THE WATERS OF BAPTISM

When new sod is put in, it needs constant saturation with water. Landscapers say that this “knits” the sod to the soil. The same when a branch is grafted onto a tree: the poultice that joins them at the splice must be kept wet at all times. Water is the stuff that binds the very cells of our bodies together. No wonder religions throughout all times and cultures have used it so prominently. When Jesus stepped into the Jordan for baptism, he “knit” himself to what had come before him. By going to the Jordan, he made himself one with the people of Israel who had crossed it into their Promised Land. With John the Baptist, Christ wove himself into the prophetic tradition that heralded the coming reign of God. He had become fully human in the waters of Mary’s womb, and by partaking in the rite of the baptism of repentance, Jesus identified himself with our sinful, frail humanity. It is through the waters of baptism that Christ continues to graft new members onto his Body, the Church; through these waters we are cleansed from sin and filled with the promise of grace, given our destiny for eternal life. For us, as for Jesus, it is also the waters of baptism that inaugurate our mission to proclaim the Good News.
The Baptism of the Lord
January 11, 2015

All you who are thirsty, come to the water!
— Isaiah 55:1

TODAY’S READINGS
First Reading — Behold my servant with whom I am pleased; he shall bring forth justice to the nations (Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7) or Isaiah 55:1-11.
Psalm — The Lord will bless his people with peace (Psalm 29) or Isaiah 12:2-6.
Gospel — You are my beloved Son, with you I am well pleased (Mark 1:7-11).

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION
In the 1560s, the Council of Trent attempted to standardize the widely variant customs for the pastoral care of the sick and dying. We had inherited a practice called “extreme unction,” from the Latin words meaning anointing at the point of death. The deeper tradition, however, is about the prayer of faith that will heal and restore the sick person, and is straight from the Letter of James. The Fathers went back to the beginning, and while not discarding the “extreme unction” name, made a plea for the proper use of this sacrament. As soon as a person is in danger of death from sickness or old age, they reasoned, the time for the sacrament had already arrived.

As a result of this desire, the next ritual text for anointing contained an innovation: a rite for visiting the sick that included readings from scripture, psalms, and prayers. Old customs fade slowly, however, and the quality of pastoral care languished for centuries while people delayed the celebration of a consoling and effective sacrament, sometimes missing the opportunity completely. A priest ministering to a dying and unconscious patient alone in a room has never been the desire of the Church. Our tradition is far too rich for this sacrament to be celebrated in such a diminished and ungenerous manner.

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR ADORATION EVERY FIRST FRIDAY AFTER THE 8:00 MASS

GIFT SHOP HOURS:
Thurs. 8:20 - 10:00
Sat. 2:30 - 3:30
Sun. 8:00 - 12:45
Today, the Roman Catholic Church continues its festal celebrations by commemorating the Baptism of the Lord. Therefore, let us reflect upon the Sacrament of Baptism in order to enter more fully into this mystery in our own lives.

Let us recall that Baptism is not a uniquely Christian practice, but one that was prevalent among the Jews of Jesus’ day. In order to gain a true understanding of baptism, it is necessary to reflect upon what it meant to the people from whom it originated. It was not uncommon for the Jews of Jesus’ day and the early Church to see in baptism a correlation with certain Old Testament events. Saint Peter, in his second epistle, explains that our baptism corresponds to the flood of Noah. Just as in those ancient days when all evil men perished under the waters of the great deluge, so in our baptism, the sinful man is destroyed (2 Pet 2:5). Further, our baptism can be seen as a new crossing of the Red Sea. As Saint Paul explains, the Israelites underwent a baptism when Pharaoh and the Egyptians were buried under the waters of the sea and the people of God were saved and called to walk in the new life which God had bestowed upon them (1 Cor 10:2). Also, we may see our baptism as a type of Israel’s crossing of the Jordan River after forty years of wandering in the desert. Just as Joshua led Israel into the Promised Land through the waters of the Jordan, so each of us who is baptized is led by Jesus into the promised land of the Church.

These Old Testament prefigurations of Christian Baptism receive their full meaning, however, at the Baptism of the Lord. What happened when Jesus was baptized? The Fathers of the Church give three answers.

