

The Baptism of the Lord

INVEST JUST FIVE MINUTES A DAY, AND YOUR FAITH WILL DEEPEN AND GROW, A DAY AT A TIME."

Sunday, Jan 10, 2021 FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD Do justice

We sometimes imagine it's about collecting sacraments. Or stockpiling mountains of prayers. Writing fat checks to charities. Or being nice to people we don't like. But the prophets relentlessly insist that what God desires from us is a just world. Where there's a privileged class, abominable wage gaps, racist systems, and deeply disproportionate outcomes for a nation's citizens, the peaceable reign of God can't gain a foothold. Contemplate categories of injustice—education, health care, employment opportunities, criminal justice—to name a few. Make one your special cause, learn all you can, and educate others about it.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 55:1-11 or Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7; 1 John 5:1-9 or Acts 10:34-38; Mark 1:7-11. "A smoldering wick he shall not quench, until he establishes justice on the earth."*

MONDAY, JAN 11, 2021 FIRST WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME NOTHING ORDINARY ABOUT THE REIGN OF

God Today is the first weekday of Ordinary Time—that period in the church's liturgical year after the close of the Christmas season that stretches until Ash Wednesday (and then picks up after Pentecost until Advent begins again). This time after the holidays can indeed seem "ordinary," when all the commotion dies down and all the decorations are put away. Some people, especially those who live with long, cold winters, might even feel a little blue. But while sacred seasons are important, getting down to business is too. After all, there's a reign of God to help build. Think about everything Jesus did between the bookends of his life that we celebrate—and roll up your sleeves for some extraordinary work.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Hebrews 1:1-6; Mark 1:14-20 (305). "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men."*

TUESDAY, JAN 12, 2021 THE POWER OF A NAME

The Holy Name of Jesus is a devotion that was championed by Saint Bernardino of Siena in the 1400s—with the Holy Name Society dating to the 1200s. As a feast day, it's been celebrated during the first week of January by various Christian denominations and by Catholic religious orders, most notably the Jesuits, who use a monogram of the name (IHS) as their emblem. For Catholics, the entire month of

January is dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus. Pray the Litany of the Holy Name of Jesus today, recalling how even the unclean spirits of Jesus' day recognized his name.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Hebrews 2:5-12; Mark 1:21-28 (306). "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth?"*

WEDNESDAY, JAN 13, 2021 OPTIONAL MEMORIAL OF HILARY, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH BE GRACIOUS IN YOUR DISAGREEMENTS

Catholics of the 21st century profess the belief that Jesus is both human and divine every time we recite the Nicene Creed at Mass. However, that profession of faith was challenged mightily in the fourth century when followers of Arius argued that Jesus was a great man—but not God. The conflict involved bishops and emperors on both sides and it went on for years. Hilary of Poitiers converted to Christianity at the age of 35 and was elected a bishop three years later. Hilary was a friendly and courteous man who persistently championed belief in Jesus' divinity. Even exile did not silence his voice. In our own times of conflict and division, Saint Hilary, guide us to God's grace.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Hebrews 2:14-18; Mark 1:29-39 (307). "For this purpose have I come."*

THURSDAY, JAN 14, 2021 REACH OUT AND TOUCH AN OUTCAST

Jesus heals a leper in today's gospel. Leprosy is relatively rare now in most regions of the world, so it's hard to understand the fear and revulsion that people with this disease triggered at one time. Even someone as close to God as Saint Francis struggled to be comfortable with touching a leper. Every age has its outcasts, and the Christian challenge has always been to learn to accept those others find unacceptable, love those others find unlovable. Prisoners, poor people, those with dark skin or foreign accents, the homeless—the list of modern lepers is long. Who do you avoid? Acknowledging your aversion is a step toward acceptance.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Hebrews 3:7-14; Mark 1:40-45 (308). "He . . . touched the leper, and said to him, 'I do will it. Be made clean.'"*

FRIDAY, JAN 15, 2021 COLOR BLIND NO MORE

Today in Guatemala, a major religious procession honors an image of Christ on the cross carved from dark wood and renowned throughout the region as the "Black Christ of Esquipulas." The statue

was commissioned by Spanish colonial leaders looking to convert the indigenous people who worshipped a dark-skinned deity. Today the image affirms the fact that in Latin America there has been a certain "fluidity between races through intermarriage and more blending of cultures and religions when compared to the experience of Native Americans and African Americans," as El Paso Bishop Mark J. Seitz wrote in a remarkable pastoral letter on the history of racism, *Night Will Be No More*. Today would be a good day to dip into this document for insights into the history and persistence of racism, regionwide. May the Black Christ be a symbol of hope!

