

**January 11-12, 2020**

**The Baptism of the Lord**

**Isaiah 42:1-7**

**Acts of the Apostles 10:34-38**

**Matthew 3:13-17**

Barely a week has passed and yet Jesus has morphed from being the infant honored by the WISE Men-Magi of last week to a full-fledged 30 year old adult. Hidden within these Gospel passages is the PURPOSE of Sacred Scripture, to share with us what others have come to believe so that we ourselves may come to believe it as well. With minor variations, the Gospels pretty much jump over almost 30 years of Jesus' life. They are not interested in his childhood, teenage or young adult years, they zero in on his PURPOSE for being among us. In the weeks to come we will hear of miracles, cures, the gathering of his disciples, tidbits of teachings and insights, which will propel us into the CORE STORY AND SACRIFICE OF JESUS which begins on Ash Wednesday, February 26th and continues throughout Lent, culminating in the events of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday. The purpose and fulfillment of the Christmas baby is the Cross of Good Friday, the entire purpose of Christmas was so that Good Friday and Easter Sunday could occur. The words of God the Father in today's Gospel are not limited to Jesus, they are inclusive of each of us as well, for we EACH have a unique purpose in the world, we EACH are God's beloved child, with whom he is well pleased. How have we individually owned that distinct relationship with our heavenly Father? How have we grown in our grasp of God the Father guiding and nurturing our lives? How is God using us for his own purposes and how disposed are we to accepting the great UNKNOWN of entrusting our lives to God? Christmas has come and gone, time for us, like Jesus, to get on with our lives and open ourselves to God the Father.

Thank you for joining with our Santa Clara community as we depart Christmas and get on with the events of 2020. You will soon be receiving in the mail the materials for our 2020 Development Campaign, a campaign designed to show the capacity of our community to repay whatever construction loans we are able to arrange with Farmers and Merchants Bank with the blessings of the Diocese of Orange. 'Brick by Brick...Prayer by Prayer...We will build our Church'... is this year's rallying cry. You will be receiving some initial TEASERS in the mail...followed by the BIG REVEAL of what our Development Team has been working on for the last year. Please keep in mind, we use the old-PSA model as our YEARLY pledge drive...it becomes a way to both integrate those long familiar with our development efforts as well as weave newcomers into our history, dreams and hopes. The weekend of February 8-9 will be our BIG PLEDGE weekend, please keep an eye on your mailbox for the material we will be sending you...and when it arrives...get yourself into your most comfortable chair and SLOWLY, SLOWLY start to read. Absorb, SEE and experience what is within our grasp....IF EVERYONE PARTICIPATES! Thanks...and as January weaves you more and more into 2020, please remember, you are loved. FKB