• First, by entering into the water of the Jordan River, Jesus sanctified it and made the water of baptism a place for the working of the Holy Spirit.
• Second, because baptism among the Jews was seen as a ritual act of death and burial of the old man, Jesus confronted the Ruler of Death in the baptismal waters of the Jordan, that he might defeat death and bestow life upon all of creation. It was at the Baptism of Christ that Our Lord met his adversary of old, the Devil, and struck a decisive blow against him. By his baptism into death, the giver of life destroyed the power of death: “death no longer has dominion over him” (Rom. 6:9).
• Finally, in his baptism, Jesus met all of us who were bound to death through the sin of our first parents, and taking us by the hand through the instrumentality of the priest, each one of us was raised from the dead, out of the baptismal waters. Through the resurrection of Christ, the tomb of the baptismal font becomes the womb of the Church, which gives new life to all who approach this Holy Sacrament.

Saint Paul, in his epistle to the Romans, gives the following catechesis,

“Are you not aware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Through baptism into his death we were buried with him, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life. If we have been united with him though likeness to his death, so shall we be through a like resurrection” (1 Cor. 6: 3-4).

Therefore, as Saint Paul explains, baptism is a sacramental act whereby we are mystically joined to the death and resurrection of Christ.

In his baptism, Jesus has reversed the curse of the fall. In his baptism, Christ has opened for the faithful that garden of delight closed by sin. In his baptism, Christ has restored Adam to all that he lost through disobedience. Let us who have been baptized into Christ see the ancient deceiver conquered. Let us who have been baptized into Christ see the baptismal waters as the place of sanctification for our souls. Let us who have been baptized into Christ see man once more enter into Paradise and hear the Father’s words of mercy, “Thou art my beloved Son; with thee I am well pleased” (Lk 3:22).

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MINISTRY OF THE SICK

The following hospitals are attended to by the parish in which they are located:

* Gulf Coast Hospital - visited daily by Blessed Pope John XXIII Parish, 561-2245
* Lee Memorial Hospital - visited daily by St. Francis Xavier Parish, 334-2161
* Lee Memorial and Hospice at Health Park - visited daily by St. Columbkille Parish, 489-3973

A priest is on call 7 days a week, 24 hours a day for the above hospitals at the above telephone numbers.

TO ALL PARISHIONERS AND VISITORS:

To protect your privacy hospitals do not give out information on patients without their permission. If you wish a visit from one of the Resurrection priests please notify the hospital as well as the parish office, 481-7171 as quickly as possible.

Resurrection priests visit the above hospitals daily upon request.
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Diocese of Venice continues to be blessed with vocations to the priesthood, evidenced by our 18 seminarians. Your support of the Annual Seminary Collection is crucial, now more than ever, as challenges increase for a proper environment for the formation and education of our future priests for the Diocese of Venice.

The seven Arch/Dioceses in Florida, including the Diocese of Venice, are proportional stakeholders in St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary in Boynton Beach. While Pope Francis has reminded us that “... vocations are born in prayer and from prayer; and only through prayer can they persevere and bear fruit,” adequate facilities and funds are needed for the education and formation of our future priests. St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary has undertaken renovation of its facility along with expansion, as well as measures to assure stability in the future.

While these issues are being addressed, I kindly ask all to pray for priestly and religious vocations in the Church as well as for our seminarians. Further, I ask that you financially support the Seminary through this Annual Seminary Collection to allow for the education and formation of priests for the future.

The Annual Seminary Collection will take place in all parishes of the Diocese the weekend of January 10 and 11, 2015. I thank you for your generosity as regards this important undertaking for the future of the Church in Florida. May God continue to bless you for your dedication to Holy Mother Church and for your support to the workers in the vineyard. Have a Blessed New Year!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Frank J. Dewane
Bishop of the Diocese of Venice in Florida
This week’s Sanctuary Candle:

In loving memory of Alice Powell
by Raymond & Barbara Provensal

RESURRECTION FOR LIFE

PLEASE JOIN US AT THE ABORTION CLINIC AT 3900 BROADWAY, FT. MYERS EVERY 2ND SATURDAY (after the 8:00 Mass) FOR THE ROSARY AND EVERY 2ND THURSDAY AT PLANNED PARENTHOOD, CORNER OF WINKLER & COLLEGE ANYTIME BETWEEN 9 AM AND NOON.

