

**JANUARY 12, 2020 ~ HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH AUSTIN, TX.
FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

Invest just five minutes a day, and your Faith will deepen and grow, a day at a Time

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Farewell to the hidden life

Part of our life belongs to us in a private way. The rest is lived in the public eye at school, work, church, or in the community.

Even if you're not a celebrity, the private part of who you are is shrinking fast, as more of what we do becomes common knowledge and on the record. Jesus, too, had his hidden years, those first three decades we know little about. At his Baptism by John, heaven claimed him and put his identity on the record. His hidden days were over. After our Baptisms, our choices are on the record too.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7; Acts 10:34-38; Matthew 3:13-17 (21). "I formed you, and set you as . . . a light for the nations, to open the eyes of the blind."*

Monday, Jan 13, 2020

MEMORIAL OF HILARY, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Let the truth be known

Much like our own times, in the early centuries of the church, many competing ideas circulated about what Christians should believe, including Arianism, which said that God the Father and God the Son were not one. But because of clear-thinking, Spirit filled people like Saint Hilary, a bishop and later-named doctor of the church, truth prevailed. Truth seems to be taking quite a beating in our own time, so pray for guidance and wisdom and the intercession of Hilary—and like him, stand up for what you know to be true.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Samuel 1:1-8; Mark 1:14-20 (305). "The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."*

Tuesday, Jan 14, 2020

Choose holiness

It's fun to see the kids dressed up as little red devils at Halloween or to scream with our friends at horror movies. Yet, it is difficult and painful to address the reality of evil in the world. How do we contend with this? Pope Francis in his apostolic exhortation *Gaudete et exsultate (On the Call to Holiness in Today's World)* writes, "We should not think of the devil as a myth, a representation, a symbol, a figure of speech, or an idea. . . . The devil does not need to possess us. He poisons us with the venom of hatred, desolation, envy, and vice." Spend time with God

and ask for help in examining your own heart, in rebuking that which is not of God, and in nurturing all that is of God. **TODAY'S READINGS:** *1 Samuel 1:9-20; Mark 1:21-28 (306). "Jesus commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him."*

Wednesday, Jan 15, 2020

Find the perfect word

Imagine having the eloquence and foresight that no word you spoke was without truth. That was God's gift to Samuel in the Old Testament and to many prophets that followed, including Saint Marcarius, whose feast day is today. Saint Marcarius was a fourth-century desert monk celebrated for his prophecies and healing powers. Finding the right words does not come easy for most of us. But if we allow ourselves to be guided by God's word, we will learn to express ourselves in love—always the perfect response.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20; Mark 1:29-39 (307). "Samuel grew up, and the LORD was with him, not permitting any word of his to be without effect."*

Thursday, Jan 16, 2020

Close encounters

Leprosy was considered contagious at the time of Jesus. Following the Mosaic Law, anybody who touched a leper would be banned from society. That's why Jesus encourages those he heals to keep quiet. But good news demands to be shared. The good word gets around. Encounters with the Lord are like that. You've just got to tell somebody! What's your encounter story?

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Samuel 4:1-11; Mark 1:40-45 (308). "He spread the report abroad so that it was impossible for Jesus to enter a town openly."*

Friday, Jan 17, 2020

MEMORIAL OF ANTHONY, ABBOT

Let's get our priorities right

How ironic that Saint Anthony of Egypt, a hermit who sought solitude in the desert, would attract the very crowds he was trying to escape. But attract he did—not just admirers who sought advice but disciples who wanted to attain Anthony's same degree of serene single-mindedness for the gospel. Thus some of the first monastic communities formed, teaching adherents to be solitary while also communal, requiring they eschew the trappings of "living in the world." The point of monastic spirituality, after all, is an intentional focus on God's reign rather than the passing preoccupations of the world. How will you seek the reign of God

today—can you trust in God instead of the "ways of the world"?

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22a; Mark 2:1-12 (309). "It is not you they reject, they are rejecting me as their king."*

Saturday, Jan 18, 2020

May we all be one

Every year on this day Christians in the Northern Hemisphere officially begin the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity—an observance lasting eight days, strategically placed between two significant dates for the larger Christian Church. The week begins on the feast of the Confession of Saint Peter, on January 18, and concludes with the feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul on January 25. Begun in 1908 as the Octave for Christian Unity—and heavily promoted by the Graymoor Franciscan Friars, as it still is today—the week promotes prayer to sustain the ecumenical spirit of the worldwide Christian Church. Consider some ways you can pray with and for those of other denominations who also love Christ. Embrace the words that Jesus prayed in John 17:21—that "they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You."

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Samuel 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a; Mark 2:13-17 (310). "There were many who followed him."*

Next Sunday

Sunday, Jan 19, 2020

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Come together

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 49:3, 5-6; 1 Corinthians 1:1-3; John 1:29-34 (64). "To you . . . with all those everywhere who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

Catholic Social Teaching Corner

Jan. 11-12, The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Today we celebrate the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan. Let us also remember our own baptism, which unites Christians as brothers and sisters of Christ. For it is through our baptism that our lives are intimately united with Christ.

