Fr. Hai’s Corner

The Baptism of the Lord is a Christmas feast, a feast of the epiphany of God in human flesh and blood.

Why Baptism? Jesus himself showed the importance of the baptism rite by submitting to His baptism in the Jordan by John the Baptist.

In John 3:5 in speaking to Nicodemus, Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." And in Matthew 28: 19, Jesus calls us to "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit."

Why do we baptize infants?
The Catholic Church has always held that Christ’s law applies to infants as well as adults. Obviously, infants cannot understand the meaning and commitment of Baptism; however their parents can understand and live those values and pass them on to their children.

When an infant is baptized, the Rite of Baptism emphasizes the importance of faithfulness on the part of parents when the celebrant charges and prays over the parents: "... May God bless the father of this child. They will be the first teachers of their child in the ways of faith. May they also be the best of teachers, bearing witness to the faith by what they say and do, in Christ Jesus our Lord."

From Church to daily living. Do you have a record of your baptism? Do you know the date of your baptism? Do you have your baptismal name?

I was baptized on Saturday, April 22. My baptismal name is Aloysius Gongaza; my feast day is June 22. I learned all that and have all my paper records from when I applied for seminary.

Today begins National Vocation Awareness Week. Talk to your sons and daughters about working for God. Young people talk to Father Hai about becoming priests and nuns.

God bless you. Fr.Hai

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STM Vocations Committee Meeting:
Scheduled for Tuesday, January 20 at 7:30 PM in the Adult Education Building. Meeting is to gather parishioners/members to help promote the message for Vocations here at STM.

Fr. Ken and Ed Sharp will lead the meeting with help from the Knights.

Any and all parishioners interested in promoting vocations in the parish are welcome to attend.

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NO EVENING PRAYER FOR JUSTICE JANUARY 12

Monday, January 12, there will be no Evening Prayer for Justice so those interested can attend the meeting with Cardinal DiNardo and the Anti-Defamation League (both strong supporters of social justice issues). There is an inter-faith and multi-denominational prayer service at 7:30 PM at the Co-Cathedral. Reservations needed for the reception, but public is welcome. Anyone interested can contact Deacon Ed Stoessel, 713-995-0873.

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO TEACH ESL CLASSES (REGULAR AND SUBSTITUTE)

Our parish provides ESL (English as a Second Language) classes to the community on Tuesday & Thursday evenings, 7 - 9 pm, beginning January 27, 2015.

If you can Volunteer at least one evening a week to this worthwhile endeavor, or be a Substitute, please contact Norman Palms at 713-726-0513 or normpalms@aol.com.

You do not need to speak Spanish! A training session will be provided for new teachers at no cost.
**Readings for the week of January 11, 2015**

**Sunday**

The Baptism of the Lord

Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 55:1-11; Ps 29 or Is 12;
Acts 10:34-38 or 1 Jn 5:1-9; Mk 1:7-11

**Monday**

Heb 1:1-6; Ps 97; Mk 1:14-20

**Tuesday**

Saint Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Heb 2:5-12; Ps 8; Mk 1:21-28

**Wednesday**

Heb 2:14-18; Ps 105; Mk 1:29-39

**Thursday**

Heb 3:7-14; Ps 95; Mk 1:40-45

**Friday**

Heb 4:1-5, 11; Ps 78; Mk 2:1-12

**Saturday**

Saint Anthony, Abbot

Heb 4:12-16; Ps 19; Mk 2:13-17

**Sunday**

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19; Ps 40;
1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20; Jn 1:35-42

**Eucharistic Adoration:**

Wed., 12-1 a.m. & 4-5 p.m.

Tuesday, January 12, 5-6 a.m.

Our chapel remains open 24 hours a day because of the commitment made by those who take a weekly Holy Hour. Please commit!!

On another note, if you are making New Year resolutions, consider making a weekly Holy Hour. The rewards are immeasurable! Call Suzie Hamilton for info, 713-557-3036 or 713-729-0221.

