

January 10, 2021

BAPTIZED and IMMERSSED IN THE SPIRIT!

"I HAVE BAPTIZED YOU WITH WATER; HE WILL BAPTIZE YOU WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT"

(Mark 1: 7-11) says John the Baptist. Do you remember the day of your own baptism? (If you don't, ask your parents or call the parish where you were baptized). Who baptized you? Like Jesus being baptized by John in the waters of the Jordan River, were you fully immersed in water? Did you feel the Holy Spirit? Did you feel becoming a totally new person? Are you aware that your baptism was the beginning of a new life? Are you aware that since the day of your baptism, you became God's child as a full member of the Body of Christ, His Church, the Catholic Church?

This weekend, we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord as we close the Christmas Season and enter the First Week of Ordinary Time. This is a time to reflect on our own baptism and on the permanent dwelling of the Holy Trinity at the center of our inner being. This is a time to reflect and pray to the Holy Spirit in the SILENCE of our hearts.

Given the daily challenges we face, including the continuing Pandemic and uncertainties ahead of us, we need more than ever to ask help from the Holy Spirit to renew/deepen our relationship with God and find lasting PEACE in our hearts. All is GRACE. We need to do nothing but keep trusting in God and surrender to Him. The pandemic makes us more aware of our littleness. God is in charge. We are not. But God loves us as we are, and we can always take REFUGE IN HIS LOVE through the Holy Spirit. From our baptism, we have become a temple of the Holy Spirit. At our baptism, we may not have been totally immersed in water, but we believe that we have been totally IMMERSSED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT through the holy water (specially blessed for your baptism) being poured three times upon our head while the priest or deacon pronounces the Trinitarian baptismal words: " Xxx (your name, e.g., Andrew or Barbara) I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit".

This is the Sacrament established by Our Lord Jesus Christ Himself when He invites all his Apostles: "*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to us. GO therefore and make disciples of all nations, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT*" (Matthew 28:18-20).

The followers of John the Baptist came to listen to him in the desert far away from Jerusalem. They came in response to John's call for repentance. They also listened to John announcing that "*one mightier than I is coming after me*". John added with great humility: "*I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals*". In John's time, only slaves would kneel to the feet of their masters and untie their sandals. This was John's recognition that Jesus was

divine. John the Baptist invites us to go the desert and spend some time away from the distractions of the world. he invites us to repent, to reconcile with God (Confession) and to turn our entire life toward Jesus Christ.

Did Jesus need to be baptized? No, He is both Man and God. However, as He is being baptized, the heavens are being torn open and the HOLY SPIRIT, like a dove, DESCENDS UPON HIM, and a voice comes from the heavens: "YOU ARE MY BELOVED SON; with you I am well pleased ". This is the voice of God the Father. Here we have the entire HOLY TRINITY: the Father in heaven, the Son being immersed in the waters of the Jordan, and the Holy Spirit coming down from heaven and descending upon the Son. This is the Union of heaven and earth through the HOLY TRINITY, the Triune God (One God in three persons). This is the establishment of the sacrament of baptism to benefit all of us.

BAPTIZO in Greek means TO IMMERSE. To baptize is to immerse in water. To baptize is also to immerse in the Holy Spirit. Through this total immersion in the Holy Spirit, we are totally transformed. Not only our original sin is erased, not only are we becoming God's children and new members of the Church, but the entire Holy Trinity dwells at the center of our soul, once for all.

As we prepare for our parish pilgrimage to the Holy Land at the end of June (you can still sign up, and be put on the waiting list), we can all imagine our entering the waters of the Jordan River together with Jesus Christ. God willing, this will be my third visit to Israel, my third pilgrimage to the places where Jesus lived and walked. The first two times were amazing and though I did not plunge in the shallow waters of the Jordan, I felt the strong presence of Jesus and His Holy Spirit. In my second pilgrimage, as seminarian 15 years ago, the priest leading our pilgrimage blessed us (11 seminarians of St John XXIII National Seminary in Boston) one by one and poured water of the Jordan on our heads. When it was my turn, I felt like an electric shock and an immense Joy and Peace, immersed in the Holy Spirit.

COME HOLY SPIRIT! COME! INVADE OUR HEARTS AND FILL THEM WITH THE FIRE OF YOUR LOVE!
COME HOLY SPIRIT! RENEW US, TAKE AWAY ALL OUR FEARS, TAKE AWAY ALL OUR DOUBTS!
COME HOLY SPIRIT! HELP US TO SURRENDER TO YOU AND FOLLOW YOUR GUIDANCE! COME HOLY SPIRIT! GIVE US YOUR PEACE!

One in Christ,
Fr. Alain

The Baptism of the Lord



Religious Education News

CCD classes have resumed. Please continue to work on any classes you have missed. If you have any questions, please contact Nereida Tellechea at (301)645-7112, or email cre@olhoc.org

CCD STUDENTS

Join Father Alain and Father Ben on Monday, January 11, 2021 at 7 PM. They will discuss Unit 3, Chapters 7, 8, and 9 we will discover that Jesus not only heals but that:

- Jesus Christ is both true God and true man.
- Jesus is the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity
- Jesus became human to restore us to friendship with God. We call this the Incarnation.
- Jesus came through Mary to reveal God's love, and to enable us to share in God's life.
- Through Jesus' example and teaching, we become more aware of how we, as baptized Christians, are to live and witness with our lives.



