

SAID ED January 13, 2008

Baptism of the Lord and Enrollment Ceremony

Today we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. This day marks the end of the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany Season. I always have some sadness when it is time to pack up the glowing lights and festive decorations of Christmas. I know time marches on and our liturgical cycle unfolds into the fullness of time, but it is still sad to say good bye to all the memories that each Christmas contains. Before I turn the page on this chapter of our life together, I want to publicly thank all those who made our celebrations so beautiful and conducive to the faith life of our community. We are deeply indebted to our Liturgical planners and Ministers, Art and Environment Committee and Pastoral Musicians. So many people worked together to help us pray with sincerity and heartfelt enthusiasm.

There were 2287 twinkling lights on the huge Christmas tree behind the Altar – a fitting sign of the 2287 families (6917 people) who make up “the Church of the Assumption.” On Christmas Eve we welcomed over 4500 people to join in prayer. There were another 700 some who came on Christmas Day. Our total attendance was 5205 people! So many visitors expressed their appreciation of the warm welcome and great hospitality which they experienced in our midst. Thank you all for taking our common responsibility so seriously. This responsibility (to be the gracious compassion of God) flows from our Baptismal calling.

Today as we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord we are reminded of our connection with Christ. We first celebrated that relationship on the day of our baptism when we became members of the Body of Christ. This great event makes us children of God, heirs of heaven and frees us from Original Sin. Baptism marks the beginning of a life long process of growth in Christ.

Today we welcome almost 250 young people into the formal process of preparation for First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Please keep these younger members of our community in your prayers in the weeks ahead. (There are presently 121 for First Eucharist and 126 for Confirmation) With their parents and family members they will be getting ready for the next step on their journeys of faith. How wonderful that we are all a part of that growth. Thank you for your good example and living faith. It is a powerful witness to the importance of our faith.

Have a great week!
