

January 10, 2010

Baptism of the Lord

Saint John Vianney

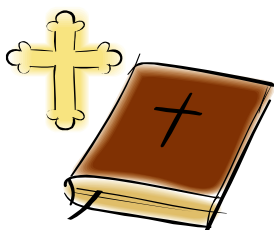
A Mission Church of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish serving you since August 10, 1997
1000 26th Ave NE, Rio Rancho, NM 87144
www.stjohnvianneyparish.org

Friends in Christ,

Christmas has ended, but Lent will soon arrive. I have asked Mr. Rick Torretto to present teachings on the first four Fridays of the upcoming Lent season. Rick will present four inspiring teachings: the Shroud of Turin, the Tilma of St. Juan Diego, Divine Mercy, and the final presentation which will be announced later. You and I will be greatly inspired by what Rick will teach us, I promise you. The talks will begin at 7 PM, and will be preceded by Stations of the Cross at Benediction beginning at 6 PM. I understand that Lent does not begin until the middle of February, but, as you know, time passes very quickly.

Have a blessed week,

Fr. Scott Mansfield.



Rosary Leaders Wanted for the 4PM and 10AM Mass. If interested please contact Ed Uhrich or give an Usher your name and phone number. Thank You.

Holy Rosary

20 Minutes before each mass

Holy Masses

Saturday4:00PM

Sunday.....8:00AM

Sunday..... 10:00AM

Sacrament of Confession

Saturday 3:00-3:45PM

Upcoming Events

- Food Collection for St. Felix Pantry 1st Sunday of every month
- Parent's Meeting for First Confession January 17th 11:15AM
- Pot Luck February 13th after 4PM Mass
- Stations of the Cross Starting February 19th, Fridays at 6PM
- Rick Torretto Classes Starting February 19th, Fridays at 7PM

On Paradise by Saint John Vianney

"Blessed, O Lord, are those who dwell in Thy house: they shall praise Thee for ever and ever."

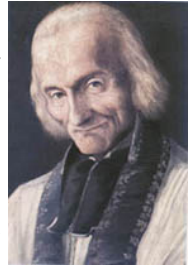
To dwell in the house of the good God, to enjoy the presence of the good God, to be happy with the happiness of the good God--oh, what happiness, my children! Who can understand all the joy and consolation with which the saints are inebriated in Paradise? Saint Paul, who was taken up into the third heaven, tells us that there are things above which he cannot reveal to us, and which we cannot comprehend.... Indeed, my children, we can never form a true idea of Heaven till we shall be there. It is a hidden treasure, an abundance of secret sweetness, a plenitude of joy, which may be felt, but which our poor tongue cannot explain. What can we imagine greater? The good God Himself will be our recompense: Ego merces tua magna nimis--I am thy reward exceeding great. O God! the happiness Thou promisest us is such that the eyes of man cannot see it, his ears cannot hear it, nor his heart conceive it.

Yes, my children, the happiness of Heaven is incomprehensible; it is the last effort of the good God, who wishes to reward us. God, being admirable in all His works, will be so too when He recompenses the good Christians who have made all their happiness consist in the possession of Heaven. This possession contains all good, and excludes all evil; sin being far from Heaven, all the pains and miseries which are the consequences of sin are also banished from it. No more death! The good God will be in us the Principle of everlasting life. No more sickness, no more sadness, no more pains, no more grief. You who are afflicted, rejoice! Your fears and your weeping will not extend beyond the grave. . . . The good God will Himself wipe away your tears! Rejoice, O you whom the world persecutes! your sorrows will soon be over, and for a moment of tribulation, you will have in Heaven an immense weight of glory. Rejoice! for you possess all good things in one--the source of all good, the good God Himself.

Can anyone be unhappy when he is with the good God; when he is happy with the happiness of the good God, of the good God Himself; when he sees the good God as he sees himself? As Saint Paul says, my children, we shall see God face to face, because then there will be no veil between Him and us. We shall possess Him without uneasiness, for we shall no longer fear to lose Him. We shall love Him with an uninterrupted and undivided love, because He alone will occupy our whole heart. We shall enjoy Him without weariness, because we shall discover in Him ever new perfections; and in proportion as we penetrate into that immense abyss of wisdom, of goodness, of mercy, of justice, of grandeur, and of holiness, we shall plunge ourselves in it with fresh eagerness. If an interior consolation, if a grace from the good God, gives us so much pleasure in this world that it diminishes our troubles, that it helps us to bear our crosses, that it gives to so many martyrs strength to suffer the most cruel torments --what will be the happiness of Heaven, where consolations and delights are given, not drop by drop, but by torrents!

