

Dear Padre,

Why do our bishops not marry? Scripture plainly says that they must be the husband of one wife and have faithful children.

This is an excellent question and brings us face to face with an important truth: for Catholics, the sacred Scripture is not the singular source of our practice and discipline. We also look, with equal authority, to the living Tradition of the Church. The magisterium is entrusted with the authentic interpretation of both Scripture and Tradition.

With this theological and historical context as a necessary background to your question, the answer to your query is this: the lived Tradition of the Church does not support a married clergy, including bishops. Although the Scripture allows for it, and provides some general guidelines, the lived Tradition of the Church does not. The Roman Catholic Church has a celibate clergy and will continue to have a celibate clergy unless and until the magisterium, in union with the pope, determines otherwise. There have been some discussions about changing this discipline, but now there is not much momentum that would suggest any imminent change.

In the wider Orthodox Catholic Church, in union with Rome, there is a provision for a married clergy, but, even in these traditions, there is no exception made for married bishops. Bishops are and will continue to be celibate regardless of what Scripture may allow. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
January 12	January 13	January 14	January 15	January 16	January 17	January 18
Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	St. Anthony, Abbot	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Sm 1:1-8 Mk 1:14-20	1 Sm 1:9-20 Mk 1:21-28	1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20 Mk 1:29-39	1 Sm 4:1-11 Mk 1:40-45	1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a Mk 2:1-12	1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a Mk 2:13-17	Is 49:3, 5-6 1 Cor 1:1-3 Jn 1:29-34

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](#) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



RODRIGO DE MORALES / CATHOPIC



ANTONELLA ULLAURI / CATHOPIC

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

In the family, faith is handed on together with life, generation after generation. It is shared like food at the family table and like the love in our hearts. In this way, families become privileged places in which to encounter Jesus, who loves us and desires our good, always.

HOMILY, ROME, JUNE 1, 2025

Our Parish COMMUNITY

January 11, 2026

The Baptism of the Lord (A)

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 / Acts 10:34-38 / Matthew 3:13-17



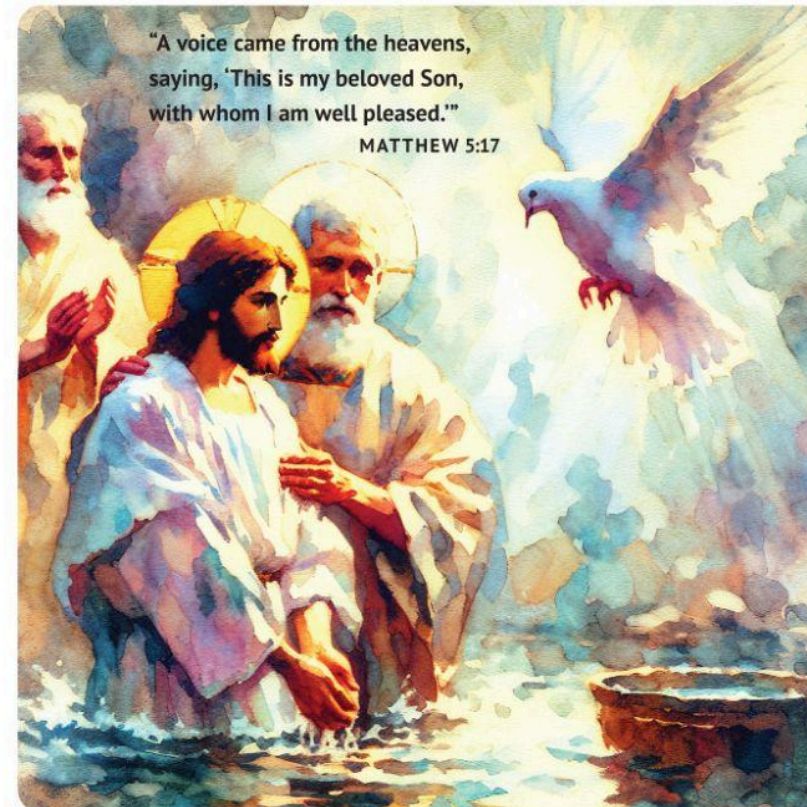
Jesus, Servant Leader

MIGUEL DULICK

John, miracle son of Zechariah and Elizabeth, cousin of Jesus and known as “the Baptist,” offers a “baptism of repentance.” Then Jesus shows up. The eternal Son of God a penitent? John is shocked and resists, saying it is Jesus who should baptize him. But Jesus insists, “to fulfill all righteousness” (Matthew 3:15).

