are three!

Until next week, be well, do good deeds, and say your prayers. ***Fr. Jerry***