

Weekend of January 12 **Baptism of the Lord**

Barona:

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

Saturday: 5:00 PM mass

Sunday: Sunday 8:00 AM. @ church

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 12:30 noon @ the Church

Confessions: By appointment only

PLEASE PRAY FOR....

Michele Nikas Beaman, John Nikas, Irmina Gines, Gimo Manuel, Marcie Cu, Joyce Martinez, Dustin Lutze, Sam Halabo, Lisa Smallwood, Eleanor Davis Wallace, Robert and Margie Cruz, Mike Wise, Mary Begay, Tonito Arcangel, Juliet Ray, George Arviso, Rose Ramos, Zita Haygood, Lilly Gautreaux, Mark Noriega, Jim Hughes, Laurie Boedicker, Aspen Sergin, Robert Laurel, Janet Vilareal, John Francis, Orlando Nicolas, Paolo Espiritu, John Clark, Kevin Bethsayag, Tyre Nichols, Steve TeSam, Jeanette Garcia, Mike Banegas, Bennett Zerrudo, Carol Richardson, Nancy Rourke, Jeff Ashii, Rosario and Paul Estepa, Haley Price, Mark Marquez, Lulu Cabinatan, Michael Martinez, Fr. Earl Henley, MSC, Connie Devera, Don Speer, Meta Roubedeaux, Eileen Hansotte, DJ LaChappa, Marcella Villanova, Joseph Kardian, Bear Cuero

Please check prayer list and add names as desired.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education with Alyssa Parada:

Barona: 3:00 PM – First Communion Prep

4:15 – All ages Religious Ed

Sacramental Preparation with Mark Price:

Viejas: 3:00 PM

UPCOMING EVENTS

Barona: 4:30 PM

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

JANUARY

Monday, Jan 20 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day



2025 Calendars – Places of Pilgrimage are now available. They will be located in the back of the churches.



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.*

PASTOR'S CORNER

The Lord's Baptism:

What can we learn from it?

A reflection on the Baptism of the Lord

One time three pastors were discussing about cats invading their churches. The Baptist minister said he put the cats in bags and threw them in a nearby river. In spite of that, the cats survived and there were twice as many there the next week.

The Methodist minister said they were not in a position to harm any of God's creation. So, he confided they humanely trapped the cats and set them free many miles outside town. But three days later, the cats were back.

But the Catholic priest bragged that he had the best and most effective solution. He said, "I simply baptized them and I haven't seen them in church since then!"

Obviously, that's just a joke but it illustrates a sad reality that after baptism many Christians are never seen in church again.

This Sunday we commemorate the baptism of the Lord. What's the significance of Jesus' baptism?

First, it declares WHO he is – God's own Son as the Scriptures clearly attest: "This is my beloved Son. On you my favor rests" (Mk 1:11).

Second, it declares what He will do. This is expressed by the prophet Isaiah in the first reading of this Sunday. His mission as God's Servant was to bring justice to the nations, open the eyes of the

blind, to release captives free (Is 42:1-4, 6-7).

Similarly, our own baptism means two things. It not only proclaims publicly our new membership of the Church, but also empowers us to DO the good works Jesus did.

It is to the immense credit of our Christian parents that they take to heart the baptism of their children – even if some have to spend so much for a baptismal party! It seems, however, that many baptized kids grow up grossly ignorant of religious instructions and their obligations as Christians. In effect, they turn out to be Christians in name only or Christians who come to church three times in their whole lifetime – when they are "hatched, matched, dispatched" ...to the cemetery or memorial garden.

The theologian Bernard Cooke in his book *Christian Sacraments and Christian Personality* writes: "Our baptism is not an action which happens once and has no further significance for our life. Rather, all the significance of this sacrament passes dynamically into the daily living of the Christian." Concretely, what that means for us today includes services like volunteering our help in parish projects; joining some religious organizations that reach out to the less fortunate; showing sympathy to the bereaved; or witnessing as a good Christian family man or government official.

For your reflection for today, ask yourself: Are you aware of your duties and responsibilities as a baptized Christian? Do you consider Sunday Mass going only as your Christian duty or do you also contribute your three T's (Time, Talent, and Treasure) as part of your baptismal commitment?

May the baptism of the Lord
remind us of our calling and duties as
baptized Christians.

Fr. Bel San Luis, SVD
Manila, Philippines