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**Mass Intentions for the Week of January 11...**

**Monday, January 12**

6:30 a.m.   Thanksgiving Hansen Family
5:30 p.m.   †Linda Monteralo

**Tuesday, January 13**

6:30 a.m.   Jurica Family Special Intention
5:30 p.m.   Jordyn Michelle James

**Wednesday, January 14**

6:30 a.m.   †Joanne Cummings
5:30 p.m.   Margaret Schueler

**Thursday, January 15**

6:30 a.m.   Jan Tennert
8:15 a.m.   †Frank Lyons
5:30 p.m.   †Peter Long Bui

**Friday, January 16**

6:30 a.m.   †Mark Endicott
5:30 p.m.   †Willie Roy

**Saturday, January 17**

7:30 a.m.   Renard Roy
9:00 a.m.   †J.B Petcosky & †Joseph Petcosky
11:00 a.m.   †Peter Long Bui
1:00 p.m.   †Rosemary Elizabeth Lewis
5:00 p.m.   For the Parish
7:00 p.m.   †Joe Lombardi

**This week around STM....**

Sunday, January 11-K OF C SUPER BOWL MEAL PRESALE / BACK TO SCHOOL PANCAKE BREAKFAST/ STM PTO USED UNIFORM SALE

9:00 a.m.   CCE Parents & Students, Prinster & School
9:30 a.m.   RCIA, Adult Ed. Bldg.
10:00 a.m.   Sacrament of the Sick, Church
11:00 a.m.   CCE Parents & Students, Prinster & School
5:30 p.m.   Spanish Choir, AE-St. Mary
6:30 p.m.   Sr. High Youth, Youth Center

**Monday, January 12**

9:00 a.m.   Bible Study, Rectory
6:30 p.m.   Sp. Legion of Mary, Room F
7:00 p.m.   EPIC Study, Servant Hall
7:30 p.m.   Apostleship of the Cross (Sp.), AE-St. Paul

**Tuesday, January 13**

9:30 a.m.   Sr. Citizen Bingo, Scout House
7:00 p.m.   School Board Mtg., Library

**Wednesday, January 14**

10:00 a.m.   EPIC Study, Servant Hall
7:00 p.m.   Respect Life Committee, Rectory
3:00 p.m.   OMOPH Prayer Group, Chapel
3:00 p.m.   Confirmation 1 Class, Youth Center
3:00 p.m.   Confirmation 2 Class, Servant Hall + Church
7:30 p.m.   RCIA Inquiry, AE-St. Peter
8:00 p.m.   K of C, Prinster Hall

**Thursday, January 15**

6:00 p.m.   Sp. Choir, AE-St. Mary
7:00 p.m.   EPIC Study, Servant Hall
7:30 p.m.   High School Guys Group, Youth Center
7:30 p.m.   Word of Truth Bible Study, AE-St. Peter
7:30 p.m.   Apostleship of the Cross, AE-St. Paul
Combined Choir, Church

**Friday, January 16**

9:15 a.m.   Altar Society, Church
6:00 p.m.   Legion of Mary Jr. (Sp.), Room F
7:00 p.m.   Sp. Choir, AE-St. Mary

**Saturday, January 17**

3:30 p.m.   Confession, Church
6:30 p.m.   Confession, Church

**Sunday, January 18-K OF C SUPER BOWL MEAL PRESALE/ RESPECT LIFE LIVING ROSARY**

9:00 a.m.   CCE Parents & Students, Prinster & School
9:30 a.m.   RCIA, Adult Ed. Bldg.
10:00 a.m.   Sacrament of the Sick, Church
11:00 a.m.   CCE Parents & Students, Prinster & School
12:15 p.m.   Respect Life Living Rosary, Servant Hall
1:00 p.m.   K of C Freethrow Contest, Gym
5:30 p.m.   Spanish Choir, AE-St. Mary
6:30 p.m.   Sr. High Youth, Youth Center

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**LIVING ROSARY following the 11:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, January 18, 2015 to mark the 42nd anniversary of the infamous Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion on demand. Join the Respect Life Committee to pray to end abortion in this country and the world.**

**Annulment Information Night**

Do you have questions about annulments?

