

NOTHING ORDINARY ABOUT ORDINARY TIME

We as a Church begin ordinary time. The vestments we use will be green and the environment of the church leaves Christmas to allow space for spiritual growth. At this time I would like to thank those who made this Christmas season as powerful as it could be. God did not disappoint. He came with the power of His love and we are all the recipients of this eternal gift. With the help of the staff and reopening volunteers, parking lot Mass was packed, members of the parish family were greeted inside when the doors opened for our indoor celebrations and everyone was kept safe while respecting the guidelines. Music and live streaming allowed connection to take on new potential and the Art and Environment transformed the Baptismal font to the place of Bethlehem with kings and shepherds and the presentation of the Holy Family. The outdoor nativity was set to let everyone know of our true faith. The Knights of Columbus supported all of our efforts and came through in need. The Giving Tree found new ways and St. Vincent de Paul monitored needs in this festive time. We are a community who overcame obstacles and made Christmas come alive.

May God bless our ministries and groups, our volunteers and staff. It is amazing to see all God accomplished through us.



Fr. John

*Do you long to receive Eucharist,
but feel unsettled about entering
the church building?*

You are not alone.

Join us on

Sunday, January 24

- **Parking lot opens at 3:15 PM**
(use the Lombardy Ln. entrance)
- **Tune radio to 87.9 FM**
- **Mass begins at 4:00 PM**

For your safety, you only exit your car to
receive Communion (mask required)

Parking Lot Mass



RECOGNIZING THE POWER OF OUR BAPTISM

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. It is an amazing experience of recognition and the power of the Trinity. Jesus experiences the Holy Spirit descend and the voice proclaiming "You are my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." This recognition transitions Jesus into His public life. He takes the confidence of the experience and moves forward to fulfill the mission given to Him by His heavenly Father. We too have been Baptized in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. We are to transition on this Feast from the wonder and awe of the Christmas season to a time of growth.

Ordinary Time, as it is called, is not ordinary by any means. We are called to break open the mysteries we have just celebrated. We are to break open what it means to know what God looks like by understanding the movement and message of Jesus. We are to know that the power of this love is greater than anything in its way. From the shepherds to kings, from prophets to prophetesses, all recognize this Jesus as a light. We are to allow this light to transform our lives. We are to realize beyond the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, He gives us the gift of salvation which can never be returned.

The breaking open of the mystery is a prayer form found in the traditions of our Church. May we take the time to revisit the mystery poured out for us and allow it to lead us to new growth in our lives.



Father John Ouper