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FROM THE DESK OF FATHER JONATHAN

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This weekend we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

The concept of God being baptized may seem rather strange, or at least hard to understand, at first thought. We wonder, why would Our Lord need to be baptized? And we are right; he didn't need to be baptized.

And if he didn't "need" to be baptized, it's logical to ask why would Our Lord want to be baptized?

For us sinners, the sacrament of Baptism frees us from original sin and incorporates us into the family of God. Jesus had no original sin. He was already part of the family of God. He was the Son of God!

So why did he seek Baptism? And why do we celebrate his Baptism today?

Jesus wanted to be baptized as a way to show us in yet another way that he is not foreign to our human experience. He has become one of us in all things except sin. He has come not to save us from our human reality but rather to elevate our human reality to what he meant our humanity to be.

What can this liturgical feast mean for me on a daily basis? For every disciple of Jesus, it means that we can ask the Lord what he would do in our individual situations, what he would want us to do to fulfill his will in our daily lives.

In short, we have a God who is not foreign to our own experience. He is not so far above us or so far away from us that he doesn't understand us. He is among us. He is Emmanuel. He is God with us.

God bless, Father Jonathan