

Do This in Remembrance of Me, Part 6;

Sign of the Cross

“In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.” Once we have finished the entrance hymn or antiphon at the beginning of Mass, there is a familiar gesture we do at every Mass and frequently with our prayers: we make the Sign of the Cross. Why? As Dr. Edward Sri writes, “The Sign of the Cross is not simply a way to begin praying. It is itself a powerful prayer that is meant to pour out tremendous blessings on our lives. When we make the Sign of the Cross...we enter a sacred tradition that goes back to the early centuries of Christianity, when this ritual was understood to be a source of divine power and protection. In making this sign, we invoke God’s presence and invite him to bless us, assist us, and guard us from all harm. It is not surprising that the early Christians made the Sign of the Cross quite often, desiring to tap into the power that lay therein” (A Biblical Walk Through the Mass, p. 17).

Sri goes on to quote the early Christian writer Tertullian (A.D. 160-225), who said, “In all our travels and movements, in all our coming in and going out, in putting on our shoes, at the bath, at the table, in lighting our candles, in lying down, in sitting down, whatever employment occupies us, we mark our foreheads with the Sign of the Cross” (A Biblical Walk Through the Mass, p.17-18).

A Holy Gesture

Since we use the Sign of the Cross so frequently, it is important to recall what a meaning-packed gift it really is. The gesture itself points us to the Cross of Jesus—it reminds us of his saving sacrifice—the place where Jesus gave everything out of love for us to conquer sin and death. The words we say remind us that we have been brought into the life of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It is important to notice that we pray “in the name” and not “names.” Praying in the singular “name” recalls that God is One God in Three Persons. In addition to reminding us of the Trinity and the Cross of Christ, the Sign of the Cross also reminds us of our Baptism, when we were brought into God’s family and given a share in the life of God: we are literally baptized “... in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit”! We are reminded that the Father loved us so much that he sent the Son to save us and that the Holy Spirit was sent to guide us on our way home to heaven. That’s a lot of meaning for a little action that only takes a couple of seconds!

When I think of the Sign of the Cross, one of my favorite meditations is imagining how it looks when Our Blessed Mother Mary makes it. I remember hearing a story about how St. Bernadette would sometimes comment to the other sisters that their Signs of the Cross needed more reverence. I was always struck by the thought that St. Bernadette saw Mother Mary make the Sign of the Cross as she followed along with the Rosary beads (during Our Lady’s appearance to St. Bernadette at Lourdes). It must have made a powerful impression on her! Although for now we might have to imagine this scene, we can review the classic steps in making the Sign of the Cross in the Roman Rite: using the right hand and touching the forehead (saying: “In the name of the Father”), the middle of the chest (saying: “and of the Son”), the left shoulder (saying: “and of the Holy”), and right shoulder (saying: “Spirit. Amen.”)

A Grace-Filled Gift

Like almost anything in our lives, frequent repetition of the Sign of the Cross can sometimes lessen our attention to what we are doing and what it means. However, as we noted, the Sign of the Cross is an incredibly powerful prayer and gesture full of meaning. Next time you are starting a prayer or at Mass, I invite you to pause for a brief moment and really make the Sign of the Cross a true prayer from your heart. Maybe imagine what it looked like when Mother Mary, St. Bernadette, or one of the saints made it. Consider moving your hand and saying the words more slowly. Think about the love Jesus has for you as you trace the shape of the cross. Thank God that you have been given a share in the life of the Trinity through Baptism. What a grace-filled gift the Sign of the Cross truly is!

For Reflection:

1. Reflect on St. Paul’s words to the Galatians: “But may I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world” (Gal. 6:14). In what way is the Cross of Christ a reason to “boast”? Consider your current relationship to things of this world. What may need to be crucified in you so that God can reign more fully in your life? Bring this challenge to prayer the next time you make the Sign of the Cross.

2. How do you feel when you make the Sign of the Cross? Confident, foolish, something else? St. Paul explains that “[t]he message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God” (1 Cor. 1:17) and that Jesus “endured the cross, despising its shame, and has taken his seat at the right of the throne of God” (Heb. 12:2). Call to mind the areas in your life where you feel foolish or powerless, and invoke the power of God’s name by making the Sign of the Cross.

Article Written by: Fr. Luke Spannagel and Published on National Eucharistic Revival website.



“We adore You, O Christ, and we praise you, because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.”

