

## **Session Nine (Year B)**

**Sunday December 11, 2016**

[Come, Holy Ghost!](#)

Pentecost Prayer

Kiss of Peace

Questions? Thoughts?

**Theme:** Overwhelmed

We are very familiar with seeing some water poured on the head of an infant, and so think of Baptism as a spiritual washing. The Greek root of the word means overwhelmed, and when a ship sank it was said to be baptized. The baptism of John was by total immersion, and was more symbolic of drowning. The death and resurrection of Jesus expand the meaning of the act as death to sin and rising to a new life of grace. We also need to be continually immersed in prayer and good works.

Questions for the Candidates

- What makes you feel overwhelmed?
- How are you immersed in the life of the Church?

## **The Ten Commandments**

Not this session

## **The Beatitudes**

Not this session

## **Saints**

### [John the Baptist](#)

- Son of Zechariah, a priest and Elizabeth, cousin of Mary
- Cousin of Jesus, about six months older
- Preached a baptism of repentance
- Prepared Israel for the imminent arrival of the Messiah
- Martyred by King Herod Antipater
- Referred to Jesus as the Lamb of God
- Said of Jesus, "He must increase, and I must decrease."
- Taught his disciples to pray, leading to Our Father from Jesus

His advice to those who asked was simple: to the people, share your food and clothing with those who have less; to tax collectors, don't cheat and steal; and to soldiers, don't bully anyone and be content with your pay.

## **Sacraments**

### **Catechism of the Catholic Church**

- 1131** The sacraments are efficacious signs of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us. The visible rites by which the sacraments are celebrated signify and make present the graces proper to each sacrament. They bear fruit in those who receive them with the required dispositions.
- 1132** The Church celebrates the sacraments as a priestly community structured by the baptismal priesthood and the priesthood of ordained ministers.
- 1133** The Holy Spirit prepares the faithful for the sacraments by the Word of God and the faith which welcomes that word in well-disposed hearts. Thus the sacraments strengthen faith and express it.
- 1134** The fruit of sacramental life is both personal and ecclesial. For every one of the faithful on the one hand, this fruit is life for God in Christ Jesus; for the Church, on the other, it is an increase in charity and in her mission of witness.

### **The Catechism of the Catholic Church on Baptism**

- 1212** The sacraments of Christian initiation - Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist - lay the foundations of every Christian life. "The sharing in the divine nature given to men through the grace of Christ bears a certain likeness to the origin, development, and nourishing of natural life. the faithful are born anew by Baptism, strengthened by the sacrament of Confirmation, and receive in the Eucharist the food of eternal life. By means of these sacraments of Christian initiation, they thus receive in increasing measure the treasures of the divine life and advance toward the perfection of charity." - Paul VI, apostolic constitution, *Divinae consortium naturae*
- 1275** Christian initiation is accomplished by three sacraments together: Baptism which is the beginning of new life; Confirmation which is its strengthening; and the Eucharist which nourishes the disciple with Christ's Body and Blood for his transformation in Christ.
- 1276** "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you".
- 1277** Baptism is birth into the new life in Christ. In accordance with the Lord's will, it is necessary for salvation, as is the Church herself, which we enter by Baptism.
- 1278** The essential rite of Baptism consists in immersing the candidate in water or pouring water on his head, while pronouncing the invocation of the Most Holy Trinity: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

- 1279** The fruit of Baptism, or baptismal grace, is a rich reality that includes forgiveness of original sin and all personal sins, birth into the new life by which man becomes an adoptive son of the Father, a member of Christ and a temple of the Holy Spirit. By this very fact the person baptized is incorporated into the Church, the Body of Christ, and made a sharer in the priesthood of Christ.
- 1280** Baptism imprints on the soul an indelible spiritual sign, the character, which consecrates the baptized person for Christian worship. Because of the character Baptism cannot be repeated.
- 1281** Those who die for the faith, those who are catechumens, and all those who, without knowing of the Church but acting under the inspiration of grace, seek God sincerely and strive to fulfill his will, are saved even if they have not been baptized.
- 1282** Since the earliest times, Baptism has been administered to children, for it is a grace and a gift of God that does not presuppose any human merit; children are baptized in the faith of the Church. Entry into Christian life gives access to true freedom.
- 1283** With respect to children who have died without Baptism, the liturgy of the Church invites us to trust in God's mercy and to pray for their salvation.
- 1284** In case of necessity, any person can baptize provided that he have the intention of doing that which the Church does and provided that he pours water on the candidate's head while saying: "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

### Matthew 28

- 16 The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them.
- 17 When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted.
- 18 Then Jesus approached and said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me.
- 19 Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit,
- 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."

## John 19

- 31 Now since it was preparation day, in order that the bodies might not remain on the cross on the sabbath, for the sabbath day of that week was a solemn one, the Jews asked Pilate that their legs be broken and they be taken down.
- 32 So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and then of the other one who was crucified with Jesus.
- 33 But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs,
- 34 but one soldier thrust his lance into his side, and immediately blood and water flowed out.

## Ezekiel 47

- 1 Then he brought me back to the entrance of the temple, and I saw water flowing out from beneath the threshold of the temple toward the east, for the facade of the temple was toward the east; the water flowed down from the southern side of the temple, south of the altar.
- 2 He led me outside by the north gate, and around to the outer gate facing the east, where I saw water trickling from the southern side.
- 3 Then when he had walked off to the east with a measuring cord in his hand, he measured off a thousand cubits and had me wade through the water, which was ankle-deep.
- 4 He measured off another thousand and once more had me wade through the water, which was now knee-deep. Again he measured off a thousand and had me wade; the water was up to my waist.
- 5 Once more he measured off a thousand, but there was now a river through which I could not wade; for the water had risen so high it had become a river that could not be crossed except by swimming.
- 6 He asked me, "Have you seen this, son of man?" Then he brought me to the bank of the river, where he had me sit.
- 7 Along the bank of the river I saw very many trees on both sides.
- 8 He said to me, "This water flows into the eastern district down upon the Arabah, and empties into the sea, the salt waters, which it makes fresh."
- 9 Wherever the river flows, every sort of living creature that can multiply shall live, and there shall be abundant fish, for wherever this water comes the sea shall be made fresh.

- 10 Fishermen shall be standing along it from En-gedi to En-eglaim, spreading their nets there. Its kinds of fish shall be like those of the Great Sea, very numerous.
- 11 Only its marshes and swamps shall not be made fresh; they shall be left for salt.
- 12 Along both banks of the river, fruit trees of every kind shall grow; their leaves shall not fade, nor their fruit fail. Every month they shall bear fresh fruit, for they shall be watered by the flow from the sanctuary. Their fruit shall serve for food, and their leaves for medicine."

### Revelation 22

- 1 Then the angel showed me the river of life-giving water, sparkling like crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb
- 2 down the middle of its street. On either side of the river grew the tree of life that produces fruit twelve times a year, once each month; the leaves of the trees serve as medicine for the nations.
- 3 Nothing accursed will be found there anymore. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him.
- 4 They will look upon his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.
- 5 Night will be no more, nor will they need light from lamp or sun, for the Lord God shall give them light, and they shall reign forever and ever.

### Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Not this session

### Fruits of the Holy Spirit

Not this session

### Prayer Laboratory

*Interior Castle*, St. Teresa of Avila

Comments? Questions?

### Blest Be the Tie That Binds