

**JANUARY 6, 2019 ~ HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH AUSTIN, TX.
FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH**

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

Sunday, Jan 06, 2019

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

We bow to a higher authority

From the first moment of his papacy, Pope Francis impressed the world with his humility. The newly minted pope bowed his head and invited us, the church, to bless him. How rare it is for leaders on the world stage to approach their role with humility and reverence! The typical response to the bestowal of power is a rising spirit of arrogance and aggression. We observe the contrast between the Magi who prostrate themselves before an infant, while King Herod snarls and plots violence with his yes-men. How do we wield the authority we hold in our hands?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12 (20). "They prostrated themselves and did him homage."*

Monday, Jan 07, 2019

MEMORIAL OF RAYMOND OF PEÑAFORT, PRIEST

And for your penance . . .

What if you went to Confession and for your penance the priest assigned you a book to write? This actually happened to Raymond of Peñafort (1175-1275), who felt that his life as a university teacher had been too soft and easy. When he asked his Dominican superiors to give him a harsh penance in retribution, they asked for a book to guide confessors. Later, in the "creative confessions" department, Raymond found himself the pope's own confessor. He assigned the pope the penance of swiftly hearing and expediting all petitions of the poor! Be creative in repenting, and be sure to do it whenever needed (more often than we like to admit).

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 3:22—4:6; Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25 "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."*

Tuesday, Jan 08, 2019

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

See God and love

No one, scripture says, has seen God and lived. But of course scripture also tells of numerous encounters with God in which someone came away without being reduced to a pair of smoking sandals. Today it's not impossible to see God either: in other people, who are made in the image and likeness of God and carry God's spirit in them like a temple, to use Saint Paul's metaphor;

in the sacraments, which make God present in a special way, especially in the Eucharist; in prayer, where we give expression to our relationship to God. Perhaps the most powerful way to pick upon the presence of God, though, is through love in particular the kind of self-giving love that God has for Creation, that Jesus has for the world. Where there is that kind of love, there God is.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 4:7-10; Mark 6:34-44 (213). "Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love."*

Wednesday, Jan 09, 2019

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

Walk on

The disciples were terrified at the sight of Jesus walking on water. Indeed, God's power as evidenced in Jesus' miracles may seem terrifying, perhaps because the display of mastery over the forces of nature reminds us of our own limitations. None of us would last a minute trying to walk on water—but is that because of our physical limitations or because of our faith limitations? In the gospel story, Peter actually does manage to take a few steps across the water toward Jesus, until he focuses on his own fears instead of Jesus' Invitation. Bad move for Peter and for us.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 4:11-18; Mark 6:45-52 (214). "But immediately Jesus spoke to them, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.'"*

Thursday, Jan 10, 2019

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

Keep your Christmas present

You remember Christmas—"May your days be merry and bright" and all that? Often we think of "getting through the holidays" rather than savoring, like fine wine, the implications of "God with us." What Christmas celebrates is nothing less than the most radical moment in human history: the leap from the divine to the human, piercing the veil, God taking root in skin and bone and changing our destiny forever. The lights may be packed away, the gifts exchanged, but that's the small stuff. How have I been changed by these days?

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 4:19—5:4; Luke 4:14-22a (215). "News of him spread throughout the whole region."*

Friday, Jan 11, 2019

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

Count on God's mercy

Can any of us doubt that Jesus would choose the welfare of suffering people who come to him? Still, we often pray—and live—as if we doubt that God has our best intentions at heart. God's mercy is so clear and tangible, at the

crèche and at the cross! If we ever find ourselves wondering if God really cares about the likes of us, we might bow and contemplate Jesus in the straw or nailed to wood.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 5:5-13; Luke 5:12-16 (216). "The leper bowed and begged Jesus, 'Lord, if you choose, you can make me clean.'"*

Saturday, Jan 12, 2019

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

Back to the future

The month of January is named after Janus, the Roman god of portals and doorways, of endings and beginnings. He is traditionally pictured with two faces: one looking back to the past, the other forward to the future. Tomorrow we celebrate the Baptism of the Jesus, which marks the end of the Christmas season and the beginning of ordinary time. That means today is a good day to look back over the Christmas season now ending and ask ourselves: What were some of the highs and lows? What could I do differently next year? Then look forward into the future: What must I let go of to embrace more fully the present moment? How do I want to live?

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 5:14-21; John 3:22-30. "He must increase; I must decrease."*

Next Sunday

Sunday, Jan 13, 2019

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Stories that could be true

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7; Luke 3:15-16, 21-22 (21). "All were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ."*

Catholic Social Teaching Corner

Jan. 5-6, Solemnity of the Epiphany of Our Lord •

In Christ there is no east or west, north or south. There is no distinction of Jew or Greek, slave or freedom, male or female. We are all one in the Lord. The commitment to life, charity and justice by the church is rooted in Christ who came for each of us. The Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord helps us to focus on the reality that we are all called to sit around the table without regard to distinction.