Let us represent to ourselves, my children, an everlasting day always new, a day always serene, always calm; the most delicious, the most perfect society. What joy, what happiness, if we could possess on earth, only for a few minutes, the angels, the Blessed Virgin, Jesus Christ! In Heaven we shall eternally see, not only the Blessed Virgin and Jesus Christ, we shall see the good God Himself! We shall see Him no longer through the darkness of faith, but in the light of day, in all His Majesty! What happiness thus to see the good God! The angels have contemplated Him since the beginning of the world, and they are not satiated; it would be the greatest misfortune to them to be deprived of Him for a single moment. The possession of Heaven, my children, can never weary us; we possess the good God, the Author of all perfections. See, the more we possess God, the more He pleases; the more we know Him, the more attractions and charms we find in the knowledge of Him. We shall always see Him and shall always desire to see Him; we shall always taste the pleasure there is in enjoying the

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good God, and we shall never be satiated with it. The blessed will be enveloped in the Divine Immensity, they will revel in delights and be all surrounded with them, and, as it were, inebriated. Such is the happiness which the good God destines for us.

We can all, my children, acquire this happiness. The good God wills the salvation of the whole world; He has merited Heaven for us by His death, and by the effusion of all His Blood. What a happiness to be able to say, "Jesus Christ died for me; He has opened Heaven for me; it is my inheritance. . . . Jesus has prepared a place for me; it only depends on me to go and occupy it. Vado vobis parare locum--I go to prepare a place for you. The good God has given us faith, and with this virtue we can attain to eternal life. For, though the good God wills the salvation of all men, He particularly wills that of the Christians who believe in Him: Qui credit, habeat vitam aeternam--He that believeth hath life everlasting. Let us, then, thank the good God, my children; let us rejoice--our names are written in Heaven, like those of the Apostles. Yes, they are written in the Book of Life: if we choose, they will be there forever, since we have the means of reaching Heaven.

The happiness of Heaven, my children, is easy to acquire; the good God has furnished us with so many means of doing it! See, there is not a single creature which does not furnish us with the means of attaining to the good God; if any of them become an obstacle, it is only by our abuse of them. The goods and the miseries of this life, even the chastisements made use of by the good God to punish our infidelities, serve to our salvation. The good God, as Saint Paul says, makes all things turn to the good of His elect; even our very faults may be useful to us; even bad examples and temptations. Job was saved in the midst of an idolatrous people. All the saints have been tempted. If these things are, in the hands of God, an assistance in reaching Heaven, what will happen if we have recourse to the Sacraments, to that never-failing source of all good, to that fountain of grace supplied by the good God Himself! It was easy for the disciples of Jesus to be saved, having the Divine Saviour constantly with them. Is it more difficult for us to secure our salvation, having Him constantly with us? They were happy in obtaining whatever they wished for, whatever they chose; are we less so? We possess Jesus Christ in the Eucharist; He is continually with us, He is ready to grant us whatever we ask, He is waiting for us; we have only to ask. O my children! the poor know how to express their wants to the rich; we have only our indifference, then, to accuse, if assistance and graces are wanting to us. If an ambitious or a covetous man had as ample means of enriching himself, would he hesitate a moment, would he let so favourable an opportunity escape? Alas! we do everything for this world, and nothing for the other? What labor, what trouble, what cares, what sorrows, in order to gather up a little fortune! See, my children, of what use are our perishable goods? Solomon, the greatest, the richest, the most fortunate of kings, said, in the height of the most brilliant fortune: "I have seen all things that are done under the sun; and behold, all is vanity and vexation of spirit. " And these are the goods to acquire which we labor so much, whilst we never think of the goods of Heaven! How shameful for us not to labor to acquire it, and to neglect so many means of reaching it! If the fig tree was cast into the fire for not having profited by the care that had been taken to render it fertile; if the unprofitable servant was reproved for having hidden the talent that he had received, what fate awaits us, who have so often abused the aids which might have taken us to Heaven? If we have abused the graces that the good God has given us, let us make haste to repair the past by great fidelity, and let us endeavour to acquire merits worthy of eternal life.

