

January 10, 2021 on Jesus' Baptism: Trusting in the Son of God
Isaiah 42: 1-7; Psalm 29: 1-10; Acts 10: 34-38; Mark 1: 7-11

The Christmas season ends today with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. The beginning and end of the season have much in common. On Christmas, we celebrate God becoming one of us, taking upon himself a human nature. On the Feast of the Baptism, we celebrate the public proclamation that Jesus is like us through His Human nature. More than having a human nature, He is the Son of God, in whom the father is well pleased.

Today's Gospel narrates events and teachings of John the Baptist, baptizing at the River Jordan. He is demanding to end evil by calling the people to accept his baptism of repentance to establish the Kingdom of God. He also speaks about the one who is to come. The last book of the Old Testament is the Book of **Malachi**. It ends with a prophecy that Elijah would come again to prepare the world for the Messiah. John is this new Elijah, as Angel Gabriel had told Zachary.

After thirty years of private life, Jesus starts His public life revealing Himself to the world. He chooses to be baptized by John to show that he is one with all those who are fighting to establish the Kingdom of God. He humbles Himself before John requesting for the same baptism. As humans we long for the Kingdom and Jesus is in our midst to materialize our longing! The voice of God the Father proclaims, "This is my Son, my Beloved, in whom I am well pleased". He is the Son of God.

What does this mean to us? It means that our union with Jesus is a union with God. It means that Jesus is not just another extraordinary man, but, He is God. He has a human nature given to him through Mary, and a divine

nature. The One who is our brother is also the Second Person of the Holy Trinity. We don't just give him the title God. He is God.

When we call upon Jesus to help us, we are praying to God. When we receive Holy communion, we receive God within us. When we seek forgiveness, we are forgiven not by the priest but by God. When you are married in the Church, Jesus united His Love to your love for each other in the sacrament of marriage.

All of us were suffering from the fear and uncertainty of Covid 19 Pandemic in the last one year. Even now we are afraid of the situations. Remember of the Apostles who were with Jesus' for three years. They saw him performing miracles of all kinds. While they were in the midst of the storm, they forgot all about what they saw and experienced, but were afraid of their life and safety. Like the disciples, in the middle of these storms, we can call on Jesus to bring calm, serenity, and peace of mind. When we think, our situation is hopeless -- we need to call on Jesus. When we cannot see our way through -- we need to call on Jesus. When we feel totally overwhelmed -- we need to call on Jesus. When we feel that we are the worst person on the earth -- we need to call on Jesus. When we feel that no one loves and cares for us -- we need to call on Jesus. He is always with us, but we do not have time to recognize Him in our midst. He is not just another human being, but God. Yet he is one of us. He knows all the emotions that we feel. He has felt them in his human nature. Through His divine nature, he can and does heal us.

Let us go down into the water with John the Baptist, determined to build up the Kingdom of God, and leave the water with Jesus Christ, our Divine Champion. The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord is an Epiphany. God is

manifested to us in Jesus Christ. We need to pray to Him. We need to trust in Him. May God Bless you! +++ Amen. Fr. Thomas