

**The Reflection from Pastor Fr. John Carlos, Holy Cross Church, Harrison, NJ, January 9, 2022**

**BELOVED**



In Sunday's Gospel, we hear of the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist. When Jesus comes out of the waters of the Jordan a voice from the heavens proclaims, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

So why does the Father proclaim his satisfaction with Jesus on the day of his baptism? God himself gives us the answer. The Father takes joy and pride in Jesus simply because of who Jesus is. As the Father says, "You are my beloved Son."

We see that same dynamic in the relationship between parents and their children. Parents love their little ones even when they have not done a thing to earn their approval. Parents simply shower their love upon them because they are their beloved sons and daughters. They love them for who they are, not because of what they do.

This Sunday, we are reminded that we are loved by God, but not because of what we do for God. After all, what does Almighty God need us to do for him?

God loves us simply because we are his children. We were made so at our baptism. The Father is pleased with us, he showers his gifts upon us, not because we have earned them, but because we are his children. As we hear the words that God the Father speaks to Jesus, we can also hear them as words that our heavenly Father addresses to us, "You are my beloved son, my beloved daughter; with you I am well pleased."

May this year bring us renew hope, Happy New Year filled with God's grace.

Father John Carlos