**Parent's meeting for First Confession has been changed to Jan 17th at 11:15AM.
Please bring a copy of your child's Baptism record.**

Defending Our Faith - A Series on Apologetics by John Lombardo

Last Days and End Times: Will Catholics be Left Behind?

After considering our previous discussions concerning Fundamentalism, I am proposing a series of monographs on the above topic. This is the story of the Rapture, the Millennium, (how long is a thousand years) and other eschatological topics concerning last things. My prayer is that this topic will enlighten you to the beauty of Catholic teaching of the end of the world and final judgment.

Why should a Catholic be concerned with such Fundamentalist topics as described in this topic? Simply put, there is a serious need to examine this topic from a Catholic perspective. Unless we have knowledge of Fundamentalist principles of the Rapture, we will have difficulty discussing other apologetic topics. Why? Because the Rapture “is the heart of a unique and complex view of the Bible, the world, the Kingdom and Israel, and the end of time” (1) held by Fundamentalists and Evangelicals.

The importance of understanding this topic is that a great number of former Catholics are drawn to Fundamentalism by being taught and believing in the Rapture. Many are convinced that the Catholic Church is apostate and anti-Christian.(2) Fundamentalists such as Dave Hunt and Loraine Better claim that the Catholic Church is in fact the Whore of Babylon noted in Revelation 17-18.(3)

This is my reason for tackling this topic from a Catholic perspective and especially so because of great attraction to the notion of the Rapture. Author Hal Lindsey, for example, wrote several record shattering best seller books concerning the Rapture. Does anyone remember The Late Great Planet Earth and There’s a New World Coming? (4) These books concern life on earth during the Tribulation which comes after the Rapture.

The *Left Behind* series with its forty million copies sold is proof interest in the Rapture hasn’t waned in recent years either.(5) In fact, many Catholics who have read the *Left Behind* books have come to believe these books are true and not anti-Catholic (as many thought about the Da Vinci Code); that they spread the Gospel, and should be supported by Catholics.(6) Thus we see the reason for the exodus of many Catholics leaving Catholicism for Fundamentalism and Evangelicalism.

Dear friends, the Catholic Church has much to offer us concerning doctrines on the study of end-times. Last week I noted that in discussions with Fundamentalists and other non-Catholics, we should never anger or insult these folks nor try to win arguments. I will do my best to portray the flaws of their belief in the Rapture and end-times without being over-bearing, cynical, flippant. I will do my best to portray their non-Catholic beliefs from a Catholic perspective, yet provide Catholic doctrine from the greatest teacher of the Church-the Church itself, “the pillar and bulwark of truth” (1 Tim. 3:15).(7) Both the Magisterium of the Church and the works of other apologetists will form the basis of my discussions. These sources amply address faithful Catholic theology. Both sources rely on and quote the Bible and Tradition especially noting

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writings of the early Fathers of the Church.

Next week: Last Days and End Times: will Catholics Be Left Behind?

PEACE

(1) Will Catholics Be Left Behind, by Carl E. Olson, p.13

(2) Ibid., p.18

(3) Ibid.

(4) Hal Lindsey, with C.C. Carlson, The Late Great Planet Earth, (New York : Bantam Books,1970; There's a New World Coming: Viscom House Publishers, 1973.

(5) Will Catholics Be Left Behind, by Carl Olson, p.19

(6) Ibid., p. 20

(7) Ibid.

God Bless America

God Bless America,
Land that I love,
Stand beside her and guild her
Through the night with a light from above.
From the mountains to the prairies,
To the oceans white with foam,
God Bless America,
My home, sweet home.

Thank you for reading our bulletin. Any suggestions, comments, prayers or articles can be sent to bulletin@sjvnm.org. We also like to hear about births, baptisms, marriages or other news about our church members.

Receive our bulletin via eMail

Visit our website at www.sjvnm.org and click on **Subscribe** to be added to the eMailing list.

One Sunday morning, the pastor noticed little Tony standing in the foyer of the church staring up at a large plaque. It was covered with names and small American flags mounted on either side of it. The six-year old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the pastor walked up, stood beside the little boy, and said quietly, 'Good morning Tony.'

'Good morning Pastor,' he replied, still focused on the plaque. 'Pastor, what is this?'

The pastor said, 'Well son, it's a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service.'

Soberly, they just stood together, staring at the large plaque.

Finally, little Tony voice, barely audible and trembling with fear asked, 'Which service, the 8:00 or the 10:00?'

