



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

THIS SUNDAY January 13 & BEYOND”

“No Matter What, It Is The Story of The Ages”



You have probably found yourself a few times in the “awkward!” position of having described to somebody else something you thought was quite remarkable but they were not responding with the same sense of response as you had when you saw it. I know I have. There is great restraint needed at that moment not to continue talking so you can embellish your described event. It’s over.

So, you might have said those very famous words, “I guess you had to be there.”

I have imagined the same after Jesus was baptized in the River Jordan, where folks who witnessed it would tell others about what happened, and the signs from heaven that accompanied the baptism. There were a certain number of people there, lots of people, but even then, I bet even not all those people realized what was taking place. Those people may have seen some of the things, like a dove, or heard a voice from the clouds, but they may have been blocked by the crowds from seeing the actual baptism.

Can you imagine, “Man, Yakob, you should have seen it. It looked like the very heavens themselves opened up, and then this dove came down, and then there was this voice, and John was there in the river with this other guy...” And Yakob replies, “Oh, that’s nice.” Hmph. I guess you had to be there.

The main thing is that Jesus was baptized in fulfillment of all things.

And the beauty of it all is that you didn’t have to be there to reap the benefit of Jesus’ earthly ministry, or the further fulfillment of ancient Jewish prophecies with Jesus’ baptism. AND, we have a record of this baptism having taken place. This Sunday’s gospel account is fairly succinct:

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form

like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

So, the baptism work for the day had been accomplished. And in Luke's account Jesus is baptized as the crowning baptism of the day, at which time the signs took place. There is no confusion here about one sign or the other being displayed or manifested mistakenly for someone else. That might have been the case if Jesus had been baptized as one among many in the crowd. But there was no mistake here. It is Jesus, the Son of God, to whom the Father in heaven spoke those words over this particular One. Upon Him is the line of David to be fulfilled in an eternal kingship.

Do you need to wait for someone to share this story with you, so that you can share in that eternal life and kingship? No. You've just read it. You've heard me share it. You don't have to wait any longer. So, now what do you do with this information and story? Well, it is not necessary for you to feign the same response as you might know someone else had. But it is necessary for you, if you wish eternal life, to hear the voice of both John the Baptist, and Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and accept Jesus for the person that God the Father said He was "*My beloved Son*", and John said He was, "*but one who is more powerful than I is coming (that is, the Messiah!); I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.*" And you will have your own story to tell about God's presence in you and through you, which you will want to tell. And you will be able to hold onto that story and be proud of it, and be excited about it, and tell it over and over, hoping others will hear and receive and turn to Christ.

Fr. Robert G. Eaton, Interim Rector

Readings for this Sunday – The Baptism of Our Lord

Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 89:20-29 Acts 10:34-38 Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

CALENDAR

SUNDAY: **The Baptism Of Our Lord**

8:00a Low Mass (Church)

10:30a Solemn High Mass (Church)

—*The entrance to the church is on 6th Avenue*—

Note: Coffee Hour & Fellowship follow the Mass in the Parish Hall.

MONDAY: 7:00p (AA) Doctors' Group (Fireside Room)

TUESDAY: Noon Mass (St. Mary's Chapel)

FRIDAY: AA Meetings

8:00p Ladies' Group (Fireside Room)

8:15p Men's Group (Parish Hall)

SATURDAY 7:30pm Concert — San Diego Baroque Soloists,



San Diego Baroque Soloists, a collaborative ensemble, will present a program titled “Quartet Origins” on **Saturday, January 19** at 7:30 pm. The program will be a diverse collection of works for 4

strings, some adding harpsichord, all of which are important ancestors of the string quartet. From the earliest known example of a piece for 2 violins, viola and ‘cello by Gregorio Allegri (composer of the popular ‘Miserere’) to works by Scarlatti and Telemann and including works by Tallis and Vivaldi.

Tickets: \$10, \$25, \$40