TODAY'S READINGS: *Hebrews 4:1-5, 11; Mark 2:1-12 (309). "They were all astounded and glorified God, saying, 'We have never seen anything like this.'"*

SATURDAY, JAN 16, 2021 OPTIONAL MEMORIAL OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY BE PRESENT TO THE PRESENCE

The great paradox of God's kingdom is often expressed in the teachings of Jesus: The blind see, the lame walk, the deaf hear, the last are first, the dead live. The first and most profound paradox is that the Virgin conceives. Our Blessed Mother experienced the coming Kingdom in her own body. She shares that experience with us in our communion with the Lord. We carry the Real Presence of the Savior in our own bodies. The ongoing paradox is that the Lord calls us, who are sinners, to be the vessels of his presence in the world. Express that presence today by lifting up the lowly.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 2:13-17 (310). "I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."*

Next Sunday

SUNDAY, JAN 17, 2021 SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME LIFESTYLES OF THE BRAVE AND MOBILE

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19; 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20; John 1:35-42 (65). "Rabbi . . . where are you staying?" He said to them, 'Come and you will see.'"*

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING CORNER

Jan. 9-10, Feast of the Baptism of the Lord
In today's Gospel, we see the Blessed Trinity unfold. As John baptizes Jesus, the Holy Spirit descends and God says, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." Just as Jesus went forth to do good and heal the oppressed, we too go forth with the help of the Holy Spirit to do good and help our brothers and sisters in need. How can we help those in need around us? How do we continue to do the good work of Christ?

Website:www.holycrossaustin.org Email: holycross@holycrossaustin.org
JANUARY 10, 2021 ~ HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH
The Baptism of the Lord

MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10TH, 8:00AM

In loving memory of Rosalind Cunningham, Theresa Fontenette, Geri Stewart, Tony Colton and Janet Patterson.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10TH, 10:00AM

For the repose of the souls of, requested by Ed and Elina Mullen

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY 2021

SUNDAY MASSES

8:00AM 10:00AM

No Noon Mass this week, Jan.12-15, 2021

JANUARY 03, 2021

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|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| OFFERTORY | \$4087.00 |
| SVDP | 50.00 |
| E-GIVING | 8166.23 |
| SVDP(E-GIVING) | 176.00 |
| MSP(E-GIVING) | 11.00 |
| Christmas Donations | 1120.00 |
| FLC/Debt Retirement | 282.00 |
| DR (E-GIVING) | 298.00 |
| Needs of Parish | 50.00 |
| Needs of the Parish(E-GIV) | 1126.00 |
| MSP | 110.00 |
| Gift Store | 30.00 |

NEEDS OF THE PARISH COLLECTION

This collection helps to pay things like repairs, intervention, and other needs of the parish. This collection happens every last Sunday of the Month. We would like you to convert much of your gift to St Vincent the Paul to the needs of the Parish as the parish funds St Vincent the Paul monthly. Thanks for your generosity.

HOW YOU CAN HELP OUR PARISH DURING THIS CHALLENGING TIME

Remember, the Church depends on your weekly donation for paying bills, and maintaining of the Church facilities. Even though Masses and other events are cancelled, the Church is still operating. Your weekly offering and donations are direly needed. If you are not online giver, you can still do so by going to www.holycrossaustin.org and give your donation. You also can mail it if you are able to. Thank you for your faith and commitment.

Dear Brothers and Sister, Thank you again, in Jesus's name for helping clean up the church and remove all the Christmas decorations. *Therefore, my brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord. 1cor.15:58*



MESSAGE FROM FATHER BASIL

Father Basil sends Blessings and good well wishes to all Holy Cross parishioners. He did arrive safely and was in quarantine for several days, but all is well and he is now with his family. He wants all of us to know he is praying for us in his daily prayers

PRAY FOR THE SICK

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Ella Adams | Mary Anthony |
| Evelyn Battle | Mildred Carter |
| B.J. Dukes | Jude Ekpc |
| Vanessa Downey-Little | Bernie Little |
| Monica Godsey | Lester Johnson |
| Marion Welch | Sam King, Jr. |
| Vonnye Rice-Gardner | Bernadette Phifer |
| Ella Pease | Betty Ridley |
| Mary Sobers | Mary Waters |
| Charlene Postell | Gladie Stelly |
| Cornelius Harris | Jim Castro |
| Pearl Cox | Brent Brown |
| Frances Brown | |

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\$1,050.000

- Wedding Party**
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- Coporate Events**
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- Meetings**
- ETC**

Contact the Church Office for details
5124723741

