



Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

Cathedral of the Honolulu Diocese • Founded 1843 • National Historic Register

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

January 12, 2025

Beloved Pilgrims of Hope,

Greetings of peace, love, joy and hope!

“Entrusted With a Mission”

As we enter Ordinary Time in our Liturgical Celebration, marked by the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, we find ourselves filled with both anticipation and uncertainty about the year ahead. Despite the tragedies that have marked the beginning of this New Year, our hearts still long for the joy and togetherness of our celebrations. As we transition from the festive seasons of Advent and Christmas, we continue our journey of faith, deepening our understanding of the mystery of Christ. Life moves forward, and with unwavering faith in the Christ-Child, we embrace this journey with abundant hope and trust in God’s boundless goodness.

Why do we hold onto such hope and trust in God’s goodness? It is because of Christ who entered our world and through whom we are blessed to be adopted as sons and daughters of our Heavenly Father. Just as Christ lived under the Father’s love, we, too, are enveloped in that divine love. At Christ’s baptism, the voice of the Father proclaimed, “You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

Jesus’ baptism is a profound reminder of how we are called to embrace our own paths in life. He came to dwell among us, demonstrating faithfulness to the Father amidst all struggles and pains. Our baptism, too, bestows upon us the precious gift of life, not only as citizens of this world but as citizens of God’s Kingdom. As beloved children of a loving, caring, and merciful Father, we are continually graced with His goodness. We have become children of God.

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord calls us to continue our mission, just as Christ did. His baptism marked the beginning of His public ministry. Similarly, we are called to live faithfully as sons and daughters of the Father in all our ways. We are sent forth to bear witness to His Divine Love and to share it with everyone around us.

Our world yearns for transformation, to become the paradise God intended from the beginning—a place of peace, love, and joy. A home where everyone can experience the comfort of God’s graciousness. This vision can only be realized when we live our lives as true children of God and when we go forth to share Christ’s message with the world.

As we journey into this Ordinary Time, and as Pilgrims of Hope, let us do so with a renewed spirit, embracing the Jubilee of Hope. Let us unravel the mystery of Christ in our daily endeavors, bringing His light and love to all we encounter.

Your fellow pilgrim in hope,

Fr. Pascual