What is a Catholic annulment?

When is an annulment required?

What if I do not get an annulment?

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Servant Hall, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
ST. THOMAS MORE CHURCH
HOUSTON, TEXAS

January 11, 2015

Flocknote is a way for the parish to communicate with you! If you don’t have time to read the bulletin but want to know what’s going on, sign up for this service. There are 2 easy ways to register for Flocknote (pick one):

1. flocknote.com/stmhouston
2. Text “Hillcroft” to 84576

STM YOUTH GROUP
Youth Office: 713-729-2111 For more info: stmhouston.org

Are you interested in leading high school aged girls closer to Christ, teaching them about feminine beauty, and what it really means to be a daughter of God? The STM Youth Group is looking for female volunteers to help with our Girls Group. If you are interested at all and feel God tugging at your heart please email or call Matthew Hughey, 713-729-2111 or matthew@stmhouston.org

STM Youth Group will start back up on Sunday, January 11, 2015, The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

Back to School Pancake Breakfast
By Knights of Columbus Southwest Council 3910

Featuring: Pancakes, Sausage, Coffee, Juice

January 11, 2015
8:00—11:00 a.m
Servant Hall

Adults: $5.00     Kids: $2.50

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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
ST. THOMAS MORE SOUTHWEST COUNCIL 3910

Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest
Next Month Jan. 18th
At 1 PM in Msgr. Young Gym.

All boys and girls ages 9 to 14 are invited to participate in the local level of competition for the 2015 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest. The competition takes place in the Gym on Jan. 18th at 1 PM for local competition, district competition will follow at 4:00 p.m. for those who advance.

Winners progress through local, district and state competitions. International champions are announced by the Knights of Columbus headquarters based upon scores from the state-level competitions. All contestants on the local level are recognized for their participation in this event. Participants are required to furnish proof of age and written parental consent. For entry forms or additional information contact: Mike Wark, 713-988-1609

Today encourage a family member or friend to consider a religious vocation.

The Parish Vocations Committee

LOST PURSE
A black purse was left in the cry room or the ladies restroom this past Sunday, January 4, 2015 at the 5:00 p.m. Sunday Mass. Please call the church office if you found it, we know who lost it.

Loving Embrace Infertility Support Group
Meets 3rd Thursday, each month, 7:30-9pm, monthly meeting rotation: Couples Dinner, Ladies Dinner, and Couples Discussion. Loving Embrace is a Catholic educational support group for couples who have endured or are presently enduring the pain and suffering of infertility. The group provides support for coping with infertility and explores resources, methods, and options that are morally faithful to the teachings of the Catholic Church. For rotation information contact Shannon Lassen at 832-978-6716 or infertilitysupporthouston@gmail.com.

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2. Text “Hillcroft” to 84576
The Baptism of the Lord

Meet the STM Saintly Staff

Esther Kana has been a STM Religion Teacher for 8 years. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Marketing from the University of Houston. She has a Master's Degree in Liberal Arts with a concentration in Theology from the University of St. Thomas. Now She Markets God! Mrs. Kana has been married for 35 years to a wonderful man, Tim, has 3 awesome children with loving spouses, 3 VERY adorable grandchildren, 2 old grumpy dogs and a partridge in a pear tree. She loves international travel and working with crafts. Mrs. Kana says “I love teaching at STM because we have a great principal, patient office staff, fun fellow teachers, and awesome students. I love when students come back to visit and tell me that something I taught them has impacted their lives in some way!” She continues: “We are free to make choices but not free of the consequences.” – Leah Darrow

STM School….Did you Know?