PREGNANT? NEED HELP? CALL 239-772-4673
RESURRECTION MEN’S CLUB
ANNUAL POLISH DINNER & DANCE
Sunday, February 15, 2015
Tickets available at Parish Center—481-7171

DOORS OPEN AT 4:30PM
SERVING AT 5:30PM
*****
LIVE BAND
5:00—8:00PM
*****
TICKETS $18 IN ADVANCE
$25 DAY OF THE EVENT

MENU:
Pierogi, Cabbage Rolls,
Sauerkraut, Kielbasa, Coffee,
Dessert
Beer & Wine Available

FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT PARISH CHARITIES

(REFRESHMENTS MAY NOT BE BROUGHT INTO THE HALL BY GUESTS)
The Catholic Faith Explained

Come and join us in the Parish center
Wednesdays 7:30-9pm to join in discussion each week
Or
Watch each session in your own home and join our discussion when you can!

Two ways to Register:
1) Go to the Church of the Resurrection Web Page at www.resurrectionch.org and click the register now link on the left hand side of the page (under the green buttons)
Or:
2) Go to Http://symboloncatholic.org/register and enter code 377363 to watch each session and to print out participant study guides

Knowing the Faith

October 29—SESSION 2: DIVINE REVELATION: God Seeking Us and the Compass for Our Lives
November 5- SESSION 3: THE BIBLE: God’s Love Letter to Humanity
November 12- SESSION 4: THE STORY OF SALVATION: Creation, Fall and Redemption
November 19- SESSION 5: WHO IS JESUS?: Just a Good Man or Lord of our Lives?
December 3- SESSION 6: THE PASCHAL MYSTERY: The Mystery of Jesus’ Death and Resurrection
December 10- SESSION 7: THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE LIFE OF GRACE: God’s Divine Life Within Us
January 14- SESSION 8: WHY DO I NEED THE CHURCH?: The Mystery of the Catholic Church
January 21- SESSION 9: MARY AND THE SAINTS: Our Spiritual Mother and the Communion of Saints
January 28- SESSION 10: THE LAST THINGS: What Happens After We Die?

Living the Faith

February 4- SESSION 11: THE SACRAMENTS: Baptism & Confirmation
February 11- SESSION 12: THE EUCHARIST: Source & Summit of Christian Life
March 4- SESSION 14: PENANCE & ANOINTING OF THE SICK: God’s Mercy Revealed
March 11- SESSION 15: MATRIMONY & HOLY ORDERS: The Sacraments of Service & Communion
March 18- SESSION 16: A CATHOLIC MORAL VISION: Virtue, Grace & the Path to Happiness
March 25- SESSION 17: A LOVE THAT LASTS: The Call to Self-Giving Love
April 15- SESSION 18: A LOVE THAT LASTS: God’s Plan for Sexuality
April 22- SESSION 19: CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING: Building a Civilization of Love
April 29- SESSION 20: CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING: Protecting the Dignity of the Human Person
Interested in becoming Catholic?

If so, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is for you!!!

If you or someone you know is questioning becoming Catholic please have them either call or e-mail me,
Lea @ 482-6883 or lea@resurrectionch.org

As people journey through life, sometimes they realize that they are wanting something more from life. Many times you are searching for a faith community.

If you are searching and want to inquire more about Catholicism, please do not hesitate to call—I would love to talk with you!

20s & 30s year olds

Did you know???
We have a Ministry for you!!!

We are a faith filled community of Catholic Young Adults from area parishes who fellowship with each other and journey along side one another. We have a core group of Young Adults but want to extend an invitation for others to join us.

If you are a Young Adult single or married, have kids or don’t, or know someone who may be interested contact Lea, Director of Religious Education at 482-6883 or email at lea@resurrectionch.org.

Religious Education Syllabus

**Sun. 1/11 — Chapter 12**
Sun 1/18 — NO CLASS
Sun. 1/25 — Chapter 13
Sun. 2/1 — VIRTUS
Sun. 2/8 — Chapter 15
Sun. 2/15 — NO CLASS
Sun. 2/22 — Lent Reconciliation
Sun. 3/1 — Chapter 16
**Sun. 3/8 — Chapter 17**
**Sun. 3/15 — Chapter 18**
**Sun 3/22— Seder**
**Sun 3/29-Palm Sunday-NO CLASS**
Sun. 4/5 — EASTER—NO CLASS
Sun 4/12— Chapter 19
**Sun 4/19— CLASS REVIEW**
Sun 4/26-RELICS-LAST CLASS
**Sun 5/3 — Communion Retreat**

January 11
Offertory Sunday
we are collecting:
Toiletries

* Parent & Student Sacramental Prep
** Sun. 1/14 — Chapter 12
** Wed. 1/21 — NO CLASS
** Wed. 1/28 — Chapter 13
** Wed. 2/4 — VIRTUS
** Wed. 2/11 — Chapter 15
** Wed. 2/18 — ASH WED
** Wed. 3/11 — Chapter 17
** Wed. 3/18 — Chapter 18
** Wed. 3/25 — Seder
** Wed. 4/1 — NO CLASS
** Wed. 4/8 — NO CLASS
** Wed. 4/15 — Chapter 19
** Wed. 4/22 — CLASS REVIEW
** Wed. 4/29-RELICS-LAST CLASS
** Sun. 5/3 — Communion Retreat
“Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means “God is with us.” Matthew 1: 23

“And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”” Luke 2: 13-14
Thank you to all who made the Christmas Pageant a blessing!

“After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.”

- Matthew 2: 9-11
THEOLOGY ON TAP

Ft. Myers

What is your vocational calling??
For Young Adults!!

Week 1: Explore God's call through the Bible and the
Community of Saints.

Week 2: Explore God's call in our everyday life through discussion
of Ignatian Spirituality.

Week 3: Explore God's calling in our lives through using “Three
Key questions”.

Week 4: Social @ Shoeless Joe's
Jesus has called us a community
of friends.

Throughout the Four weeks
we will explore our
Vocational calling as a
Church and as individual
members of our Church.

Thursday
For Four Weeks!
6:30pm – 8:00pm
Admission to the
program is FREE!

Church of the Resurrection
of Our Lord
8121 Cypress Lake Dr.
Fort Myers, FL 33919

Attendees are welcome to
purchase dinner and spirits
at the venue.

Four Week Program:
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January 22nd: Vocation: Your past
January 29th: Vocation: Your present
February 5th: Vocation: Your future
February 12th: Social @ Shoeless Joe's:
13051 Bell Tower Dr., Fort Myers, FL 33907

Theology On Tap is a monthly gathering for Catholic young adults (20’s and 30’s).
We meet in a comfortable setting to explore our faith, make friends and build community.
We invite you to join us for a pint and a prayer. For Questions and RSVP contact:
George L. Smith • (941) 484-9543 ext. 3036 • gsmith@dioceseofvenice.org
**THE 2015 VENETIAN CHARITY BALL**

SAVE THE DATE - 2015 Venetian Charity Ball
Please mark your calendars for the 2015 Venetian Charity Ball. Enjoy an exciting elegant evening filled with dinner, cocktails, dancing, entertainment and auction. This event will benefit the Catholic Charities program and services in Lee, Hendry and Glades counties. (For every dollar raised 93 cents will go directly to Catholic Charities programs & services) The Ball will be held on **February 14, 2015** at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point. Reservations are $200 per person. For more information to reserve tickets, donate, volunteer, or to learn about sponsorship opportunities please call (239) 337-4193 or email at VenetianBall@ccslee.org.

The 2015 Catholic Charities Frank Galeana Sr. Humanitarian Award will be presented at the Venetian Charity Ball to Bernie & Gina DeWolfe, Church of the Resurrection parishioners. Congratulations from your Church family.

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**
Reflection on Pope Francis
JOY OF THE GOSPEL
Mondays 7 PM - 9 PM
Fridays 9 AM - 10:30 AM
beginning January 9th to Easter!

“Our lives expand when we give ourselves to the world. When we fear and live selfishly we contract into ourselves and this is like a painful cramp. The less you move, the more it hurts.

*Take your joy! Work your way in the vibration of the people around you - bringing them the Lord like a natural comforting support from a friend.

People are searching. If their gaze lands on you, glow like a warm greeting from God.”

Reflection from Ruth Nekoranec

**Come and See…**
Join us!
Call 481-7172
To reserve your space!
You are blessed!

**COUPLES WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS**

February 7 and March 14

All couples celebrating 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, or more than 50 years of marriage are invited by Bishop Frank J. Dewane to an Anniversary Mass in their honor. The Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in two locations: February 7th at Epiphany Cathedral in Venice and March 14th at St. Leo the Great Parish in Bonita Springs. Mass will begin at 11 a.m.

Please call Resurrection parish office (239-481-7171) for reservations no later than a week before the event you choose to attend.

**A special “Thank you” to the volunteers who assisted the ushers during the holiday season.**
Without your help we would not have been able to perform our mission.

Sincerely in Christ,
John Patterson

**USHERS NEEDED**
We are still in need of ushers. If you are able to volunteer please call John at 481-3456.