



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 12, 2025



“Beloved and Called”

On the First Sunday after the Epiphany, we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus at the Jordan, an event rich with both theological depth and meaning. In Luke's Gospel, we hear of Jesus coming to the Jordan River, standing in solidarity with those who sought repentance and renewal. After His baptism, the heavens open, and the Spirit descends upon Him like a dove, while a voice declares, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased”. This moment reveals Jesus' true nature in God as the anointed One, His beloved Son, and precedes Jesus' public ministry.

Yet, as we reflect on this event, another thread in our readings this week invites us to consider the inclusivity of God's love. In the Book of Acts 8:14-17, Peter and John travel to Samaria after hearing that the Samaritans had accepted the Word of God. These Samaritans had been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus, but the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon them. Peter and John lay hands on them, and they receive the Holy Spirit. This narrative is a powerful witness to the expansive reach of God's grace. No longer confined to one nation or people, the Holy Spirit is given to all who accept the Word of God, breaking down barriers of division and extending the embrace of divine love to unexpected places and communities.

This inclusion echoes the promises in Isaiah 43:1-7, where God reassures His people, saying, “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.” The

imagery of gathering from the east and west, the north and south, reminds us that God's saving work spans the entire world. Each person who responds to God's call becomes part of this beloved family, precious in God's sight and honored with His love.

Psalm 29 underscores the majesty and power of God's voice, which thunders over the waters, shakes the wilderness, and strips the forests bare. This same powerful voice also declared Jesus as the Beloved Son at His baptism and calls each of us into the waters of baptism, where we are named as beloved children of God.

Together, these readings remind us that baptism is not merely a ritual; it is an identity. Through water and the Holy Spirit, we are named and claimed as God's own. The Spirit who descended upon Jesus at the Jordan is the same Spirit given to the Samaritans and to all who come to faith, uniting us in one body, one family. This truth calls us to live with open hearts, welcoming and affirming the dignity of all as beloved children of God.

As we reflect on the Baptism of Jesus, let us also reflect on our own baptismal identity and covenant, and on the ways we are called to embody God's inclusive love. In a world often fractured by division and exclusion, we are invited to be bearers of the Spirit, proclaiming by word and deed that God's grace knows no bounds. Let us, like Peter and John, extend the hands of fellowship—even to those whom we might have traditionally considered our antagonists, trusting that the Holy Spirit will complete the work of gathering all people into God's redeeming love.

Fr. Carlos E. Expósito

Readings for the Baptism of Jesus (*The First Sunday after Epiphany*)

Isaiah 43:1-7 Acts 8:14-17 Psalm 29 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

CALENDAR

Note: We worship 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 12, 2025 The First Sunday after the Epiphany

celebrating The Baptism 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

Adult Christian Formation (the second Sunday of the month)
Meets at noon in the Rector's Office

TUESDAY - Noon Mass in St. Mary Chapel,

THURSDAY - 1:00pm in the Rector's Office -- Devotional Service followed by a Bible Study session based on the readings for the Sunday of that week.

SUNDAY January 19, 2025 The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

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

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