

Letters From St. Nicholas'

Almighty and everlasting Father, you have given the Holy Spirit to abide with us for ever: Bless, we pray, with his grace and presence, the bishops and the Clergy and Lay Deputies soon to be assembled in your Name, at the 76th General Convention in Anaheim, that your Church, being preserved in true faith and godly discipline, may fulfill all the mind of him who loved it and gave himself for it, your Son Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.



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Rector

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Vestry

Mr. Jim Brown, Sr. Warden
Finance Committee Liaison
Mr. Nathan Williams, Jr. Warden
Physical Plant Committee Liaison
Emergency Preparedness Liaison
Dr. Michael Jordan, Clerk
Outreach Committee Liaison
Ms Beverly Alstrin
Ms Marilyn Bassinger
Worship Committee Liaison
Mr. Scot Marter
Fellowship Committee Liaison
Ms Mary Rogers
Fellowship Committee Liaison
Mr. Pool Webb
Publicity Committee Liaison
Ms Joan Whitt

Deacon

Deacon Tom Burns

Parish Staff

The Rev. Dr. Bob Bonnington
Pastoral Associate
Mr. Bob Poer
Parish Administrator
Mr. Darryl Knapp
Organist / Choirmaster
Lay Ministries Coordinator
Mr. Bobby J. Crues
Treasurer
Mr. Corby Considine
Chancellor
Ms Elvira Sebian
Sexton

Summer Thinking

It's said of Martin Luther that every morning when he woke up, he made the sign of the cross and said, "Remember Martin, you are baptized."

Not a bad way to begin the day. Luther's point was that what comes first for Christian people is identity. Indeed, both our mission and our morality flow from our identity. If we know who we are (and whose we are) then other questions (such as what we should do and how we should behave) take on a new and a clearer perspective.

As Christians, we receive our identity at our baptism. At our baptism we, like our Lord, are named beloved of the Father. We are marked as Christ's own forever, and we are incorporated into God's one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

In the Baptismal Covenant we join our faith and lives to the faith and life of that Church, and we make solemn commitments to community, holiness, and ministry.

We can do all sorts of things with the gift of identity given us at Baptism. On the one hand, we can ignore it, abuse it, hide it, or distort it.

On the other hand, we can struggle to unwrap the gift. We can try to live ever more deeply into the reality of who we are. That way is our way. We believe it is the best way, the way of hope, and the way of eternal life.

But, like Martin Luther, we need to be re-minded of this. After all, nobody *out there* really cares about this stuff enough to be much help, and *everybody* out there has their own idea about who you really are and who you should become. So it's easy to forget.

That's why the Baptismal Font is placed so we have to go by it every time we walk into the Church; and that's also why there continues to be water in the font. It's one more way to help us remember who we are.

Notice the font, and notice the water. If it helps, touch the water, or use it to make the sign of the cross. It's there for all of us—to help us remember.

In Christ,

Fr. Jim