



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The month of January saw the closing of our celebrations for the Christmas season and the beginning of Ordinary Time. We continue to celebrate our Sunday and weekday Masses outdoors. On January 3rd we celebrated the Epiphany of our Lord and on January 10th we celebrated His Baptism in the river Jordan by St. John the Baptist. In a special way we want to thank the many parishioners who helped make these final Christmas celebrations beautiful both through the altar decorations and ushering those in attendance.

We also want to thank those who have generously continued to financially support our parish during the Christmas season. Through the generosity of so many we will continue to carry out the work of Jesus Christ in bringing the Gospel to our local community.

During the Masses celebrating the Baptism of Christ, we blessed water so that our parishioners could use it in their homes. Holy water is a sacramental that we as Catholic use to remind us of our own Baptism. When we use it to bless ourselves when entering the church or in our homes, we become more open to receiving all of the graces God wants to give us through His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. St. Teresa of Avila recommends that we use holy water often, as she tells us in her autobiography: ***From long experience I have learned that there is nothing like holy water to put devils to flight...For my own part, whenever I take it...it is quite usual for me to be conscious of a refreshment which I cannot possibly describe, resembling an inward joy which comforts my whole soul.***

The later part of January bears a somber tone as we remember the tragic Supreme Court decision *Roe v. Wade* on January 22, 1973 and commit ourselves to praying for an end to abortion in our country and for lifting our voice for the voiceless unborn. A group of parishioners attended the San Francisco *Walk for Life* on January 23 to bear witness to our firm conviction that every human life, beginning at conception, is worthy of our respect, care, and love.

We also began our latest Alpha program on January 21st. Parishioners have been meeting online to discover the person of Christ through group discussion of the core teachings of our faith. Please keep all of those attending in your prayers!

As we enter into February and the beginning of the season of Lent on February 17, we ask that the Lord grant us a deeper conversion and a readiness to be His instruments of mercy in the world.

See you soon,  
Fr. Matthew