



From the Desk of Fr. Leo

The baptism of Jesus is a mystery worthy of our contemplation. Certainly St. Pope John Paul considered it as something worth meditating on when he made it one of the mysteries in the new set of mysteries he created for the holy rosary: The Luminous Mysteries or The Mysteries of Light.

If I were to ask the average Catholic what do you think of when you hear the word Baptism, most would answer, "Baptism takes away original sin." That's true but there is a better answer. Let me illustrate. Suppose I show you a wallet, and its empty, some of us might relate to that too. That's basically what original sin is. It is emptiness, like the wallet. It's a big nothing. We are empty of God's grace and life. Suppose, for example, by some unbelievable odds, I would win a million dollars in the lottery. I would get that big check (less taxes) and put it in the wallet. If someone were to ask me, "what's in your wallet?" I don't know what I would tell them, but I don't think I would answer "the emptiness of my wallet is gone." But that's what we say when we define Baptism as the sacrament that takes away original sin. That definition only emphasizes the emptiness and not the fullness. It doesn't reflect the blessings that suddenly fill us at baptism: the blessings of God's life, of being children of God, the blessings of the Holy Spirit, the blessings of belonging to the family of God, the blessings of hope of sharing in eternal happiness with God. In Jesus there was no emptiness. In Him dwells the fullness of divinity (Colossians 2:9) as St. Paul tells us. He was, from all eternity, God's beloved Son. Jesus had no need of baptism in any form. In this respect, Jesus' baptism by St. John the Baptist made no change in Him as the sacrament of Baptism told us. Jesus' Baptism by St. John provides an occasion for us to reflect on our own Baptism and the grace that it brought us.

How do we describe Jesus' Baptism by St. John and the sacrament of Baptism we received are similar?

They are similar in that they are both a commitment. St. John's Baptism was a public commitment people made to live holy lives and to prepare for the coming of God's kingdom. Jesus in being baptized, was publicly committing Himself to do God's will and to preach and build the kingdom of God. Baptism is that for us too. We are committed in a public event to belong to God, to be God's obedient child, God's lover, God's representative. It's something like declaring one's candidacy, not for public office, but for the office of Christian in the world.

On this feast of the Baptism of Jesus, we have a good opportunity to recommit ourselves to Jesus. The effects and blessings of Baptism remain with us as long as we do not turn our hearts away from the Father who long ago chose us to be His sons or daughters in the sacrament.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion



Sunday Collection - January 4th

St. Rose, Crockett	\$2152
Maintenance	\$413
St. Patrick Mission	\$680
Maintenance	\$133

Thank you again to all who support our Parish! We know how generous you have been in the changing times!

***In able to meet our 2026 budgets, we would like to remind parishioners that we will need a minimum of \$2,100 for Sunday plate collections at St. Rose every weekend, and \$250 every Sunday at St. Patrick Mission. **



Mass Intentions for the Week

<u>Tues.</u>	<u>January 12</u>	<u>11:00AM</u>
Special Intentions		
<u>Wed.</u>	<u>January 13</u>	<u>11:00AM</u>
Special Intentions		
<u>Thur.</u>	<u>January 14</u>	<u>11:00AM</u>
Special Intentions		
<u>Fri.</u>	<u>January 15</u>	<u>11:00AM</u>
Special Intentions		
<u>Sat.</u>	<u>January 16</u>	<u>4:30PM</u>
Special Intentions		
<u>Sun.</u>	<u>January 17</u>	<u>9:00AM</u>
Diane Thomas †		June Gallo
<u>Port Costa</u>		<u>11:00AM</u>
People of the Parish		

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Second Collection This Weekend

This weekend is our annual diocesan-wide Seminary collection. Our diocese is blessed with 10 dedicated men discerning a vocation to the priesthood. As they continue their formation and studies, they rely on our prayers and support. You can help by contributing to the Seminarian Fund, which assists with tuition, housing, books and spiritual formation.

In the pews you will find special collection envelopes. Please consider making a gift today. Your generosity helps ensure these future priests are well-prepared to serve our parish communities and share the joy of the Gospel.

Thank you for your prayerful and financial support!



First Offering Envelopes

For those that receive their parish envelopes in the mail, the January envelopes include one labeled First Offering. The money collected in this envelope helps to offset some of the cost of the envelope service the parish uses. In preparing a budget for 2025, our Finance Council found that if all of the families in our parish donated just \$20 to this collection, it would just about pay for the envelope service for the whole year!



Prayers for the Deceased

In your prayers, please remember in a special way Diane (Bottini) Thomas. A memorial mass will be held here, at St. Rose, on Thursday, January 15th, at 10:00AM.



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Your generous gift to St. Rose of Lima enables us to provide beneficial programs that lift up our congregation and serve our community. We are deeply grateful for your support and invite you to contribute online by scanning the QR code below.

St Rose Of Lima s***t@comcast.net

