



## Guardian Angels Parish

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Pastor: Rev. John Alex Pinto, OCD

## Baptism of the Lord

*Sunday, January 10, 2021*

### Dear Parishioners,

The great Epiphany (Revelation) occurred during several occasions during Jesus' life on earth, confirming that Jesus as the Messiah, Son of God, sent by the Father. Last Sunday we celebrated that manifestation to the Magi, who not only found him through the guidance of the star, the sign from heaven, but who they paid him homage to a King and priest with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Today on this Feast of Baptism of Jesus, Jesus is revealed "you are my Son, the beloved: with you I am well pleased." Mk. 1:11.

Some of you might have had the privilege to visit Holy Land and renew your baptismal vows at the same river where Jesus was baptized. When I went to Holy Land with pilgrims, I was able to witness the same awesome scene of the renewal of baptismal promises. It is a moving experience when one recalls the spirit descending, and the Father confirming through this sacrament of baptism all the baptized as His beloved. I personally experience this whenever I baptize both adults and children.

The celebration of baptism of Jesus is a special grace for those of us celebrating divine liturgy and this special moment on the earthly life of Jesus. As we join in this special year after year, it is good to recall our own baptism and its significance in our pilgrim way. We are, due to this special sacrament, given the privilege of entering the Kingdom of God (Heaven opened), receive the gifts of Spirit, washed clean of original sin. Apart from that, like Jesus through the anointing we become Priest, Prophet and King. I also want to remind all of you, as we are anointed, we become anointing for others.

We will be following this year 2 or B and most of the year on Sundays will be following the Gospel of Mark. I would recommend to obtain a Sunday Missal (they are available at the back of the church for \$3.50) and read some commentaries which will give further insights into the Gospel.

I am happy to say that the washroom project, that was pending for long time, has begun and it will be handicapped accessible. Due to this project, the confessional room has become a little smaller but there is no need of relocating the same. I have instructed the contractors to make the confessional room sound-proof room, so that, what is spoken may not be heard outside.

I would also request the parishioners to visit the church, since church is available for private prayer, even if Masses are not held. You can also take this occasion to collect your 2021 Sunday Offering Envelopes which are located at the back of the church.

Wishing you a Happy Feast of Baptism of Jesus.

Sincerely in Christ,

**Rev. John Alex Pinto OCD - Pastor**