Are you interested in encouraging young scientists? St. Thomas Aquinas School is seeking qualified Science Fair judges for the school's Science Fair on January 26, 2010. Please contact Mary Rogel at 948-0277 or email at mlrogel@hotmail.com. Thank you for supporting our school.

Faith and Finances with Phil Lenahan © – www.VeritasFinancialMinistries.com
“You are my beloved son; with you I am well pleased” (Lk. 3:22). Jesus was pleasing to the Father because he *did* his Father's will. When it comes to money, the will of the Father is expressed in the Church's teaching on being a steward of Providence. Are you *applying* this teaching in your daily life?

*Archdiocese of Santa Fe Pilgrimages for Vocations | 2010 Theme "You Are The Beloved"
Matthew 3:16-17 | To find out more visit the website for May and June Pilgrimages.
Take a week to walk with Christ in devotional prayer and sacrifice. <http://pilgrimagesforvocations.org/>*

Prayer Corner

Let us join as a community in prayer for our fellow parishioners and/or their family members.

- ◆ For Nick Lombardo health and peace to his family with his illness. (1/10)
- ◆ For healing for Joan Bock, and strength and God's care for her and for her family. (1/3)
- ◆ For Fr. Whorton on his deployment, and his family, that they all remain under God's loving care. (Till he returns)
- ◆ For the strength and courage of the disabled, sick, elderly, and dying
- ◆ For our country leaders to make the right decision for the well being of our country.
- ◆ For guidance to our leaders for the removal of the stain of abortion.
- ◆ All our brave men and women of the world keeping their country free.
- ◆ For the lonely that they find comfort in the heart of Our Blessed Mother Mary as she too suffered the loneliness of Christ's death.

Prayers are kept on the list for a month then need to be resubmitted.

Thank you for your prayers.

	Sacristans	Ushers	EM of Holy Communion	Rosary Leader	Altar Servers	Lectors
Sat Jan 9th 4:00PM	David Crawford	Therese Lopez Phillip Griego Juan Serna	David Crawford	Bill McCarty	Jamie VLS Jessica VLS Victoria Perez	Vicky Howell April McClellan
Sun Jan 10th 8:00AM	Julie Burnside	John Christensen Mike Philbin Tom Anderson Bill Deneen	Harlan Harrington	Frances Perko	Shane Herrera Albert Ibarra Vincent Valdez	David Schutten Petrita Lopez
Sun Jan 10th 10:00AM	Donna Madrid	Carl Beyer Aaron Quinones Eddie Crespín Gary Vigil	Janis Crespín John Lombardo Brian Padilla	Rochelle Quinones	Angela Jenkins Ariana Jenkins Rocky Peyton Drew Garcia	Pinky Bjornstad Peggy Riley
Sat Jan 16th 4:00PM	David Crawford	Therese Lopez Ed Urich Eddie Crespín	Esther Wilcox	JD Strickland	Emilio Crespín Victoria Perez Josh Storms	Annette Montoya Connie Dudon
Sun Jan 17th 8:00AM	Julie Burnside	James Sandoval Tom Anderson John Christensen Mike Philbin	David Schutten	Evelyn Romero	Dominic Ortiz Alura McClellan Sergio Guillen	Julie Burnside April McClellan
Sun Jan 17th 10:00AM	Geri Hoover	Tony Quinones Aaron Quinones Ariana Eck Gary Vigil	John Jenkins Carrie Jenkins Ana Padilla	Peggy Riley	Josh Kast Delaney Kast Delicia Garcia Karla Del Cid	Rosie Root Rochelle Quinones

Observations on Growing Older

~You used to say, "I hope my kids GET married ..."

Now, "I hope they STAY married!"



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Where is the Snow?

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Communications.....	Carl E. Beyer
Finance Building Chair.....	James Sandoval
Pastoral Chair	Ed Uhrich
Head Sacristan	Gerry Hoover
Head Usher.....	Carl E. Beyer
Head Altar Servers	Ed Uhrich
Head Lector	Peggy Riley
Head EM	Pinky Bjornstad
Head CCD	Edwinna Herrera
Head Snacker.....	Harlan Harrington
Head Grounds and Interior Cleaning.....	Coz Madrid
Head Welcoming Ministry	Loretta Tafuro
Parish Website.....	www.sjvnm.org
Concerns / Questions.....	892-1511
Baptisms, Marriages, Funerals	St Thomas Parish - 892-1511

IN GOD WE TRUST