

## 02 • GET TO KNOW US

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### FROM THE DESK OF FR. RICH

Today, we celebrate the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Zebulun and Naphtali were two Jewish tribes who had settled in the northern area of the Holy Land. Eight centuries before Christ, this area experienced a bitter defeat at the hands of Assyria. The prophet Isaiah offers these defeated people hope by looking ahead to a day when they would be especially blessed. This northern area of the Holy Land was later known as Galilee, and Christians have seen Jesus as fulfilling this prophecy.

In his first letter to the Corinthians, Paul deals with issues the Church faces in every age. After Paul had founded this community and moved on, he heard of polarizations among the Corinthian Christians. In today's passage, he speaks bluntly to them about these divisions.

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Continuing with the topic of the significance of the sacrament of baptism, I'd like to focus on the following question...

### Why is it so important for Baptismal Sponsors to be registered in a parish?

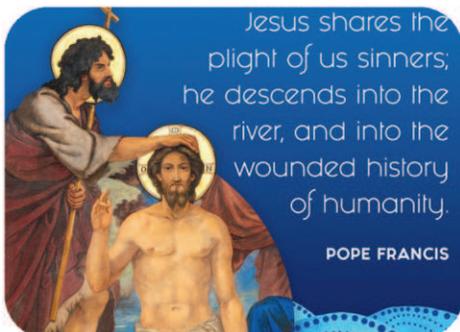
Parish membership is one of the major indications that we take our faith life seriously. The parish offers stability for our regular celebration of the Eucharist. We need the community of believers to support and nourish our faith life.

The Catechism quotes St. John Chrysostom: "You cannot pray at home as at the church, where there is a great multitude, where exclamations are cried out to God as from one great heart, and where there is something more: the union of minds, the accord of souls, the bond of charity, the prayer of the priests." (The Catholic Catechism #2179)



### ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

St. Eugene Church  
Mondays 4 - 6 pm.  
Benediction at 5:45 pm.



If we say we don't need a faith community to be Catholic, we deny the foundation on which the Church was built. Jesus began His Church by forming a community of men and women to whom he handed over the faith. He built His Church on this community of apostles and disciples.

The early Church understood the importance of community life and the Faith spread because the Apostles and St. Paul formed communities (churches) in various cities. The early Church knew that the community was essential. How can we today, sustain our Catholicism apart from the parish community? What then gives us nourishment? How then do we continue to learn about our faith? Where is our stability? The Church does not exist apart from parish life. It is parish life.

When someone joins the Kiwanis, they are expected to attend monthly meetings. If they are out of town, they attend a local meeting, but when they are in town, they are supposed to attend with the group they have joined. If a mere club finds this action so important, how can we place so much less importance on attendance at Eucharist with our own parish community?

Church law tells us that to be a godparent/sponsor it is necessary, in part, to be sixteen years old, be Catholic, fully initiated (having celebrated baptism, confirmation, Eucharist) and living a life of faith which gives witness to this initiation. (#874) If we are not parishioners, we are disconnected from the regular faith life of the Church.

If we are disconnected from the Church's faith life, then to what do we witness? How can we sponsor someone into something in which we do not believe or participate? How then can we give proper example to the child we are supposed to be sponsoring?

And if I don't belong to a parish now?

You may take this opportunity to register at the parish where you attend or intend to attend. If the priest is familiar with your attendance and participation, he may be willing to sign and seal the Sponsor Request Certificate. If you have very recently changed locations, you may wish to contact your former parish and have that priest sign your certificate. At the same time, you will want to establish membership at your new location.

Hopefully the information shared over the past few weeks has been helpful for both parents and potential godparents. Let's all hope and pray that we never lose sight of the significance of the sacrament of baptism and the long-term effects that this sacrament has in each of our lives once if it is truly understood and taken seriously.

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Wishing you all an enjoyable week ahead!

*Fr. Rich Yanos*