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MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5, 5:30PM

Birthday Blessings for Kim Boston requested by Jennifer Brooks

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6, 8:00AM

For the repose of the soul of Ronald Martin Collings II., on his birthday in heaven. Requested by Ron, Carolyn and Kiya Collins

JANUARY 6, 10:00AM

For the repose of the soul of Kimberly Renee Scott on 8th year anniversary of her death. Requested by Barbara Scott

Birthday Blessings for Madam Rice. Requested by the Agwuncha Family

Calendar of Events

SUNDAY JANUARY 6, 2019	
Mass	8:00AM
Rosary	9:30AM
Mass	10:00AM

Weekend December 29/30, 2018		
ATTENDANCE		
VIGIL MASS	5:30	31
SUNDAY	8:00 am	43
	10:00 am	152

OFFERTORY	\$2687.00
Children	8.00
E-GIVING	1126.78
SVDP (E-GIVING)	140.00
SVDP	5.00
DCYC	1100.00
Pro-Life	452.00
Gift store	135.00

CHRISTMAS WISHLIST

Everyone is called upon to give a befitting Christmas donation towards the completion of the Family Life Center Building. Please make FLC your priority this Christmas.

DCYC

The Holy Cross Youth Group will be attending the 2019 Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference in Waco Texas on February 1-3. The price per child is \$100.00; this includes, DCYC registration, T-shirt, goodie bag, hotel, transportation, and food. Our hope is for all our youth to experience this amazing event. The deadline for registration was **December 30, 2018**. If you would like to make a donation or sponsor a youth, it is not to late, please see

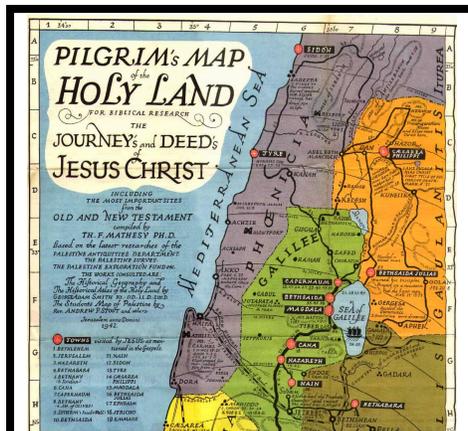
Felicia McClain, Jennifer Brooks or church office. Thank you in advance for your support, God loves a cheerful giver.

TRAVELING CHALICE

Thank you to these families who have received the Traveling Chalice into their homes and prayed for vocations for one week: The Michel Ukanda Family, Alice and Ron Scharfe, Tina and Tony Frank, Debbie Ruiz, and The Patrick Onyenaka Family, The Agwuncha Family, Marie Thompson, Ed and Elina Mullen, Johnnie and Dean Dorsey, and Tammie Javey. This Sunday, the Traveling Chalice will be returned by JoAnn Meadows and received by Adrienne & Alex King.

SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

The Social Justice Ministry invites you to attend our next Courageous Conversation at 6:30pm on Monday, January 7th. Among topics of discussion will be the recent USCCB (US Conference of Catholic Bishops) pastoral letter against racism: "Open wide your hearts."



HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE
10-Day Holy Land Pilgrimage
Nov. 3-13, 2019
\$3490

Interested persons should contact Pat Roberts, 512.288-7542, for more information

HOUSE CLEANING

On the first Sunday of each month Father blesses all birthdays for that month. If you want a special blessing for your birthday, anniversary, child's birthday or any other blessing, please get the request **in to the office**, like bulletin and pulpit announcements by,

noon Tuesday before the requested blessing.

IGBO MASS JANUARY 27, 2019

Next IGBO Mass, is Sunday, January 27, 2019, 1:30pm. Help spread the news. All Catholics are welcome.

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS, A WOMAN'S LENTEN GUIDE

This is the program theme for the Austin Deaneries Council of Catholic Women winter meeting, **January 19, 2019**. Join us first for Mass at 9:00 AM at St. Thomas More Church, 10205 RR 620 North, Austin. Program, business meeting and complementary brunch continue in Brennan Auditorium, ending around 12:30 PM. No pre-registration is required. Bring a friend and come meet other ladies from parishes in the Austin area. Questions? Contact President Janet Fontenette at 512-417-7862 or jfonta35@yahoo.com

EIM WORKSHOP

Holy Cross Catholic Church will sponsor an EIM workshop, Sunday, January 13, 2019, 11:45am, in the downstairs classrooms.

New Applicant: Submit an EIM Applicant, (one-time only), On line (faster & most secure) - eAppsDB is our online database

https://www.wappsdb.com/registration.asp?ORGZ_KEY=4&=REG_PAGE&ORG_IGIN=OUTSID

CONSIDER HOLY CROSS IN YOUR WILL

Call the Church Office 512 472 3741