

The Luminous Mysteries

Thursdays

The Baptism in the Jordan

Jesus was baptized in the Jordan by John. (Matthew 3:17) *Father Lafleur was baptized in Sacred Heart Church, Ville Platte, Louisiana. Father Lafleur's baptism began his journey as a follower of Jesus. He wanted to fulfill God's mission in the world. May we too be sincere in following Jesus and courageous in our deeds.*



The Wedding at Cana

Jesus changes water into wine to help the newly married couple. (John 2:1-12) *As a priest Father Lafleur consecrated the Precious Blood of Jesus at Mass. He even used a dropper to ration wine to be consecrated for Mass while he was a prisoner of war. Father Lafleur's faith and love of Jesus never wavered. We pray we too can take the initiative to help others.*

The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God

Jesus continued to preach the Gospel in Galilee. (Mark 1:15) *Father Lafleur remained an inspiration to the men as their ship sank. When the men were safe on shore, his words of proclamation encouraged the men to continue. May we too be able to encourage others in God's way in the proclamation of our words and deeds.*

Transfiguration

The Apostles see the glory of God on the face of Jesus on Mount Tabor. (Luke 9:35) *So to do the men serving in World War II see the glory of God in the life of Father Lafleur. May we reflect God's glory in our attitudes, concerns, and service.*

The Institution of the Eucharist

Jesus offers bread and wine at the Last Supper and washes the feet of the Apostles. (John 13:1) *Father Lafleur's visits to the sick in prison came at peril to himself. He also said Mass and gave Holy Communion with the bare necessities. He sacrificed himself like Jesus who is Priest and Victim. May we live the Eucharist we partake.*

Rev. Lt. Joseph Verbis Lafleur

Born on January 24, 1912 in Ville Platte, Louisiana. In 1926 his family moved to Opelousas, Louisiana.

From early in his life he felt a calling to the priesthood. Father Colliard made arrangements for Verbis to enter St. Joseph's Minor Seminary in St. Benedict, Louisiana in 1927.

For 11 years he prepared for the priesthood at St. Joseph's Seminary and at Notre Dame Major Seminary in New Orleans. He was ordained on April 2, 1938.

He celebrated his First Solemn Mass in St. Landry Catholic Church in Opelousas, Louisiana on April 5, 1938.

His first assignment was St. Mary Magdalen in Abbeville.

He joined the Army Air Corps in the summer of 1941, nearly one-half year before the U.S. became involved in WWII. Father Lafleur was assigned to Albuquerque, New Mexico.

He arrived at Clark Field in the Philippine Islands just a few weeks before it was attacked on December 8, 1941. For his bravery in action he won the Distinguished Service Cross and was later awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star.

He became a prisoner of war for approximately two and one-half years including stays at O'Donnell, Cabanatuan, Davao, and Lasang. On September 7, 1944, Father Lafleur gave his life while aboard a torpedoed hell ship carrying over 700 American P.O.W.'s.

In 1945 Father Verbis' classmates and family members gathered in Ville Platte for a Memorial Service in his honor.

The Knights of Columbus in 1946 held a parade in his honor from the Opelousas Court House to St. Landry Catholic Church.

Notre Dame Seminary Alumni dedicated a bronze plaque in his memory on November 27, 1951.

On May 21, 1989 he was honored at the dedication of the Chaplain Hill monument at Arlington National Cemetery.

On December 7, 2005 a dedication of The Father Lafleur Shrine in St. Landry Catholic Church was held.

www.stlandrychurch.org

1912



1944

3rd Printing

Rev. Lt. Joseph Verbis Lafleur

Diocese of Lafayette, LA

Priest - Soldier



Rosary Meditations on the life of Father Joseph Verbis Lafleur

Date of Baptism • February 27, 1912

Date of Ordination • April 2, 1938

St. John the Evangelist Cathedral

Lafayette, LA

First Solemn Mass • April 5, 1938

St. Landry Catholic Church, Opelousas, LA

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