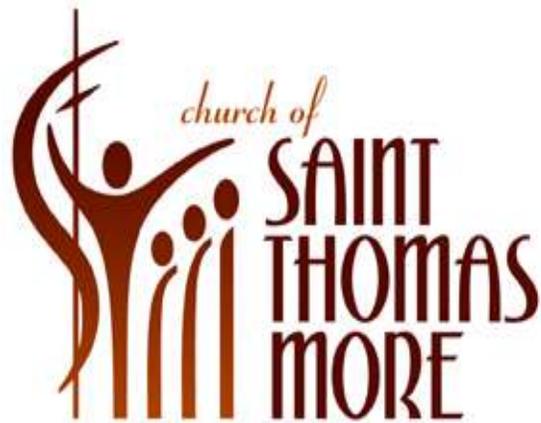


Lent – From Flood to Font

We have all seen how water can destroy. The tsunami that hits Japan, the devastation of hurricanes that hit the Gulf Coast, both are strong visual images that touched our hearts in recent years. We saw the destruction on our TV sets, and felt compassion for the victims. Many of us have family members or friends whose homes, and in some cases, lives were taken away by the flood waters.



In Genesis, we remember another flood – the great flood that covered the earth and destroyed everything, sparing only Noah and his family. You can probably tell this story from memory. God, upset with the wickedness of the earth, telling Noah to build an ark. Noah, rounding up two of every creature, male and female, and getting them on board. The rain for 40 days and 40 nights. Noah releasing the dove, which came back with an olive branch. And finally, that wonderful rainbow in the sky! But in our telling, we might remember only how the waters destroyed, and not see how those waters brought about new life.

After the flood, Noah was just like the victims of a hurricane. Like them, everything Noah had was washed away. He didn't have to just tidy up around the edges – he had to completely rebuild. A new home, a new life. But remember, God gave him the means to rebuild, complete with pairs of every animal to repopulate the earth. Out of the waters of death, new life emerges!

At the Easter Vigil, we will hear another story of water – the Exodus story of Moses and the Israelites coming through the waters of death into a new life. The waters of the Red Sea destroyed their old lives in Egypt and they rebuilt their lives anew as God's people.

That same night, we will watch people plunge into the waters of our baptismal font, and I mean plunge! We will see Fr. Jim completely immerse them in the water. We will witness in their baptism a symbolic drowning, a dying, and we will see them rise and walk out of those waters into a new life in our community. Their old lives are destroyed and they too, rebuild their lives.

Join us as we travel this Lenten season from the flood to the font. Plunge with us into those waters!

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