2020 PILGRIMAGE TO HOLY LAND

DATE: November 3rd to 12th, 2020

Please see Patricia Robert or Donna Sistrunk-Irving in the office.

More details to follow soon

This shall be the last parish planned Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, sponsored by Holy Cross. Please join us.

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MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY January 11. VIGIL MASS

Happy 32nd birthday to James Cobb from his family

SUNDAY, January 12, 8:00AM

Happy Birthday Don Jones from your family

SUNDAY, January 12, 10:00AM

Thanksgiving Mass for Martha, Gilbert, Kids and family, for all God's Blessings for last year, requested by the family.

God's blessings for Alyssa and Aaron King, while away from home in college, requested by their parents.

For the repose of the soul of Kimberly Rene Scott, on the 9th anniversary of her death, requested by her mother Barbara Scott

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Ella Adams	Evelyn Battle
Mary Anthony	Mildred Carter
DeKarlos Blackmon	Josephine Dukes
B.J. Dukes	Monica Godsey
Vanessa Downey-Little	Vonnye Rice-Gardner
Lester Johnson	Mathias Manning
Doris King	Bernadette Phifer
Marie Mason	Dr. Joseph Quander
Ella Pease	Mary Sobers
Betty Ridley	Mary Waters
Marie Thompson	

Council of Catholic Women

Join fellow Catholic women at the quarterly meeting of the Austin North, Central & South Deaneries Council of Catholic Women on Saturday, January 25, 2020 at St. Albert the Great (old) Parish Hall, 12041 Bittern Hollow, Austin 78758. We begin with a reflection by Spiritual Commissioner Gerri Misko, followed by a business meeting and complementary brunch. Contact Janet Fontenette, president, at 512-417-7862 or fonta35@yahoo.com with questions.

DCYC (IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO SPONSOR A YOUTH)

The Holy Cross Youth Group will be attending the 2020 Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference in Waco Texas on January 31- February 2. The price for the entire weekend is \$100.00; this includes, DCYC registration, hotel & food, transportation, a conference T-shirt, and goodie bag

Our hope is that all our youth are able to experience this amazing event filled with dynamic speakers and worship with thousands of teens across our dioceses. If you are able to make a donation or sponsor a youth, God will reward you.

ENCOUNTERING CHRIST CAMPAIGN

Our Assigned Goal = \$365,000.00
Pledged Amount = 576,056.00
Every 3rd Sunday of the month will be a collection for those using envelopes to send their pledge payments. There will be special envelopes on the ushers table for this. To make online payments please go to <https://www.encounteringchristcampaign.org/donate>. If you are writing a check please make it out to : Encountering Christ Campaign. Please endeavor to make timely payments to your pledge.

SUNDAY JANUARY 12 , 2020	
Mass	8:00AM
Rosary	9:30AM
Mass	10:00AM
Byzantine	5:00PM

Weekend JAN 4/5, 2020		
ATTENDANCE		
VIGIL MASS	23	5:30 PM
SUNDAY	57	8:00 am
	214	10:00 am
Weekend JAN 4/5, 2020		

OFFERTORY	\$6270.00
Children	35.00
SVDP	170.00
E-GIVING	1535.05
SVDP (E-GIVING)	95.00
MSP(GIVING)	10.00
DR (E-GIVING)	550.00
RE	20.00
DCYC	600.00
GIFT STORE	125.00

CHRISTMAS GIFT TO HOLY CROSS
It is not too late to give your monetary Christmas Gift to Holy Cross, our needs are great.

OFFICE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The Church office will be closed in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr., Monday, January 20, 2020. If you are in need of a priest call the rectory or any staff member number on front of the bulletin, or you can leave a message on the church phone they are monitored daily.

DEBT RETIREMENT COLLECTION 2ND SUNDAYS

Please support our Debt Retirement Collection every 2nd Sunday of the Month to pay down our Diocesan Loan for the FLC. Our monthly target is \$4000.00

NEXT IGBO MASS

The next IGBO mass is on Sunday, January 26, 2020 at 1:30, tell and bring all your friends.

NOTARY ASSISTANCE

Holy Cross now has a notary on staff, if you are in need of a notary please contact the office.

TOTAL CONSECRATION TO JESUS THROUGH MARY

Join others from throughout the diocese as they prepare for Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary. The 33 days of preparation prayer for Total Consecration to Jesus through May begins Feb 20. Visit www.texastojesussthroughmary.org by Jan 23 to receive a free Montfort preparation prayer book by mail.

Family Life Center Now Available for Renting

For all your events like:

- Wedding Party
- Birthday Party
- Graduation Party
- Wakes
- Coporate Events
- Ministry Events
- Meetings
- ETC

Contact the Church Office for details
5124723741



CONSIDER HOLY CROSS IN YOUR WILL
Call the Church Office 512 472 3741