Holy Cross Church

Roman Catholic Diocese of Corpus Christi

Rev. Roy J. Kalayil
Pastor

David Solis Jr.
Secretary

John Womack & Co
Bookkeeper

Parish Office Hours:
Mondays & Fridays 5:00PM - 7:30PM

Weekly Mass Schedule

Sunday 10:30AM

Friday 6:00PM

THE HOLY ROSARY IS RECITED 20 MINUTES BEFORE MASS



FOURTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

“Blessed are the
poor in spirit,
for theirs is the
kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 5:3

JANUARY
29
2023

Copyright © J.S. Paluch Co. Inc. · Photos: © AungMyo / AdobeStock · Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass © 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970, CCD.

Office Phone: 361-888-4012
1109 N. Staples Street

Pastoral Emergency: 361-230-9095
Corpus Christi, TX 78401

Email: hcrosstx@gmail.com

Website: www.holycrosscctx.com

Facebook: Holy Cross Church - Corpus Christi TX

Sacraments: If you have any questions about sacraments contact	Baptism By Appointment	Reconciliation By Appointment	Marriage Six months Notice: No Date should be fixed until you have met with Fr. Roy	Anointing of the Sick Anytime upon request
--	----------------------------------	---	---	--



Mass Intentions

Sunday January 29, 2023
10:30AM: W.A. for Robert & Zonia Vesely (Dolores Vesely)

Friday February 3, 2023
6:00PM: for the parishioners of Holy Cross

Sunday February 5, 2023
10:30AM: †Robert P Garza (Rudy & Sylvia Garza)

Friday February 10, 2023
6:00PM: B.B. for Zonia Vesely (Dolores Vesely)

Sunday February 12, 2023
10:30AM: B.B. for John Vesely (Dolores Vesely)
 S.I. Maggie Baez (Rudy Garza Jr. & Family)

†- For the repose (eternal rest) of the soul
 S.I. - Special Intentions
 B.B. - Birthday Blessings
 W.A. - Wedding Anniversary

Pope Francis' Prayer intention for February

For parishes

We pray that parishes, placing communion at the center, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.



WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP

Envelope Collection	\$622.00
Loose Collection	\$351.00
Collection Total – January 22	\$973.00
<i>Church in Latin America</i>	<i>\$222.00</i>

Thank you for your faithfulness, your generous support, and sharing of your gifts with Holy Cross Church.

2ND COLLECTION FOR FEBRUARY

- 5 - Maintenance Fund
- 22 - Church in Eastern & Central Europe
- 26 - Black & Indian Missions



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 4 - Elizaeo Banda
- 20 - Gladys Tilley
- 21 - Raymond Banda
- 22 - Dolores Vesely

Birthday



Wishes

Prayer is the most powerful against trials, the most effective medicine against sickness and the most valuable gift to someone we care for.

Please pray for the sick of the parish, especially:

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Christine Aranda | Rodessa Jones |
| Marylou Areola | Ray Karpe |
| Nancy Balderas | Charlester Lewis |
| Casey Barrera | Nathan Lopez |
| Rosie Barrera | Fr. Seamus McGowan |
| Marchant Bradford | Emily Petru |
| Tony Canales | Beth Rach |
| Fern Carter | Rosanne Ramirez |
| Paul Carter | Renalda Sharkey |
| Ana Dudley | Lamont Taylor |
| Richard Rey Escobedo | Alejandro Veliz |
| Rebecca Garza | Aiden Vesely |
| George Hamilton | Dolores Vesely |
| Gloria Hamilton | Patricia Whitfield |
| Doug Hopkins | Marilyn Williams |
| Otis Jackson | Dewene Wilson |
| Margaret Jeter | Ann Woodson |
| Arthur B. Jones | |

THE PEOPLE OF GOD'S KINGDOM

In our Gospel reading from Matthew, we hear the Beatitudes, the stirring opening to the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus is proclaiming the coming of the kingdom of God, and begins by considering what kind of people will enter and participate in this kingdom. They are the poor in spirit, the meek, the clean of heart, the peacemakers. We hear both Zephaniah and Paul echo this, as God specifically chooses the weak and the lowly to be God's agents in ushering in the reign of God. By living with humility and integrity, their hearts are open to being transformed by the grace of God. We too are called to live in this way. Jesus invites us to be people with open hearts, to receive God's blessing. And working through us, God may bless all of creation.

Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.



CONSTANT FAITH

If you remain constant in faith in the face of trial, the Lord will give you peace and rest for a time in this world, and forever in the next.

