

Parish Family Newsletter

JUNE 26, 2022

Northeast 10 Family of Parishes



Holy Cross | Our Lady of the Rosary | St. Christopher | St. John the Baptist | St. Peter

GOD'S FAITHFULNESS - THEN & NOW

Finally, we come to the new reality. After forty years of wandering in the desert, after a change of a whole generation of Israelites, and even after a change of leadership with the death of Moses and the promotion of Joshua as the new leader, the People of Israel finally get to cross the Jordan River and enter the Promised Land. Wow, what a relief they must be feeling to finally, finally, enter the place which has been foretold for years.

Plus, the sight of how they enter the Promised Land and approach Jericho to begin the conquest must have been impressive: the Levites carry the Ark of the Covenant into the midst of the Jordan River and the water stops so they can pass through on dry land. What did that wall of water look like as they passed just to the south? How massive was that flood to allow the hundreds of thousands of Israelites to pass through?

This is certainly an echo of the beginning of the Exodus journey and the passing through of the Red Sea. Also, certainly, a foreshadow of the saving graces of Baptism that will come in Jesus Christ. And truly the start of something new, powerful, and good in the mind of the Lord God.

Wow, so powerful. So much to contemplate. So much to just pause and reflect upon.

And I am not sure how to draw those parallels between that event and what we will celebrate later this week as we officially start our new Family of Parishes on Friday, July 1, 2022.

While this event is not forty years in the making, it has been a long time coming. As the Israelites were slowly prepared to enter this new phase of their growth as a nation, we have slowly been prepared to enter this new phase of our growth as five parishes becoming one unified entity.

And as I write that, I am struck by a few other parallels.

The Israelites likely thought this was finally the end of their journey, but it was just the next step. The same for us: this is just the next step in how God is revealing His plan to us for our parishes.

As they entered the Promised Land, the Israelites still had a lot of work to do! As we start this Family of Parishes, there is still a lot of work to accomplish!

Also like the Israelites: as they really had no idea what awaited them, there are so many things that await us in this new reality which will be totally unexpected; both good and bad.

But, what I hope we have learned from this little walk through Exodus as a parallel between our new reality: God is a God of surprises and faithfulness. God was absolutely faithful to His promises made in Exodus. He has been faithful in to the promises made that He will not abandon us nor leave us orphaned. But just as in Exodus, it may not seem like that at the moment, but it is true.

Hence, as we embark on this new path together, let us both remember the good work God has done in our midst to bring us to this point so that we can be faithful to the call He has given to us into the future.



In Christ,
Fr. Kyle Schnippel
Pastor