



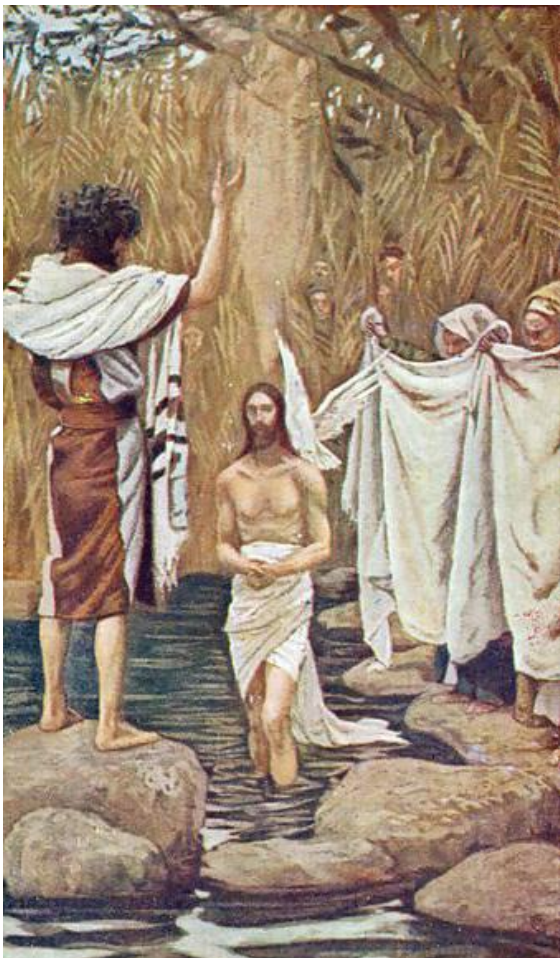
ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

"Our mission is to bring the good news of Jesus Christ's love to our entire community through traditional Anglo-Catholic worship, fellowship, outreach, and Christian formation."

Our Vision: *"We strive to be a haven of healing, reconciliation, joy and peace in service to our wider community and beyond, so that our example in prayer and practice may reflect Christ's love for us all."*

THIS SUNDAY —January 8 & Beyond

Rebirth for All



This Sunday—the first Sunday after Epiphany—the Church universal celebrates the Baptism of our Lord at the Jordan by John the Baptist.

The event is told by the four evangelists in slightly different terms, which clearly shows how relevant this was for the early Christian communities.

A lot has been written and commented about this event from a theological perspective, since it sounds contradictory that a baptism of repentance was taken by Him who was sinless. It is precisely Matthew's Gospel which makes this contradiction explicit in the words of John the Baptist trying to oppose Jesus' intention: "I need to be baptized by you and you come to me?"

But John the Baptist consents when Jesus replies, “let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.

As to the right interpretation of these words, quite a lot has also been discussed and written by theologians and Bible commentators, the most common interpretation being that Jesus showed great humbleness in making Himself equal to sinful mankind to open the way for us all to the status of God’s true children.

The other really relevant point in the different narratives of Jesus’ Baptism has to do with His true nature, which is expressed both in visual and auditory images. Most narratives tell us that the heavens were opened for Him when He came out of the water, and the Holy Spirit lighted on Him in the form of a dove.

This can be interpreted as sudden illumination, a revelation of His divine filiation with the Father as His true nature. To corroborate this divine filiation, a voice is heard from heaven saying, “this is my Son, the Beloved, with Whom I am well pleased.”

It is logical to believe that God’s pleasure in Jesus has to do with the fulfillment of His mission on earth. After all, there is no linear time for God, and He certainly knows the future as well as the present and the past.

The fact is that this statement is heard from God before Jesus has started His intensive three-year ministry, so we can also interpret that Jesus needed to be reassured by His Father of His true nature, of His caring love for Him, before starting His extremely challenging mission that would lead Him to the agony of the cross.

Henri Nouwen, the well-known writer of books on spirituality, in Life of the Beloved interprets these words said to Jesus as the words that our heavenly Father says to each and every one of us during our baptisms, and throughout our lives.

It may sound a little presumptuous at first, but if we consider the fact that Jesus’ plan for us is precisely to enable us all to become partakers of His kingdom of Love, becoming true children of God, this makes a lot of sense.

Peter was a strict follower of the Jewish Law when it came to conversion to Jesus’ Way of Love, so for him only those who embraced Judaism fully could be partakers of God’s salvation through Jesus Christ. But God had a surprise for him. Through a vision God led him to Cornelius, a Roman believer in Jesus’ Way, and then Peter came to clearly

understand “that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears Him and does what is right is acceptable to Him.”

So even Peter, who at first contended with Paul for his inclusion of the Gentiles in Jesus’ Way of Love, finally understood that Jesus has opened the way to rebirth for all, with no exclusion, so that every human being who makes Jesus’ Way of Love their own is, undoubtedly “God’s beloved child, in whom He is well pleased.”

Rev. Carlos Expósito

Readings for The Baptism of Our Lord

Isaiah 42:1-9 Acts 10:34-38 Psalm 89:20-29 Matthew 3:13-17

CALENDAR

Note: We continue worshipping in our historic church. The service will also be on Zoom. The service time is 10am. Tuesday Noon Mass and Friday Morning Prayer at 10:00am are held in All Saints’ St. Mary Chapel.

SUNDAY January 8, 2023 The Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus

10:00am Mass in All Saints’ Church

Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at www.allsaintschurch.org

Recording of Mass available before noon at www.allsaintschurch.org

Christian Formation and First Communion Instruction for Children

Ages 5-12 in the Parish Hall from 10:00am-10:45am

Christian Formation Meets at Noon in January on the 8th and 29th

Topic: Communicating with God--Meets in the Rector’s Study

TUESDAY Noon Mass in St. Mary Chapel

THURSDAY Spanish Class 1:00pm to 3:00pm in the Flower Room. Taught by Fr. Carlos

FRIDAY 10:00am Morning Prayer in St. Mary Chapel

SUNDAY Second Sunday after Epiphany

10:00am Mass in All Saints' Church

Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at www.allsaintschurch.org

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OUR CORE VALUES:

- Welcoming strangers like old friends
- Embracing the Anglo-Catholic tradition
- Being dependable members of a caring community
- Respecting each other's differences
- Being faithful stewards of God's gift
- Remembering that God loves everyone unconditionally

An Anglo-Catholic Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego
www.allsaintschurch.org