Save the Date: Saturday February 21, 2015. FOR THE 10Th ANNUAL STEPS FOR STUDENTS 5K RUN/WALK! Register online. See our website under STM Support. www.stthomasmoreschool.org

Father Hai Dang, Pastor of STM, recited a New Year’s Prayer with the faculty, staff, and students on January 5, 2015, the first day of the 2015 school year. To bless each classroom, Father Hai processed with three wise men, dressed in magnificent priestly attire, who distributed personalized treats representing gold, frankincense and myrrh. Pictured with Rev. Hai Dang is Ms. Kristen Thome, Principal, wise men: Carter Arabel, Ethan Caldwell, and Buddy Williams

Net proceeds from OKTOBERFEST—$77,500.00!! Way to go, STM Parish and School

Upgrading your home theater?? Need a place for your old TV? The Youth Office is “wishing” for a donation of a working large screen HDTV for their Youth Center. Contact Matthew Hughey if you have a TV that might work for the youth of the parish, 713-729-2111.

St. Thomas More Women's Annual Retreat
February 20-26, 2015
Growing in Intimacy with God and Ourselves
Fr. Louis Arceneaux, CM

For more information, contact: Magda Garcia at 713-664-8035

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El bautismo del Señor es una fiesta de Navidad, una fiesta de la epifanía de Dios en cuerpo y sangre.
¿Por qué el bautismo? Jesús mismo nos mostró la importancia del rito del bautismo sometiéndose a su propio bautismo en el Jordán por Juan el Bautista.
En Juan 3:5 habla a Nicodemo, Jesús le respondió: “verdaderamente, verdaderamente, digo a usted, a menos que naciere de agua y del espíritu no puede entrar en el reino de Dios.” Y en Mateo 28: 19, Jesús nos llama “Vayan, pues, y hagan que todos los pueblos sean mis discípulos. Bauticenlos en el Nombre del Padre y del Hijo y del Espíritu Santo.”
¿Por qué bautizamos a los bebés?
La Iglesia Católica siempre ha sostenido que la ley de Cristo se aplica a los infantes como a los adultos. Obviamente, los infantes no pueden entender el significado y el compromiso del bautismo; sin embargo sus padres pueden entender y vivir esos valores y pasarlo a sus hijos.
Cuando un infante es bautizado, el rito del bautismo enfatiza la importancia de la fidelidad por parte de los padres cuando el celebrante encarga y ora sobre los padres del niño: “ ... Que Dios bendiga al padre de este niño. Ellos serán los primeros maestros de sus hijos en los caminos de la fe. Que ellos sean también los mejores maestros, dando testimonio de fe por lo que dicen y hacen, en Cristo Nuestro Señor.”
De la Iglesia a la vida diaria. ¿Tienes un registro de tu bautismo? ¿Sabes la fecha de tu bautismo? ¿Tienes tu nombre bautismal?
Yo fui bautizado el Sábado, 22 de Abril. Mi nombre bautismal es Aloysius Gongaza; mi día de fiesta es el 22 de Junio. Aprendí todo esto y tengo todos mis registros cuando aplique al seminario.
Hoy comienzo la semana Nacional para las Vocaciones. Hable con sus hijos e hijas acerca de trabajar para Dios. Los jóvenes hablen con el Padre Hai acerca de cómo llegar a ser un sacerdote o una hermana religiosa.
Dios los bendiga, Padre Hai
PRAYERS FOR THE SICK / ORACION POR LOS ENFERMOS


PRAY FOR ALL SERVING IN THE MILITARY, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN OUR PARISH FAMILY

SFC Paul Bergman, Col. David Eskeland, Megan Godsey, Traci Godsey, SPC Bryant Gradney, Sgt. Billy Janca, SSgt Bradley Louis, Mike McIntosh, Ebenezer E. Ohaegbulem, Charles U. Oparnozie, LCDR Russell Thiem, PFC Cristina Teresa Villegas

Austin Bennett Tice is a homeschooled, Eagle Scout, National Merit Finalist, graduate of Georgetown University, former Captain in the United States Marine Corps and recipient of the 2012 George Polk Award for War Reporting. He is the eldest of seven children, and was born and raised in Texas.

In May of 2012, the summer before his final year at Georgetown Law School, he chose to go to Syria as a Freelance Journalist to report on the conflict there. Two days after his 31st birthday, on August 13, 2012, his editors, family and friends lost contact with Austin, as he was preparing to travel from Daraya, near Damascus, to Beirut, Lebanon.

Please continue to pray for the safe return of Austin to his family.

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