—St. Jerome Emiliani

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:

Heb 11:32-40; Ps 31:20-24; Mk 5:1-20

Tuesday: St. John Bosco

Heb 12:1-4; Ps 22:26b-28, 30-32; Mk 5:21-43

Wednesday:

Heb 12:4-7, 11-15; Ps 103:1-2, 13-14, 17-18a; Mk 6:1-6

Thursday: The Presentation of the Lord

Mal 3:1-4; Ps 24:7-10; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40 [22-32]

Friday: St. Blase; St. Ansgar

Heb 13:1-8; Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8b-9; Mk 6:14-29

Saturday:

Heb 13:15-17, 20-21; Ps 23:1-6; Mk 6:30-34

Sunday: Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 58:7-10; Ps 112:4-9; 1 Cor 2:1-5; Mt 5:13-16

2022 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

If you need a copy of your 2022 contribution statement for your taxes. Please contact David at the parish office via telephone, or e-mail (hcrosstx@gmail.com) so we can prepare your statement.

OUR FASCINATING FAITH

Candlemas (February 2)

Thanks to Pope Sergius I (687–701), on February 2 we celebrate the Presentation of the Lord. On this day we also commemorate the Purification of Mary, who complied with the Jewish law (Leviticus 12:1). The law indicated that a mother should be purified forty days after giving birth to a boy child. Since the eleventh century the Purification of Mary and the Presentation of the Lord have been celebrated with the blessing of all the candles and candlesticks that are going to be used during the year. This is done with the hope that there will never be a lack of light, either material or spiritual, in the houses of the faithful. The root of the word candlemas is the Latin verb candere (“to shine”) and from which also come the words candelabra and candlestick. This feast of candles recalls that Christians can, like Simon and the prophetess Anna in the temple, say that they also have seen salvation: Jesus the true Light who shines in the arms of Mary (Luke 2:25–38).

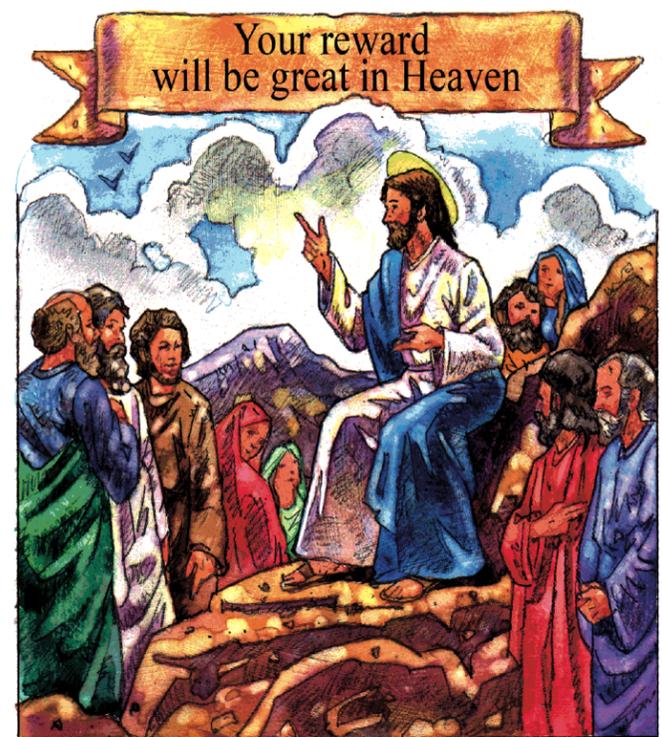
—Friar Gilberto Cavazos-González, OFM, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

CATHOLIC PRAYER CORNER

God Be in My Head

God be in my head, and in my understanding;
 God be in my eyes, and in my looking;
 God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;
 God be in my heart, and in my thinking;
 God be at my end, and at my departing.

—Attributed to Old Sarum Primer



© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

PARISH MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS		
Parish Council President	Armando Ortiz	361.774.4807
Finance Committee	Ann Woodson	361.688.3651
Sacristan	Sylvia Davila	361.563.8906
Stewardship Coordinator	Korey Hardeman	361.834.4349
Religious Education	Becky Sheldon	rtbshel@yahoo.com
Altar Servers	Ray Ramos	361.774.8590
Lectors / Ushers	Norma Ortiz	361.249.2679
Choir	Marsha Hardeman	361.739.4045
St. Martha's Kitchen	Vacant: if interested contact Fr. Roy	

	Altar Servers	Lectors	Extra Ordinary Minister	Ushers
Jan. 29	Rayven, Olivia, Shana	Ray Ramos	Erika Ramos	Sylvia, Michael Ortiz
Feb. 5	David, Daniel	Norma	Armando	Priscilla, Juan Aranda
Feb. 12	Juan, Marylou	Raymond Banda	Sylvia Davila	Norma, Daniel Ortiz

World Day for
Consecrated Life

