

REFLECTION: I remember when I decided to change my life or my ways... I remember...
I remember...

OUR FATHER

Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave us:
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
R. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

SIGN OF PEACE

Jesus, you said to your apostles: “I leave you peace, my peace I give you. Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and grant us the peace and unity of your kingdom where you live forever and ever. **Amen.**”

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
R. And with your spirit.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: **have mercy on us.**
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: **have mercy on us.**
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: **grant us peace.**

This is Jesus, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are we who are called to his supper.
Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray:
God our Father,
You call us to be your beloved sons and daughters and with him you give us the mission to be humble and dedicated servants. Help us to live like Jesus, to go about doing good as he did, and be faithful and just to God and to others.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. **R. Amen.**

The Baptism of the Lord

Cycle A | January 11, 2026

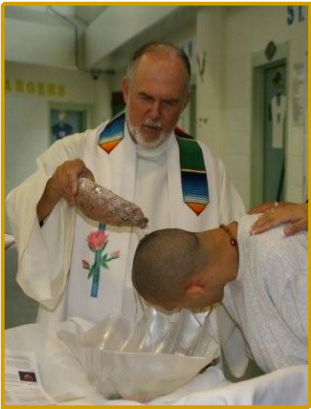
WISDOM FROM THE CELLS

I remember the best day for me locked up was the day I decided to disassociate myself from my involvement with gangs. I remember being scared that a hit would be placed on me for leaving the gang but doing so anyway because I was tired of putting the gang ahead of God and my family.

I remember thinking that now that I’ve put this gang behind me, I don’t have to fear letting God into my life. I remember feeling for the first time in my life like I no longer had to put on a front for others so I would be liked and accepted. I remember feeling better than I’ve ever felt before and coming to that point in realizing that being in prison is not the sum of my life.

I remember the best day for me locked up was the day I came to the realization that God still loves me and wants me to spend eternity in heaven.

- Jeff, who is in a California State Prison.



Picture: Fr. Mike baptizing a JRJI participant.

PENITENTIAL RITE

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life.
R. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray:
God our Father,
You led your Son Jesus to the Jordan River to get baptized by John. Lead us to renew our baptism in choosing new life in Jesus.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord.
R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7

Thus says the LORD: Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased, upon whom I have put my spirit; he shall bring forth justice to the nations, not crying out, not shouting, not making his voice heard in the street. a bruised reed he shall not break, and a smoldering wick he shall not quench, until he establishes justice on the earth; the coastlands will wait for his teaching. I, the LORD, have called you for the victory of justice, I have grasped you by the hand; I formed you, and set you as a covenant of the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness.

The Word of the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 29: 1-2, 3-4, 9-10

R. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Give to the LORD, you sons of God, give to the LORD glory and praise, Give to the LORD the glory due his name; adore the LORD in holy attire.

R. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

The voice of the LORD is over the waters, the LORD, over vast waters. The voice of the LORD is mighty; the voice of the LORD is majestic.

R. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

The God of glory thunders, and in his temple all say, “Glory!” The LORD is enthroned above the flood; the LORD is enthroned as king forever.

R. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Second Reading: Acts 10: 34-38

Peter proceeded to speak to those gathered in the house of Cornelius, saying: “In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. You know the word that he sent to the Israelites as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all, what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.”

The Word of the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.

Gospel: Matthew 3: 13-17

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. John tried to prevent him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?” Jesus said to him in reply, “Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he allowed him. After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened for him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, saying, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

MEDITATION: A GOOD BEGINNING

after walking for two days my feet every part of me yearning for some coolness walking towards the river blue running water curving through tan mounds sun burning the sand	my cousin john stood speaking many approaching him his voice drifted to where i stood it was as if a trembling began in him shaking him	john i desire to enter the waters that you baptize me	as if i were handing over my life to my abba as if i were now receiving in this darkness the strength to struggle to build this reign kingdom
arriving to crowds and crowds of people waiting to enter the water standing at the top of the hill also waiting waiting for what? watching the faces of many as they came out of the water	jesus every person that i meet every face that i see searching thinking is this the one? all my life i waited for this moment i have been preparing for your arrival	no john i desire to enter the waters	my life was changing my own desire plans were dying and this path of my abba was being accepted this is the beginning i surrendered my life to you abba i will do your work
wondering what was going to become of my life if i enter these waters the river twisting and turning	i gazed again and again at the colors of the river as it flowed and flowed through this land somehow inside me words inside me ready to begin kept echoing	slowly wading to where it was deep enough john took me by the shoulders and submerged me into this jordan water	suddenly bursting through the surface of the river voice strong vibrating from every direction you are my beloved son
and at a large spot		my whole body felt power under this water i could not see anything i was immersed in complete darkness it was as if i were in a time i struggled for breath	

