

Bible Quiz # 53 The Book of Judges (Chapters 11-15)

1. How does Jephthah try to resolve the conflict with the Ammonites at first?
2. What vow does Jephthah make to the Lord?
3. How long did Jephthah judge Israel?
4. What was unique about Samson's birth?
5. What does it mean that Samson was a Nazirite from birth?
6. What is the significance of the angel ascending in the flame of the altar?
7. What does it mean that Samson's desire was "from the Lord"?
8. How does Samson kill the lion?
9. Samson destroyed the Philistines' crops by using:
 - A. A torch in foxes' tails
 - B. A flaming chariot
 - C. Locusts
 - D. An earthquake
10. Samson was allowed to cut his hair because he was a Nazirite only temporarily. True or False?

DUE: January 20th

FAITH FORMATION

The Baptism of the Lord is recounted this week from the Gospel of Matthew. When Jesus approached John the Baptist to be baptized, John hesitated saying, "I need to be baptized by you." Still, Jesus said it was fitting for him to be baptized by John. But, why did Jesus choose to be baptized, even though he had no sin? Jesus wanted to be close to us, to have a relationship with us, and to walk with us through all parts of life.

Our faith is not just about rules or beliefs. It's about this relationship. Jesus didn't come to show off. He came to show up. He came to be near us — in our joy, in our struggles, in our mistakes, and in our hopes. He knows what it's like to be human and what we go through. He came to stand with us.

As soon as Jesus is baptized, the sky opens up, the Holy Spirit comes down, and God says, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." It's a moment where we see the Holy Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—all present. And it shows that Jesus is fully known, fully loved, and fully sent.

Now here's the part that connects us with Jesus. When we were baptized, God did something very real. He claimed us. He said, "You are my beloved." That's who we are. And that never changes. Even if we forget it. Even if we mess up. We will always be God's beloved children. But it doesn't stop there. It means choosing every day to love like he did. To care like he did. To stand with others, even when it's hard. That's what Jesus did for us. And now we get to do the same.

God Bless! BWM, DRE

St. Bernadette Catholic Church Bayou Vista January 11, 2026



Office Hours:	Physical Address:	Contact Us:
Monday - Thursday 8:30 am to 3:30 pm (Closed for Lunch)	1112 Saturn Rd. (Bayou Vista) Morgan City, LA 70380	Ph: 985-395-2470 Fax: 985-395-6514 Email: stbern@teche.net Website: www.stbern-bv.org Facebook: @StBernBayouVista

The Baptism of the Lord



*"This is my
beloved Son,
with whom I
am well
pleased."*

Matthew 3:17

Pastor

Rev. Thainese Alphonse
Email: talphonse@diolaf.org

Parish Staff

Bookkeeper: Lois Bosworth
Mon. 8:30am - 3:30pm,
Tuesday & Wednesday 8:30am - 12pm
Secretary/DRE: Becky W. Meranta
Wed./Thurs. 8:30am - 3:30pm

Church & Rectory House Keeper:
Melinda Frederick
Tuesday - Friday 8:30am - 12pm

Sacraments

Sacrament of Reconciliation:
Sat. 3:15 - 3:50pm; Sundays & weekdays
20 min. before Mass.

Sacrament of Baptism:
Contact the office to schedule a meeting with the pastor, at the parents' convenience, one month prior to the desired Baptism date. Baptisms are celebrated on Sunday after 10:30am Mass.

Sacrament of Marriage:
Couples wishing to get married should call the office at least six months prior to the anticipated date of the wedding to begin the marriage preparation.

Marriage annulment:
Contact the pastor for easy guidance.

Anointing the Sick:
Call the office to schedule an appointment.

Youth Faith Formation:
Wednesday - 5:45 - 7:00 pm

Schedule of Holy Masses

Weekends:
Saturday - Anticipated Mass - 4:00 pm
Sunday - 7:30 am & 10:30 am
Weekdays:
NO Weekday Masses until Father returns.

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St. Bernadette Church Offerings
January 3-4, 2025
 Offering.....\$3,872.00
 Insurance.....\$1,315.00
 Thank you for your generosity!

Liturgical Ministries

Date	Mass	Sacristan	Lector	Min. of Comm.	Altar Servers
Sat. Jan. 17	4:00 pm	Julia Hepler	Catherine Cali	Julia Hepler	
Sun. Jan. 18	7:30 am 10:30 am	John Trevino Maria Landry	Kathy Shilling Cindy Viola		Katherine Sharp Dylan Logan Rickey Parker D.

WELCOME BACK!
Fr. Mike Bergeron

Father Mike will be celebrating Mass with us at St. Bernadette while Fr. Thainese is on holiday. Please continue your prayers for Fr. Thainese to have a joyful visit with family and a safe return home on February 11th.

