

7 January 2021
Saint Raymond of Peñafort, Priest

Dear Friends,

Merry Christmas!

We conclude our celebration of the Christmas Season this weekend with the Baptism of the Lord. This feast is a continuation of the Epiphany of the Lord that we celebrated last Sunday ("Epiphany" meaning manifestation or revealing). This is so because—in addition to the Visit of the Magi that was the focus last Sunday—Jesus' Baptism in the Jordan River is considered another way in which Jesus was revealed to the world as Messiah and Son of God.

In commemoration of both the Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord, at this weekend's Masses we will be offering bottles of holy water for you to take home. This holy water was blessed with a special Epiphany Blessing on January 6th (the traditional date for Epiphany). In addition to being considered one of His "Epiphanies", Jesus' Baptism is also when He sanctified the waters of our world. The Epiphany Blessing invokes God's power over evil, and reminds us that, when used with faith, holy water has strong spiritual power to protect us from our spiritual enemies. If you're not able to come to church this weekend, please contact the Parish Office to arrange another time for you to come pick up a bottle.

+++

Thank you all for making this a prayerful and joyful time during both the Advent and the Christmas Season here at Mary, Queen of Peace! Even during a time when we have some limitations on what we can do in person, the joy of the season was expressed in many familiar ways: our celebrations of holy days and liturgies, the cultural expressions of our faith, the beautiful decorations in the church and social hall, the prayerful music and singing. And, we were blessed with some new ways to mark these seasons: outdoor Nativity Scene in the plaza, lights in the trees at our entrance, Advent holy hours, live-streaming and use of technology to bring these to members of the MQP Family both near and far.

Thank you to the parish staff, ministry leaders, liturgical ministers and musicians, and all who helped to bring all these things together. A lot of coordination, commitment, time, and energy goes into planning, rehearsing, organizing, decorating, setting up, and taking down. It's a beautiful expression of the Body of Christ active and present at MQP, with so many people coming together to do their part to make these seasons special and memorable.
Thank you!

+++

Blessings and prayers to you and your family and friends during this final day of the Christmas Season, and as we begin the First Week of Ordinary Time in 2021!

Let's keep praying for peace and unity, and let's keep on making personal decisions each day with our own thoughts, words, and actions that contribute to peace and unity in our world!

Yours in Christ through Mary, Queen of Peace,

Fr. Chad Green