



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 10 & BEYOND

Becoming What We Are Meant to Be through God's Grace



The First Sunday after Epiphany brings us to the Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ at the River Jordan. The account of Jesus' baptism in the Jordan by John is present in the three synoptical gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) before the beginning of his earthly ministry. John's gospel does not depict the act but refers to it in the words of John the Baptist, when he mentions he saw the Holy Spirit descend upon Him like a dove.

In the depiction made by the three synoptical gospels, the ending is always presented in similar words: "and a voice came from heaven, 'You are my beloved Son, with you I am well pleased'."

This statement made by the Father to the Son is celebrated within the season after the Epiphany of Our Lord as the one that distinctly marks Jesus' divine affiliation. In fact, the first part of the statement will be heard again at the scene of the transfiguration but addressed to the three disciples that Jesus takes to the mount. Therefore, we can affirm that the season after Epiphany opens and closes with the

same statement that reveals Jesus' true nature to Himself and those who decide to follow Him.

Understanding and believing that Jesus is God's beloved Son in whom He is well pleased is a premise for the Christian faith. If we do not believe this, we may be among those who consider Jesus as a great spiritual teacher, but not among the ones who firmly confess He is God's Son, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, incarnate by the power of the Holy Spirit, true man, and true God.

However, our faith does not stop there. This is only the premise of what the mystery of the Holy Trinity involves. God's plan of salvation for all is revealed through Jesus Christ as God incarnate, but this belief involves much more than the mere acceptance of His divine affiliation. In the scene of the transfiguration God repeats the phrase about Jesus being His beloved Son, but adds, "Listen to Him!".

Listening to Jesus implies following His Way of Love. Jesus' Way of Love is an inclusive way, a graceful way, a love that is freely offered to all. It is not the result of some merit of ours. What Jesus offers us is a partaking of His divine affiliation through His self-giving life. By coming into the world as one of us, and giving Himself for the life of the world, He takes us to the Father as true sons and daughters, as the beloved ones of the Father too.

Our affiliation as God's true children is the result of His boundless love. Our baptism is the covenant by which this becomes possible. In the waters of baptism, we are buried in Jesus' death and reborn to His resurrected life. The voice He heard speaks to each of us then, calling us beloved children in which God is well pleased.

When hearing these words, we are assured of God's unconditional love for each of us. The response to such love cannot be other than love. Love for God and for the others, for the whole of Creation. This is summed up in our Baptismal Covenant. We respond to God's graceful and loving initiative by committing ourselves to be bearers of His love to the world.

By our generous response to His all-encompassing love, we begin to be transformed into what we have always been meant to be, God's beloved children, in whom He is well pleased.

Fr. Carlos E. Expósito, Rector

Readings for this Sunday – The First Sunday after Epiphany
Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 89:20-29 Acts 10:34-38 Mark 1:7-11

CALENDAR

Note: Sunday Mass is now via Zoom at 9am until further notice. Tuesday Noon Mass is held in the courtyard. All other gatherings will be Zoom meetings. Visit our web site for the Zoom link (see below).

SUNDAY The First Sunday after Epiphany
9:00am Mass via Zoom
Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at www.allsaintschurch.org
Recording of Mass available before noon at www.allsaintschurch.org

TUESDAY Noon Mass in All Saints' courtyard

THURSDAY 5:00pm The Study of the Gospel of Mark with Vicki Garvey
Search: [Introducing Mark with Vicki Garvey](#)

SUNDAY The Second Sunday after the Epiphany
9:00am Mass via Zoom
Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at www.allsaintschurch.org
Recording of Mass available before noon at www.allsaintschurch.org