

# FROM THE DESK OF **Fr. Julius**

Brothers and Sisters in Christ; Grace and Peace!



Today's High Feast, the Baptism of Our Lord marks the end of our liturgical Christmas season and the start of Ordinary Time. All four Gospel writers chronicled this pivotal event: New Testament scholars teach that in each of them we witness the first manifestation of all Three Persons of the Holy Trinity. As was shared with you last Sunday, it is a fine time to put away your Christmas decorations yet still keep the Infant Jesus very present in your heart.

In the First reading of the prophet Isaiah, we are taken in with his compelling lyricism, while he describes the coming of John the Baptist in song. The voice tells us that we are to prepare the way of the Lord so that His glory shall be seen by all, culminating in the Baptism by John. In the Second reading, writing to encourage and guide the young Titus, St. Paul acclaims how 'God's grace is now for the salvation of all mankind, making us heirs in hope of eternal life.'

In the Gospel, Luke describes the baptism of the Lord by his cousin, St. John the Precursor. Prior to this time, our Lord Jesus had lived the life of a peasant carpenter in Nazareth but here at the Jordan, he would no longer return to that former life. If we take note of today's Psalm 29:3, *The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over mighty waters*, it validates one of the many prophecies from the Old Testament. The supernatural Voice of the Father, the descent of the Holy Spirit, seals our Lord's definitive manifestation of 'The Christ' to all present. The moment of his public ministry has arrived.

Bringing to mind the trinitarian gifts we received at our baptism, we have also been invited to bear the good news with Jesus, especially at this point in our liturgy. The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC. #1213) reminds us that through Baptism, we become sons and daughters of God, brothers and sisters of Jesus, members of his Church, heirs of heaven and temples of the Holy Spirit. This Gospel helps us to appreciate the Divine Presence in others by honoring, loving, and serving them in all humility. Could we then take a minute to reflect on the unnecessary times that our pride has wounded another, all to convince ourselves of our superiority? What are we without the Trinity? What have you achieved that the devil is convincing you it is by *your* own strength?

It is worthy to consider our future: it may not be an over statement to say that the creation story is not over! God, who continues His creation, has declared us co-creators, co-authors, of the next chapter. What are you going to do with tomorrow? By grace, prayer, and our actions, we yearn to hear the Father say, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

Joyful Sunday!