**Weekday Masses will resume
when Father returns.**

Here are the weekday Mass schedules
for our neighboring parishes.

St. Joseph
Patterson

Monday - 11:00 am
Tuesday - 9:30 am @
Nursing Home
Wednesday - 11:00 am
Thursday - 11:00 am
Friday - No Mass

St. Stephen
Berwick

Monday - 12:10 pm
Tuesday - 12:10 pm
Wednesday - 12:10 pm
Thursday - No Mass
Friday - 12:10 pm

Sacred Heart
Morgan City

Monday - No Mass
Tuesday - 6:30 am
Wednesday - 6:30 am
Thursday - 6:30 am
Friday - 6:30 am

Holy Cross
Morgan City

Monday - 5:30 pm
Tuesday - 5:30 pm
Wednesday - 5:30 pm
Thursday - 5:30 pm
Friday - No Mass



Melinda Frederick, Judy Tholen, Jude Duval, Gerald Hotard, Kevin Theriot, James Bergeron, Daisy Roberts & Family, Don Campos, Alice Waguespack, Susan Legendre, Darryl Dimaggio, Alice Boudreaux, Michael Silva, Ryan Arcemont, Karen Duhon, Maddi Duhon, Mynette Zimmer, Jane Mayo, Dalton Dupree, Lisa Morel, Mary Ann Lambert Adams, Elma Braus, Cherie Schlatve, Matt Braus, Nelwyn LaHoste, Jamie Huffman, Maria McGinnis, Sonya Meranta, Wilson Acosta, Sr., Steve Meranta, Kenny Meranta, JY & Elaine Mula, Audie Pete, Blaine St. Romain, Robert David, Jr, Robert Paul David, Gert Simoneaux, Kristi Wisdom, Juanita Prestenbach, Barbara Rivet, Bill Vincent, Judy Cornwell, Ella Ryker, Brenda Dawson, Mike Reed, Rhodes Family, Jaret Matte, Carl Witten, Mary Liles, Jean Derise, Barry Clark, Ross Mire, Ina Miller, Greg Verret, Doug Pillsbury, Aubry "Poochie" Sutton, Paul Wooten, Merian Rock, Carolina Rodrigue, Dwayne Meranta, Ernie Meranta, Darlene Aucoin, David Rossen, Wybra Duay, Stuart Aucoin, Andy Robichaux, Robin Bailey Jeansonne, Crue Hotard, Vanessa Solet, Dawn Spinella, Laila Claire Gardemal, Cynthia Athinson, Logan Gros, Ella Ryker, Special Intentions, Belinda Fabre Lee, Rosa Rosado, Armando Rosado, Glen Cormier, SJ Sampey, Ruby Breaux, Barbara D. Aucoin, Sarah Ford, Carlo Strevia, Jr, Danny Barras, Lynn Rose Pete Allen, Lanny Theriot, Jim Turner, Kevin Cothron, Bill Ford, Sr., Lynette Rink, Emily Dupre, John Meir, Sheila Touns, Priscilla Hebert Sampey, EJ Landry, Dr. Keith Comeaux, Brent Driskill, Sharon Rulf Guidry, Wiley Magee, Barbara Cothron, Rhonda Cothron Cook, Cory Spinella Meranta, and Layne Aucoin.

MASS Intentions

Saturday, January 17th
Anticipated Mass 4:00 pm

†Guy Pete †NJ Hebert †Trey Smith †Thomas Rivet, Jr
†Thomas Rivet III †Thomas Rivet IV †Ray LaHoste, Jr
†Raymond LaHoste, Sr, †Clarence & Ella Walker
†Mary Bernard Blanchard †Peggy & Albert Hebert
†Red & Yvonne Anne Adams †Claire Torres Ingalls
†Patricia & Donald Torres, Sr †Louis & Girlie Berthelot
†Murphy L. LeBlanc †Miranda Pennison †Kim Ordogne
†Velma & Eldridge Williams †Curtis & Althea Verret
†Whalen Kiffe †Jim Aloisio †Gene Bosworth
†Holy Souls in Purgatory
†Tracey Peterson & John Ourso Families.

Sunday, January 18th
7:30 am

†Albert Solet †Luke Guillot †Maria & Ruben Trevino
†Ruby & Roland Crappell.

10:30 am

†Rose Lipari †Ruth Wiggins †Terry Wiggins
†Carlo Strevia, Sr †John Messersmith, Jr.
†Don Lasseigne Family - Living & Deceased
†Canty & Thibodeaux Family - Living & Deceased
†Landry & Justilian Families - Living & Deceased.