At the very beginning of his ministry, Jesus is humbling himself, much as he did toward the end, when he washed the feet of his disciples. Then it was Peter who would resist what seemed inappropriate by the standards of this world. Jesus is giving us an example, the way of the servant leader, as described in today’s beautiful passage from Isaiah. Jesus is the servant leader, the Father’s Son, over whom the Holy Spirit danced like a dove, and the Father, with his booming voice from the heavens, said of him, “This is my beloved Son!” (Matthew 3:17).

Jesus allowing himself to be baptized may seem like a contradiction, but given all that follows, we know he is offering his followers a consistent model of what he expects from those who choose to be his disciples. As St.



“A voice came from the heavens, saying, ‘This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.’”

MATTHEW 5:17

Paul would later write to the Church in Philippi, “Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped” (Philippians 2:5-6). ●

Reflect

This week, I’ll think about my baptism, when I was called to serve as Jesus served.



LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY



Weekly Bulletin

January 10-11, 2026

The Baptism of the Lord

Parish Office: 254 - 647 - 3163

Website: stritacatholicranger.org

PRIEST CARE FUND - January 10th & 11th

Our **special collection today** is for the Priest Care Fund. **One hundred percent** of this collection remains in the Diocese of Fort Worth to pay for medical and long-term care expenses of retired priests not covered by insurance. "A Lifetime of Service Asks for a Moment of Support." Please give generously to the Priest Care Fund today at Mass.

ST. ANDREW BREAKFAST - Saturday, January 17th

The next St. Andrew Breakfast will be on Saturday morning January 17, 2026 at **St. Patrick Cathedral**, 1206 Throckmorton St, Fort Worth, TX 76102, **at 8:00 AM**. The day will begin with Mass followed by breakfast and fellowship. We encourage young men in high school and college in the Diocese of Fort Worth to attend. Please reserve your spot by January 15, 2026, through the **Vocations Office** or by **calling 817-945-9321**.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Please pray for the sick: Karen Donoho, Al Haremza, Jax Jordan

STRAWN - ST. JOHN

Saturday Vigil 4:00 PM: Mass

Wednesday

4:00 - 4:30 PM:

Confession/Adoration

4:30 PM: Mass

2nd Thursday - Monthly

St. Boniface, Dodson Prairie

4:00 PM: Confession/ Adoration

4:30 PM: Mass

CISCO - OUR LADY OF

THE HOLY ROSARY

Sunday

8:00 AM: Mass

Wednesday

8:30 AM: Confession/Adoration

9:00 AM: Mass

RANGER - ST. RITA

Sunday

9:45 AM: Mass

Tuesday

5:30 - 6:00 PM:

Confession/Adoration

6:00 PM: Mass

POPE LEO PRAYER INTENTION

January 2026 –

For prayer with the Word of God

Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

STEWARDSHIP

January 3 & 4, 2026

St. John \$ 1,989

St. Rita \$ 993

St. Francis \$ 330

Holy Rosary \$ 1,209

Solemnity
of Mary

\$ 494

\$ 300

\$ 194

\$ 322

MIDDLE SCHOOL RALLY - February 14th

Join us at the annual Middle School Rally - featuring **Joe Melendrez!** This full-day event is a wonderful opportunity for your middle school students to come together **across the Diocese**, to celebrate our Catholic faith and identity, to deepen community, and to be renewed in mission. **Event takes place at Nolan High School in Fort Worth on Saturday, February 14th from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** If interested, tell **DRE Devony Norris** at Wednesday Classes or call **254-631-8079**, or call the office at 254-647-3163.

“John tried to prevent him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, yet you are coming to me?””

MATTHEW 3:14

The Catholic Catechism states that “Jesus’ immersion in the water is a sign for all human beings of the need to die to themselves to do God’s will.” In other words, as baptized Catholics there is only one gift that we need to give to Jesus – the gift of ourselves. Surrender yourself to God, place your trust in Him and allow the Holy Spirit to work through you for the greater glory of God.

EASTLAND - ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

Sunday (Español)

11:15 AM: Mass

Thursday (Español)

6:30 - 7:00 PM: Adoration/Confession

7:00 PM: Mass

1st Friday - Monthly (Español)

7:00-8:00 PM: Adoration

3rd Saturday - Monthly (Español)

9:00 AM: Mass

PARISH OFFICE: 254 - 647 - 3163

Monday - Thursday, 9 AM - 3 PM

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In case of pastoral emergency: 817 - 821 - 5821

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