

Weekend of January 9, 2022

The Baptism of the Lord

Sunday Mass is livestreamed @ 8:00 AM, Barona.
Just go on Facebook under Herman Manuel

welcome

Deacon Fred Thornton who is currently serving the Indian Mission of Santa Ysabel and St. Elizabeth Church in Julian. He will be preaching every other Sunday and getting to know the parishoners of St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish.

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Jesus, in your baptism you draw us to yourself through our baptism. Show us the ways that our lives can bring life to others, and give us the courage to choose what is pleasing to you.

Amen.



SACRAMENTAL REQUIREMENTS

FIRST EUCHARIST (COMMUNION):

Requirements: For children baptized in another parish, a baptismal certificate is required. All children must be enrolled in the appropriate grade level of the parish religious education program for two years.

Additional Information: Children will usually make their Penance (Confession) and First Communion in the 3rd Grade. Children beginning the program in the 3rd Grade or later will receive these sacraments after their second year of preparation.

This new Mass schedule will stay in effect until the Covid-19 crisis is over. Thanks for your patience.

Barona:

Mass: Tuesday through Friday. Rosary at 7:45 AM, Mass at 8:00 AM. @ Shrine

Sunday: Sunday 8:00 AM. @ Shrine

Confessions: By appointment only

Adoration: 1st Fri. of the month (8:00 AM).

Viejas:

Sunday: Sunday 10:30 AM. @ Church

Confessions: By appointment only.

Sycuan:

Sunday: Sunday Mass 12:00 noon @ the Church

Confessions: By appointment only



Sue Kierig, Martha Boone, A. J. Samot, Angelo Samot, Donna Berardi, Daniel Vicaldo, Kash Osuna-Sutton, Anthony Pico, Dolly Albano, Mike Montes, Bobbie Turner, Mae Guerrero, Susanna Gotell, Agnes Ruiz, Deacon Bill Clarke, Rosario Ravasco, Minerva Mayor, Michele Nikas Beaman, Richard Nikas, Purita Amparo, Wendy Reyes, Alicia Castro, Barbara Reeves, Nancy Rourke, Bobby Curo, Abraham Pascual, Richard Padua, Irmina Gines, Gimo Manuel, Joyce Martinez, Elvira Hapin, Dustin Lutze, Deloris Loucks, Cameron Welch, Christine Therese Macaraeg, Beverly Means

Please check prayer list and add names as desired.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES (K-High School)

REMINDER –

Class will resume on Thursday, 1/6/22.

UPCOMING EVENTS



The RICE of Baptism

A reflection on the Baptism of the Lord

In Nigeria the baptism of a child is usually followed by a happy reception where children are sure to eat one thing, rice. As a result, the baptism dress is sometimes referred to as your rice dress. Thinking of baptism easily makes people think of rice. And sometimes when you are talking of the rites of baptism, all they hear is the rice of baptism. Though the connection between baptism and rice is altogether accidental, one can utilize it as a memory aid for the meaning of baptism.

What does baptism mean? The meaning of baptism can be found in the four letters of the word **RICE**. “R” stands for **Rebirth**. In baptism we are born again by water and the Holy Spirit. We are cleansed from original sin and become sons and daughters of God in a special way. “I” stands for **Initiation**. At baptism we are initiated or admitted into full membership in the church, the community of the children of God in the world. “C” is for **Consecration**. In baptism we consecrate and dedicate ourselves to seek and to spread the kingdom of God. We commit ourselves to be servants of God, to do God’s will and serve God with our whole lives. And “E” is for **Empowerment**. At baptism the Holy Spirit comes into our lives and empowers us, equips us, gives us the moral strength to say no to evil and to live as God’s children that we have become.

These four effects of baptism can be divided into two categories, the passive effects (what we receive from God and the people of God), namely, rebirth, initiation, and empowerment; and the active effect (what we give to God and the people of God), namely, our commitment and dedication to a cause, to spread the kingdom of God. One problem people have with today’s gospel is to understand why Jesus needed to be baptized. An understanding of the “rice” of baptism as we have tried to explain can help.

Looking at the baptism of Jesus by John in the Jordan, we find that Jesus did not need a **rebirth** since he was from all eternity the only begotten child of God. He had no original sin to be cleansed from. Did Jesus need **initiation**? Yes. Being human, Jesus needed to associate and to identify with the community of men and women who were dedicated to promoting the cause of the kingdom of God. When it comes to serving God, no one is an island. We need to interact with other children of God. We need the community of faith just as Jesus did. We need the church. What about **empowerment**? The Holy Spirit, the power of the Most High, who descended on Jesus at his baptism strengthened and empowered him. It was at his baptism that “**God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; [and] he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil**” (Acts 10:37-38).

And **consecration**? Baptism for Jesus was a moment of self-consecration, a moment of self-dedication. For him it was a commitment to do whatever was necessary to promote the cause of the kingdom of God on earth.

We read that soon after Jesus’ baptism, John was arrested and the Kingdom of God movement needed a new leadership. When Jesus heard it he went up and took on the task, in this way implementing the commitment he made at his baptism to promote the kingdom of God. We can see that for Jesus baptism was not just a question of what he could receive but very much a question of what he could contribute to the cause of the kingdom of God on earth. John F. Kennedy’s saying, “Ask not what your country can do for you, rather ask what you can do for your country” can also be applied to our relationship with God and the Church.

What are we doing, each one of us, to promote the kingdom of God? Are we ready to consecrate and dedicate ourselves wholly to the service of the kingdom of God just as Jesus did? If not, what are we doing to support those who have consecrated themselves to doing this work in the name of us all? Let us today with Jesus renew our baptismal commitment to bear witness to the Good News of the kingdom of God in word and in deed.

Fr Munachi E. Ezeogu cssp