Community Outreach

We are always collecting for the OLHOC "Sharing Sunday" box. All much needed, non-perishable food donated will be taken to the Food Bank and Women's Shelter. Thank you, OLHOC, your generosity has been overwhelming! The next Outreach meeting is February 3, 2021 at 7p.m. on Zoom.

REMINDER**

- Sanitize your hands before coming into church
- Masks are mandatory
- Maintain at least a 6 ft distance
- If you feel ill, stay home and watch Mass on www.olhoc.com -10 am on Sundays

Prayer for St. Joseph's Protection

Oh, St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so prompt, so strong,
before the throne of God, I place in you all my interests and desires.

Oh, St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession,
and obtain for me from your Divine Son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

So that, having engaged here below your heavenly power,

I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of fathers.

Oh, St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating you and Jesus asleep in your arms;

I dare not approach while he reposes near your heart.

Press him in my name and kiss his fine head for me and ask him to return the kiss when I draw my dying breath.

St. Joseph, patron of departing souls - pray for me.
Amen. (EWTN)

The Youth Support Team is an integral part of our Youth ministry at OLHOC. It consists of different components utilizing diverse gifts and time commitments of parents and other interested volunteers from our parish. These volunteer opportunities can range from assisting with special events (hospitality, chaperones, fundraisers, prayer team..), confirmation mentors, or joining the core team and work directly with the youth. Together we can help lead our youth closer to Christ! For more information please visit the website www.olhoc.org/ymteam or talk to Marlen Coles marlen@olhoc.org

CA/RCIA

Interested in joining and learning about the Catholic Church for the first time? Want to complete a Sacrament (Baptism, Eucharist, and/or Confirmation)? Classes meet on Wednesday, from 7 pm –9 pm. You may chose to come to the Father Martin Hall or virtually via Zoom. For more information, or to sign up, please contact Deacon Rich at deacon@olhoc.org or Diane and Mike Spurgeon at RCIA.olhoc@gmail.com

We hope you will join us!

We are asked to pray for:

Julissa Bariantos
 Brandon Mack
 Ana Maria Delmira Sibrian Escobar
 Nestor Ermelindo Molina
 James Thompson
 Rebecca (Tess) Franch
 Joseph Albrittitan
 Sid and Suzanna Marcus
 Aleli Puzon
 Patricia Delgado
 Ann Marie Hobart
 Larry McGraw
 Ilene Custer
 Derrick Webster
 Julie Davis
 David DeMarr
 Dunnie Proctor
 Amelia Vinceguerra
 Lorraine Celijewski
 Cren Wolden

Tabitha Barton
 Maria Townsend
 Chrystal Beauregard
 Sheryl Carter
 Alex Leon
 Sharketer Butler
 Steven Bowling
 Edna Yarngo
 Kathy Grimes
 Sheny Padilla
 Richard White
 Victor Cordero
 Georgiana Norgren
 Marie Marie Bottorf
 Dorian Webster
 Dionne Gause
 Billy Dexter
 Trenia Price
 Erick M. Knapp
 Norm Green

The Dixons
 Grace Albrittain
 Elaine Moses
 Yvonne Buford
 Karen Zimmerman
 Steve Wyloge
 Terri Elizabeth McAllister Burnette
 Joanne Johnson
 John Hoza
 Mike Spurgeon
 Mary A. Dyson
 Kevin Viel Sr.
 Ligia Lam

and all our military and civilians serving in harm's way.



Mass Intentions this Week

Saturday, January 9, 9:00AM: Lewie Jenkins
Saturday, January 9, 5:00 PM: Orlando Lagman (+)
Sunday, January 10, 8:30 AM: Jeannie Jacobs
Sunday, January 10, 10:00 AM: OLHOC Parishioners
Sunday, January 10, 11:30 AM: David Viets
Sunday, January 10, 1:00 PM: Antoine Kanhonou (+)
Sunday, January 10, 7:00 PM: Venetta Scott
Monday, January 11, 9:00 AM: Antoine Kanhonou (+)
Tuesday, January 12, 9:00 AM: David Viets
Wednesday, January 13, 9:00 AM: Antoine Kanhonou (+)
Wednesday, January 13, 7:00 PM: Martine Etamane
Thursday, January 14, 9:00 AM: Antoine Kanhonou (+)
Friday, January 15, 8:30 AM : Antoine Kanhonou (+)

Mass intentions

If you would like to have a Mass said the calendar is open in the office. Sign up for the Mass you would like so as to assure the date you want is available. Suggested stipend is \$10

Tuesday Scripture Study- Join us on Tuesday mornings after the 9 am Mass to study the readings for the next Sunday.

Friday Scripture Study- The Friday night scripture study is now online. Please call the office for information on how to join us.

First Friday- The first Friday of each month the evening Mass is dedicated to promoting the Priesthood. Following evening Mass, devotion to the Alliance of the two Hearts.

First Saturday—Join members of the Marian Group on the first Saturday of the month after the 9 am Mass. Learn more about consecrating your life to Jesus through Mary.

Divine Mercy- Join us on the first Saturday of each month as we pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet as a community at 3 PM.

OLHOC Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer request, please call the parish office or send email to office@olhoc.org.

Mass Readings for January 17, 2021

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

***First Reading**

1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19

***Second Reading**

1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20

***Gospel**

John 1:35-42

www.usccb.org

