

READINGS

January 11, 2015

The Baptism of The Lord

First Reading: Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7

Second Reading: Acts 10: 34-38

Gospel: Mark 1: 7-11

STEWARDSHIP

Sunday Collection December 21st.....\$1,524
St. Vincent De Paul Collection.....\$399
Christmas Eve, December 24th.....\$4,493
Sunday Collection December 28th.....\$1,341
Diocesan Feast of Holy Family.....\$330

Contact our Development Director, Zane Stehling, to join this mission at 512-392-5925.

The Baptism of the Lord: At first glance, the scene makes little sense. John's strident call to repentance provokes an overwhelming response. People of all shapes and sizes flock to him in the wilderness. They are baptized in the Jordan as a sign of repentance and cleansing. Suddenly, John's cousin, Jesus appears. What's Jesus, the sinless one, doing in a crowd of repenting sinners? Jesus does not enter the water to be sanctified. No, the Holy One enters the water to sanctify. He empowers the water to become no longer just an outward sign, but a vehicle of the Holy Spirit bringing inner cleansing, rebirth, and transformation. Here Jesus institutes the sacrament of Christian baptism, something essentially different and greater than the baptism of John, which foreshadowed it. Immediately after coming out of the water, the Spirit descends upon him in the form of a dove. Here we have a majestic revelation of the Most Holy

Trinity, one God in three persons. On this day, the Spirit anoints his human nature in a new way, empowering and equipping him for battle, for his mission. He is anointed or "christened" as perfect prophet who speaks God's final word, and perfect priest who offers the perfect sacrifice taking away all sin. Simple. We receive our mission and the power to carry it out. For being a "Christian" is not about just "getting saved." It's about sharing in Christ's anointing to transform the world. That's why we are called "Christians" or anointed ones. Every single one of us is called and anointed. The question for those of us who have received this power-packed sacrament is this—what are we doing with it?

*Adapted from CatholicExchange.com
A Reflection by Marcellino D'Ambrosio, Ph.D.*

GOSPEL REFLECTION

God the Father praises his Son at his baptism. Have you offered words of praise to your family members recently?

PLEASE CONSIDER POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY:

That those from diverse religious traditions and all people of good will may work together for peace ...

AND

That in this year dedicated to consecrated life, religious men and women may rediscover the joy of following Christ and strive to serve the poor with zeal ...

ALSO BISHOP VÁSQUEZ' PRAYER INTENTION TODAY:

That all those who seek God the Father will be given his spirit of adoption ...

A MESSAGE FROM POPE FRANCIS: "Babies cry, make noise, go here and there. But it annoys me when a baby cries in church and there are those who say he needs to go out. The cry of a baby is God's voice: never drive them away from the church!"

Pope Francis, Gaudete Sunday at the parish of St. Joseph in Rome.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Will resume

January 20, 2015

ROSARY every Sunday
9:30am in the Lounge

ADORATION of the Blessed Sacrament
Tuesdays 5:45-9pm and
Mornings Mon-Fri 8:30-9:30am in the Chapel

FREE LUNCH every
Tuesday 11am-1pm in the Lobby

BOBCATS FOR LIFE
2nd & 4th Thursdays
6pm in the Library

PRAYER MEETING 2nd & 4th Thursdays 7:30pm upstairs

BIBLE STUDIES every day!

*CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE FOR
MORE INFORMATION*

www.txstatecatholic.org



PRAY THE ROSARY
before the 10am Sunday Mass in the Lounge / Cry Room. We begin at 9:30am. Everyone is welcome. Please join us even if you're a little late!

AVERAGE SUNDAY MASS ATTENDANCE

DECEMBER

10am, 221; 5pm, 150; 7:30pm, 104

FOR THE YEAR 2014

10am, 257; 5pm, 114; 7:30pm, 97

SERVE AS A MISSIONARY IN ASIA! Thursday January 22nd after the 5:15pm Mass, upstairs, Come meet Tricia Bolle, founder of the St. Francis Xavier Lay Missionary Society. She has served as a foreign missionary, primarily in Hong Kong, for seven years. She now has hopes of spreading the Gospel to her brothers and sisters in Asia. She is currently recruiting young adults for a 9-week formation program this summer. These young missionaries would potentially serve in Asia in 2015. All are welcomed!

Next Sun., Jan. 18th is our monthly **St. Vincent De Paul** collection. Thank you for your support!

REMINDER: Reconciliation the 3rd Sunday of the month from 9am to 9:45am. The next opportunity is next Sun., Jan. 18th.

Please join us for a WELCOME BACK DINNER

Sun., Jan. 25th at 6pm between the 5pm and 7:30pm Masses. If you would like to help prep, serve or clean please sign-up in the Lobby. This is a great way to catch up with old friends and meet new students! Hope to see you there!

TEXAS CATHOLIC PRO-LIFE DAY Catholics from across the state will join together to stand in solidarity to promote a Culture of Life at Texas Catholic Pro-Life Day on Jan. 24. Purchase your T-shirt to wear throughout the day. Attend the prayer vigil at 7 a.m. at 201 E. Ben White Blvd., the Rosary for Life at 9:15 a.m. and Mass at 10 a.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Austin. Eat lunch in the Parish Activity Center at \$5 a plate and continue to the March for Life, which will start at 1600 N. Congress and begins at 1 p.m. The March will process to the Capitol for the Rally for Life, which begins at 2 p.m. Buses will be available from downtown at 1600 N. Congress at 8 a.m., which will take you to St. Vincent de Paul and back. Pre-purchase bus tickets and T-shirts at

www.centraltexasprolife.org. For more information, contact Yvonne Saldaña at (512) 949-2486.

FR. CHARLIE BANKS will be available for Spiritual Direction this Tuesday, January 13th. Sign up in the Lobby for 30 minute appointments

Next Sunday Masses
January 18th
10:00am, 5:00pm and
7:30pm