The Baptism of Jesus

S	F	O	O	P	E	N	P	J	N	D	R	S	D
E	P	O	F	P	E	H	T	G	E	S	I	E	V
H	R	I	R	S	N	I	S	H	R	S	S	J	J
E	L	E	R	G	A	S	O	I	O	E	U	O	W
A	D	U	L	I	I	D	N	N	R	N	R	S	D
V	N	E	F	O	T	V	E	T	E	D	G	T	P
E	B	W	S	R	V	E	E	S	A	Z	W	S	R
N	A	A	O	S	E	E	C	N	A	A	E	R	E
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V	C	E	E	T	T	F	O	E	O	S	L	Z	C
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W	A	T	E	R	R	I	E	L	C	E	S	E	N
N	A	Z	A	R	E	T	H	D	D	O	V	E	G

PLEASED	LOVE	WORTHY	SON
OPEN	CONFESSED	BAPTIZED	NAZARETH
JESUS	THONGS	ONE	SPIRIT
DESERT	FORGIVENESS	PREACHING	WATER
DOVE	RIVER	HEAVEN	WELL
VOICE	JORDAN	POWERFUL	SINS

Taken from Father Thainese’s Sunday Sermons at thaisprings.info
Baptism of the Lord—First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Water, Sign of Fertility:

Baptism is not a human invention. For centuries, the Jewish people practiced baptismal rites. Until the destruction of the Temple in 70 A.D., it was common for Jews to use a special pool called a mikveh (a collection of water) as a means of spiritual cleansing and the removal of impurity and sin. Men took this ritual bath weekly on the eve of the Sabbath, while women did so monthly. Converts to Judaism were also expected to take this ritual bath before their initiation. Orthodox Jews still retain this practice today.

Water, used in baptism, is a sign of the fullness of human life. It is the element of fertility and regeneration—without water, there is no life. Thus, in all great religions, water symbolizes motherhood and fruitfulness. According to the Church Fathers, water is also a symbol of the maternal womb of the Church.

The Mandate Given to Jesus:

John’s baptism in the River Jordan was a baptism of repentance meant for sinners. Jesus, though sinless, received baptism at John’s hands. Why, then, did He do so? The answer lies in the Father’s proclamation: “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.” This moment fulfills the prophecy of Isaiah (42:1), who foretold that the Servant of God would be filled with the Spirit.

Thus, Jesus’ baptism marks the acceptance and beginning of His mission as the Suffering Servant. His mission of salvation would not be achieved by force or conquest, but through the Cross. At His baptism, Jesus receives a divine mandate, and His Sonship is solemnly proclaimed. When the Spirit descends upon Him in the form of a dove—symbolizing gentleness—the Spirit empowers Him to preach the Good News.

The Practicing Doctor:

The Baptism of the Lord holds deep significance for each of us. His baptism institutes the Sacrament of Baptism itself. Through baptism, we profess our faith in Christ and are saved, justified, and cleansed from sin. “Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the

Spirit, and the door which gives access to the other sacraments” (CCC #1213). St. Paul teaches that through baptism, we are made new—born again of God and transformed into a new creation. The Baptism of the Lord, therefore, calls us to renew the commitment we made at our own baptism: to renounce sin and to live according to the Spirit.

During a solemn Baptism ceremony in the Sistine Chapel, Pope Benedict XVI reflected, “Baptism is not only a word; it is not only something spiritual, but also implies matter—substance. All the realities of the earth are involved in it. Baptism does not only concern the soul. Human spirituality includes the totality of the person—body and soul. God’s action in Jesus Christ is an action of universal efficacy and for the totality of the person.”

There is a story of a married couple—both doctors, one of theology and the other of medicine. One day, the doorbell rang and the maid answered. The visitor asked for “the doctor.” The maid replied, “Do you want the one who preaches or the one who practices?” Likewise, many know the theory of Christian living, but few practice it. We have many baptized Christians, but only a few practicing ones.

To Produce Its Effects:

Baptism cannot produce its effects in a social vacuum. That is why the Church does not baptize those who have no likelihood of experiencing Christian community. Like Jesus, our baptism brings with it a serious obligation to share our faith—both by word and example.

Baptism involves more than merely “saving our souls” or “avoiding sin.” It calls us to be living witnesses of the Gospel—to be the salt of the earth, a city on a hill, and a candle radiating light amid the darkness. Our baptism is not merely a past event recorded in a dusty parish register; it is a living reality meant to be continually deepened and renewed.

May God our Father be able to say of us, as He said of Jesus: “This is my beloved child, with whom I am well pleased.”

****Read more online at thaisprings.org**