



SANTA CRUZ ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH  
DISCALCED CARMELITE FRIARS



# THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

JANUARY 10, 2021



*A voice came from the heavens,  
“You are my beloved Son;  
with you I am well pleased.”*

*Mark 1:11*

January 10<sup>th</sup> 2021

## **The Baptism of the Lord**

St. John the Baptist got a big surprise when Jesus showed up at the Jordan River to be baptized. John's baptism was for repentance and he knew that Jesus, the Lamb of God, was not in need of repentance. John would get no surprise if you or I showed up. Maybe we can do so virtually or spiritually in prayer.

The Baptism of Jesus is a reminder that we were all baptized, even though it may have been many, many years ago, as little infants whose parents and grandparents spoke in our names. It is important that we thank them many times for that day when we received the special gifts of FAITH, HOPE and CHARITY, by which we keep in contact with God, our Father, with Jesus, our Savior, and with the Holy Spirit, our Sanctifier. Those gifts are for a lifetime and they unite us directly with God. At baptism we were also released from the power of original sin and given the means to counteract the effects of that sin.

With prayer and the use of our imagination we can prayerfully enter into the Gospel scene of the Baptism of Jesus, and maybe experience something of our own relationship to the Father and the Holy Spirit. Here is how it can be done:

1. Choose a quiet time and place where you will not be distracted or interrupted. Tell the Lord you want to pray with him in the Gospel scene of today's Mass.
2. Picture yourself at the banks of the Jordan where there is a long line of people approaching John who holds a small container which he fills with water and pours it over the head of each one and advises them "Repent of your sins and prepare the way for the coming of the Messiah". Maybe some of John's followers are guiding the people and directing them in an orderly way as they enter and leave the river. You notice that Jesus is one of the people approaching John, but no one seems to pay any attention to him. At this stage maybe you think "I need to repent too; I long for the coming of the Messiah into my heart and into my life". You decide to join the line; you remove your shoes or sandals, hitch up your clothes and move in with the group in the river. You can feel the coolness of the water, and as you get settled in line you may feel the mud oozing between your toes. You are curious to watch Jesus approach John. There is a conversation between them, but you cannot hear what is said. John pours the water over the head of Jesus. Then there is a peal of thunder and a voice speaking powerfully; a white dove perches on the shoulder of Jesus as he walks to the riverbank. The people notice but no one is disturbed; they are happy. John continues his ministry and you also are baptized by him.
3. You move to the place where you entered, refreshed and at peace. You are grateful and sit down with a sense of wonder and gratitude. You remember the words spoken over Jesus "You are my beloved Son" and you realize that you and each one of us is His beloved son or daughter. We too are loved by the Father. Thank Him, rejoice and pray the 'Glory be...'

Prayer is not just a recital of words; it is also a personal interaction with the Lord and an experience of His presence.

~ *Fr. David Costello, O.C.D.*

In light of substantial spikes in Covid-19 virus transmission, along with substantially increased critical hospital census numbers, the following changes to Diocese of Tucson protocols are in effect as of January 8, 2020. They shall remain in effect for four weeks, until February 5th, with a review taking place early in the week of February 1st.

- Both Sunday and weekday indoor Masses or gatherings are suspended. Masses may be celebrated outdoors in accord with existing protocols.
- Funerals and weddings may be celebrated indoors but are limited to a maximum of 25 persons; baptisms are limited to a maximum of ten persons. No gatherings before or following these celebrations are allowed on parish or church property.
- Pastors are strongly encouraged to provide pastoral care through Masses celebrated for the people via the internet as well as providing Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Penance outdoors.
- During this same four-week period, parish offices must close to the public.
- Parish staff shall work from home (exceptions permitted); calls left on the answering machine will be checked regularly.
- Those persons identified in the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines as "high risk" are strongly encouraged to receive the Church's ministry mediated through the internet while remaining at home.

In view of these directives, we will no longer celebrate Sunday Mass inside the church. The Masses in the school field will continue on Saturday (English) and Sunday (Spanish) at 3 p.m. In addition, there will be a 9:30 a.m. Mass on Sundays in the church patio-fountain area, and a live-stream Mass at 11:00 a.m. Although the live-stream Mass is not open to the public, you may receive Holy Communion in the patio at noon.

Confessions will continue Saturday at the regular time, 3:30-5p.m. outdoors in the church patio.

## Mass Intentions

Robert & Alicia Cabrera/R.I.P.

Mike & Katie Acedo/R.I.P.

Santa Cruz Parishioners

Feliciana & Pedro Cabrera/R.I.P.

In Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Oscar & Frank Leon/R.I.P.

Special Int./Clementina Leon-Salazar,

Andy Lopez & Manny Alvarado

Nicholas Uzenski, Matthew Ingham &

Jamie Lowe/K.I.A./R.I.P.

Deacon Richard Ornelas/R.I.P.

Terry Rodriguez/R.I.P.

Jess Cabrera/R.I.P.

Terry Rodriguez/R.I.P.

Gabriel Estavillo/Happy Birthday

Billy Goodman, Jr./R.I.P.

Rose & Gus Reyes/R.I.P.

Marcelino Guzman/R.I.P.

Alice Camacho/R.I.P.

Please check our Website  
**santacruzchurchtucson.com**

&

Facebook: **Stephen Watson**  
for the latest updates.

Want to receive direct messages from Fr. Stephen?

Sign up for Flock Notes:

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or go online to

**santacruzchurch.flocknote.com**

Parish Collection December 27th, 2020

Collection: \$ 6,012.00

Christmas Contribution: \$ 240.00

Total: \$ 6,252.00

Parish Collection January 3rd, 2021

Collection: \$ 5,915.37

Solemnity of Mary: \$ 820.43

Total: \$ 6,735.80

*Thank you and God bless your generosity!  
¡Gracias y que Dios bendiga su generosidad!*

Most Rev. Edward J. Weisenburger  
Diocese of Tucson (520) 838-2500

Santa Cruz Catholic Parish  
1220 South Sixth Avenue  
Tucson, Arizona 85713

Parish Office (520) 623-3833 Fax (520) 903-2742

~ Website [santacruzchurchtucson.com](http://santacruzchurchtucson.com) ~

~ Email [avemariasc@hotmail.com](mailto:avemariasc@hotmail.com) ~

**Business Hours** Monday - Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm

**Closed for lunch** 12:45pm - 1:45pm

Pastor:

Rev. Stephen Watson, O.C.D.

In Residence:

Rev. Jose Luis Ferroni, O.C.D.

In Residence:

Rev. David Costello, O.C.D.

**New Parishioners: Always welcome!**

Please register by using our forms available in our parish office.

~ Masses ~ Note these are suspended during COVID-19

**Sun. 6:30 am, 8 am (Spanish), 10 am, 12 noon, & 6 pm**

Mon. - Fri. 6:30 am & 8:00 am Sat. 8 am & 5:30 pm (Vigil)

**Confession:** Sat. 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

**Baptisms:** 2nd Sunday of the Month (English) / 4° Domingo del Mes (Español)

**Matrimony:** Please call at least six months in advance.

*Por favor de llamar con seis meses de anticipación.*

Parish Administrative Assistant: Hada Reyes (520) 623-3833

Religious Education: Martin Doe, Director (520) 882-9687

Santa Cruz Catholic School: Angelina Schmidt, Director  
(520) 624-2093

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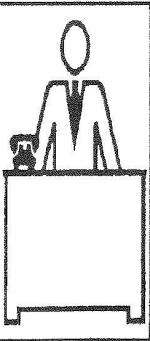
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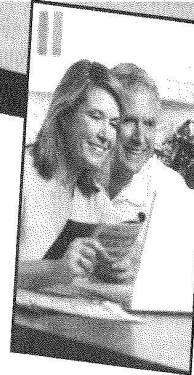


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