

In today's Gospel, Mark 1:1-8, we hear of Saint John the Baptist in the wilderness preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. He was the messenger before the coming of Christ, baptizing those from all of Judea and Jerusalem in the river Jordan. He ate locusts and wild honey saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

The Good News in the Gospel of Mark begins with the Epiphany or Theophany. This feast on January 6<sup>th</sup> commemorates the Baptism of Jesus Christ and the divine revelation of the Holy Trinity. This revelation occurred during His baptism, where heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on Him like a dove, and the voice of the Father was heard proclaiming, "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

This was the shining forth and manifestation of God. The emphasis being the appearance of Jesus as the Messiah of Israel and the Divine Son of God, One of the Holy Trinity along with the Father and the Holy Spirit. It was on this day that Jesus Christ identifies Himself with sinners as the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.

Dearest ones, after the Epiphany, Christ came to Galilee preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom of God urging all to repent and believe! This message is vital for us even today! As New Year resolutions are being made, can we make some that will bring about a positive change in our spiritual well being? Can we make a resolution to pray daily? Can we make a resolution to repent of our sins and go to confession? Can we make a resolution to attend church services more frequently? What kind of resolution can we make that is devoted to our relationship with God? In His name let us pray; Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever, amen.