

Saint Bernadette Church Prayer for Parish Gatherings



A simple faith sharing process to put Jesus' message at the heart of your parish organization's meeting.

Opening Prayer

Holy Spirit,
Direct our minds with Your wisdom.
Open our ears with Your words.
Touch our lips with Your truth.
Fill our hearts with Your love.
Amen.

Reflect & Share

Share one or more of the following questions.

What word or phrase in this reading speaks to you?

What are your personal stories about baptism? Did your parents arrange your baptism or did you choose it for yourself? Have you chosen baptism for a child of your own or helped to prepare anyone for the sacrament?

What do you suppose John's disciples thought when he contrasted his type of baptism with what the Messiah would do?

What do the symbols in Jesus' baptism story tell you about who He is? How do you think those present felt when they heard the proclamation of the voice from heaven? How does God speak to you about who Jesus is?

To what ministry does your baptism and the promptings of the Holy Spirit challenge

you?

Do you often recognize times when you have experienced God's favor and love? What might help you become more conscious everyday of God acting in your life? What can you do to help others become more aware?

Scripture Reading

Baptism of the Lord
January 13, 2019
Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

The Gospel of the Lord!

Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!

(Allow 30 Seconds of Reflective Silence.)



Closing Prayer

Holy God,
before time began You loved us
and planned for our salvation.
As we prepare to celebrate Jesus' baptism
into His saving ministry by John,
help us to be mindful of our own baptism.
Guide us on the journey of discovery
to which baptismal living leads us.
Call us to a share in Jesus' divine Life
and bring us to the fullness
of our baptismal call. Amen.

The Message His Message Our Message