

St. Athanasius Academy of Orthodox Theology

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The Most Rev. Metropolitan JOSEPH, Primate

The V. Rev. Fr. Jon Braun, President

Please remember our Prisoner-Students

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HIS BAPTISM – WHERE THE WISE AND THE FOOLISH ARE BORN ANEW

WHO is this divine One Who met John the Baptist at the Jordan River? According to the Gospel of John, He is the Word from in the beginning – Who became Incarnate – and is the Son of Man, through Mary's womb. He is named Jesus, the promised Christ of the Pentateuch – the Anointed Son of His eternal Father. He revealed Himself to Moses to be "I AM, the I AM" (OSB Ex 3), our deliverer from bondage to false fears and gods. He is the Child, the Son spoken of in OSB-Is. 9:5, Who shall bring His Peace of no end.

WHY baptized in the Jordan? To remind His children of the relational regeneration of being washed, cleansed, and healed by the flood waters of Noah, the waters of the Red Sea by the staff of Moses, and their being delivered unto the promised land, by Joshua – Hebrew form of Jesus.

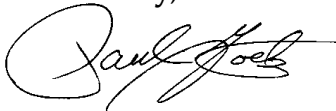
WHY the dove? To remind His children of the dove of Noah, returning with an olive leaf after a year plus of turbulent waters. The dove speaks to the promise of Jesus being the life-giving Spirit, and through His Spirit of Grace and Truth, finding peace and freedom from our bondage to the constant confusions, distortions, and fears of man's foolish wisdom.

WHY the olive leaf in the beak of the dove? To let Noah know the land was cleansed and healed, by the oil of healing. To remind us of our relationship to His land through husbandry, and to one another, in the name of our loving Father Jesus Christ – the Anointed Son of His eternal Father – the Word Incarnate and promised One of His children.

WHY did the dove alight upon Jesus at His Baptism? The dove reminds us of the opening of the storm clouds of life; of life relationships being healed; and of olive oil used to anoint the High Priest. The Spirit of the dove speaks to Jesus freeing us from the fear of death, of Paradise re-opened, and our eternal peace in Him, as our Father - the Anointed Son of His Father - and High priest unto His Unbegotten Father, according to the order of Melchizedek. – OSB Psalms 109.

WHAT of the Voice from Heaven? Five verses in the OSB-Old Testament – Ex 20:22; Duet 4:36; Neh 9:13; PS 75:9; Dan 4:31 – make clear this Voice is the divine Wisdom of the Word Himself – the pre-Incarnate Jesus Christ – our Father and High Priest. The Lawgiver Who Judges all. At His Baptism, this Voice comforts His disciples, yet immature in faith, letting them know He is not in opposition to the Father in Heaven sought by the Jews. Instead He is the "I AM, the I AM" sought by Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Sincerely,



Paul – SAAOT

Let us rejoice in His Baptism and become wise in His Wisdom and Way. For as He offers (2Cor 6:18), I will be Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters.