



Community News

This Sunday's *Counsel*

THEME:

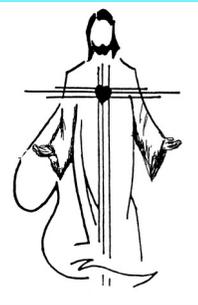
Jesus our Savior is revealed when we acknowledge Him as the Anointed Son of God.

PROMISE:

"...upon whom I have put my spirit; he shall bring forth justice to the nations..." (Is 42:1b)

WORD:

Is 42:1-4, 6-7/ Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10/ Acts 10:34-38/ Lk 3:15-16,



Testify To Goodness

REFLECTION:

On the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, Luke's gospel shows us the action of the Holy Spirit who descended and rested upon Jesus with His infinite presence and power. By the Spirit of God, it is revealed that Jesus' human nature is under the complete control of God, revealing His Divine power, understanding, and knowledge in all His works and words, assuring Jesus that everything in His ministry is divine as it is human.

After His baptism, Jesus demonstrated God's presence and authority, attracting more and more people to His ministry. Everyone who approached Him witnessed and experienced the true nature and character of the Father in His divine love – His kindness, mercy, forgiveness and faithfulness. The glory of God is fully revealed through Christ's life, in His ministry, teaching and finally in His death and resurrection.

In his letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul tells us, *"For you were bought at a price;*



therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's," (1 Cor 6:20). As Jesus' present-day disciples and having received the "new life" He gave us when we accepted Him as our Lord and Savior, we are expected to testify to the goodness and beauty of our transformed life. Indeed, it

is tough but we will not be in this alone. We remain empowered by the Holy Spirit who is our Guide, Companion and Sanctifier. Our role is to place our lives under the action of the Holy Spirit and permit Him to control our thoughts, change our hearts and influence our way of life.

As our Guide, the Holy Spirit who dwells in our hearts enlightens our mind to enable us to see, know and understand God's word and Truth. He grieves when we rebel, and lovingly convicts us of our wrongdoings and eventually leads us to repent and ask forgiveness of our sin. He guides us in our commitment to die to our

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Tending the Flock

Baptism Is New Birth

God is at the root of every created being's life and is the Father of every human person in a special way: he has a unique and personal relationship with every human being. Each one of us is wanted and loved by God. And also in this relationship with God, we can be "reborn", so to speak, in other words become what we are. This happens through faith, through a profound and personal "yes" to God as the origin and foundation of our existence. With this "yes" I receive life as a gift of the Father who is in Heaven, a Parent whom I do not see but in whom I believe and whom, in the depths of my heart, I feel is my Father and the Father of all my brethren in humanity, an immensely good and faithful Father.

On what is this faith in God the Father based? It is based on Jesus Christ: he himself and his history reveal the Father to us, enable us to know him as much as possible in this world. Believing that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, makes it possible to be "born from above", that is, from God, who is Love (cf. Jn 3:3).

...no individual makes him or herself a human being. We are born without doing anything ourselves, the passivity of being born precedes the activity of what we ourselves do. It is also the same at the level of being Christian: no one can become Christian solely by one's own will, being Christian is also a gift that comes before our own action: we must be reborn in a new birth. St John says: *"to all who received him... he gave power to become children of God"* (Jn 1:12).

This is the meaning of the Sacrament of Baptism. Baptism is this new birth that precedes our own action. With our faith we can go to meet Christ, but he alone can make us Christian and give to our will and to this desire of ours the response, dignity and power to become children of God, which we ourselves do not possess.

~ Pope Benedict XVI, Angelus Message, January 8, 2012

Online Giving

You can now send your tithes and love offerings via **Paypal**. Donate link can be found at www.bldtrenton.com

Or mail check to:
BLD Trenton Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 1367
Toms River, NJ 08754

The Lord's Provision

December 17, 2021

Tithes : \$175.00
Love Offer : \$175.00

Thank you for your generosity!!!

God's Blessings

Birthday

Woody Woodard 1/7 Jose Alvarenga 1/10
William Colon 1/10 Jeric Balmaceda 1/11
Gening Mabutas 1/11

Anniversary

Leo & Nona Alquiros 1/8
Wendell & Mildred Lumapas 1/8

Who Are You Gonna Call (or Text)?

For Mama Mary's visit - Beth Felibrico 732-995-7407
For Prayer Service - Bert & Cora Velez 732-688-1541



Community Prayer Time

Every Friday, starting at exactly 8:30 pm, all members are urged to pray together as one community the following:

Prayer to Take Authority

Holy Rosary

Prayer: Oratio Imperata against the spread of Coronavirus

Merciful and compassionate Father, we come to you in our need to seek your protection against the Covid-19 virus that has disturbed and even claimed lives.

We ask you now to look upon us with love and by your healing hand, dispel the fear of sickness and death, restore our hope, and strengthen our faith.

We pray that you guide the people tasked to find cures for this disease and to stem its transmission.

We thank you for the vaccines developed made possible by your guiding hands. Bless our efforts to use these vaccines to end the pandemic.

We pray for our health workers that they may minister to the sick with competence and compassion. Grant them health in mind and body, strength in their commitment, protection from the disease.

We pray for those afflicted. May they be restored to health. Protect those who care for them. Grant eternal rest to those who have died.

Give us the grace in these trying times to work for the good of all and to help those in need. May our concern and compassion for each other see us through this crisis and lead us to conversion and holiness.

Grant all these through our Lord Jesus Christ your son who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the holy spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.

We fly to your protection, O holy Mother of God. Do not despise our petition in our necessities, but deliver us always from all dangers, O Glorious and Blessed Virgin. Amen.

Our Lady, health of the sick, pray for us.

St. Joseph, pray for us.

St. Raphael the Archangel, pray for us.

San Roque, pray for us.

San Lorenzo Ruiz, pray for us.

San Pedro Calungsod, pray for us.

Littleness



Jesus does not want to come merely in the little things of our lives, but also in our own littleness: in our experience of feeling weak, frail, inadequate, perhaps even "messed up". Dear sister or brother, if, as in Bethlehem, the darkness of night overwhelms you, if you feel surrounded by cold indifference, if the hurt you carry inside cries out, "You are of little account; you are worthless; you will never be loved the way you want," tonight, if this is what you are feeling, God answers back. He tells you: "I love you just as you are. Your littleness does not frighten me, your failings do not trouble me. I became little for your sake. To be your God, I became your brother. Dear brother, dear sister, don't be afraid of me. Find in me your measure of greatness. I am close to you, and one thing only do I ask: trust me and open your heart to me."

~ Pope Francis

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"old self" of sinfulness and walk in our "new life" of righteousness.

As our Companion, He is always here to strengthen us in overcoming challenges and trials, fortify us when we are tempted and comfort us in times of suffering. He brings us into an intimate relationship with God and to communicate with Him in our prayers to experience His loving presence.

As our Sanctifier, He makes us learn to live holier lives by applying our spiritual gifts to develop tender-heartedness, compassion, humility, forgiveness, joy and hope. The fruit of our spiritual life – attainment of

holiness, use of spiritual gifts and divine empowerment in us, has its fulfillment in our time and in eternity, bringing greater glory to God.

It is God's desire that "all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord," (Nb 14:21). However, we cannot succeed in living a life of obedience to God and becoming Christ-like if we are full of pride, conceit, and ambition; if we are self-seeking and attuned to worldly pleasures. Jesus wants His Spirit to dwell in us so that God's glory may be manifested in the work He does in us and through us. This is His promise to

us: "...upon whom I have put my spirit, he shall bring forth justice to the nation." (Is 42:1b). Jesus is the hope of the glory of God on earth today and for all eternity.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, fill me with Your Holy Spirit and with the fire of Your love and goodness. May I always find joy and delight in seeking to please You in doing Your will, just as You have delighted in the joy of pleasing the Father and doing His will. Oh Holy Spirit, refresh me and equip me for Your work in me and through me. Amen."

Adapted from www.bldworld.org