



Our Christmas season concludes with the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Jesus was not baptized because He needed to repent — rather, He was revealing who He is and what He came to do. By submitting to the baptism of John, He affirmed His humanity, revealed His divinity as the Son of God, and signaled His mission to save man from sin.

Although Jesus' baptism was just the beginning of His ministry, it revealed all that He came to accomplish. And it is from His mission that we can receive the Sacrament of Baptism — the moment we become adopted sons and daughters of God. From that moment, we belong to Christ — we become His stewards. Our lives should be a reflection of this relationship. The way we live and act should reveal Whose we are. Our readings today call us to reflect on what it means to be a Christian steward — to belong to Christ.

In our First Reading, the prophet Isaiah shares a message of hope, "Why spend your money for what is not bread, your wages for what fails to satisfy? Heed me, and you shall eat well, you shall delight in rich fare." We can take these words from Isaiah and ask ourselves, "Who is the king of our hearts?" As Christian stewards, it should be God. We often fill our thoughts and our lives with things that satisfy us only for a moment. If we truly do belong to Christ, then we will make Him our top priority. And what we fill our lives with should reveal that He is King. Remember, the Lord will satisfy the deepest longings of our hearts. He will fill us with a feeling of lasting peace and contentment.

Our Second Reading from, 1 John, reminds us that belonging to Christ requires commitment, "For the love of God is this, that we keep his commandments." In our fast-paced lives, we should ask ourselves, what commands our life? Is it God and His commands? Keeping Christ's commandments will not only deepen our relationship with Him but also help us become better stewards to others, "In this way we know that we love the children of God when we love God and obey his commandments." Through our faithfulness, we will become stewards of Christ's love and mercy. It is out of love that God gave us these commandments, and if we truly belong to Christ, we will keep them.

In our Gospel account of Jesus' baptism, Mark reveals the intimate relationship between God the Father, God the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Once Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus and God the Father proclaimed, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." By our baptism, we have become God's beloved sons and daughters. We, too, have access to an intimate relationship with God. But like all good relationships, it flourishes with effort. How we spend our time and share our gifts says a great deal about Whose we are. We must do our part as Christian stewards to spend time with the One to Whom we belong, and to serve the One we love.

As we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord today, let us reflect on what it means to be a son or daughter of God. Let us resolve with conviction to make God the King of our hearts, live by His commands, and share with Him our time and gifts. Let us pray that our lives might be a reflection of our relationship with Christ.

## **YOUR STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE**

### **January 3, 2021**

Sunday Collection .....	\$ 2,424.07
Online Giving.....	\$ 392.00
Vigil Candles.....	\$ 87.61
Facilities Improvement.....	\$ 496.00
New Years Day.....	\$ 2,659.44

***Second Collection - Jan 16 - 17:***

***\*\*\* No Second Collection \*\*\****



## **CMC - Catholic Men's Conference ALL MEN ARE WELCOME**

**Sat, Feb 27th from 8 am- 4 pm  
St. Matthew's Athletic Ctr**

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Have a powerful transformative experience in a spiritually-charged environment

**Speakers: Fr. Stephen Gadberry,  
Fr. Daniel Villarreal, and  
Mr. Jared Zimmerer.**

Reserve your seat... Invite a Brother in Christ to attend with you.  
Participate In-Person –or– Virtually

Learn More/Register today at: [CMCSanAntonio.com](http://CMCSanAntonio.com) or  
call (210) 521-3377.



A fellow parishioner (actually several of them) brought a couple of things to my attention recently. So I thought it might be time to publish a short reminder.

First of all... As you may be aware... a number of people come to the church early to prepare themselves for Mass. A number of people also like to stay behind after Mass in communion with Our Lord. They hope to spend some quiet time in prayer with Our Lord... that is extremely difficult to do when people are visiting / talking.

I know we (STM) do not have a foyer where we can congregate before Mass to visit... so we have to be sensitive to the needs of others. And, I know I'm probably one of the worst offenders... going around, greeting people... I promise I will try to keep the noise level down. Please join me in doing this. It'll be great when we can get back to normal and enjoy those great Knights of Columbus breakfasts on the 2nd and 4th Sundays... When that time comes... come over to Carolan Hall to visit and talk after Mass. I'll even "buy" you a cup of free coffee. In the mean time please either visit outside or visit quietly so as not to disturb those in prayer. Oh... on the 4th Sunday of the month (or the preceding Saturday)... if you notice a Baptism being celebrated immediately after Mass... please be respectful and be quiet. There's nothing more frustrating when trying to make this celebration special for the family than having to contend with the "roar" of a crowd.

Secondly, there is an etiquette 'thing' when maneuvering around the church.

People tend to take things for granted and just go through the motions at times... like we're on 'auto-pilot.'

Think about what you're doing! When entering the church we generally make the Sign of the Cross.

The Sign of the Cross is a prayer! **Think** about what you're doing!

You are re-affirming your belief, your faith, in the Most Blessed Trinity! Do it correctly!

You are recalling the passion and death of Our Lord on the cross.

You are saying a short but important / powerful prayer.

We then go to our pew. Before entering the pew we reverence the presence of Christ in the Tabernacle by genuflecting. To genuflect you lower yourself so that one knee touches the floor / ground... then you raise yourself up again. Many of us can't genuflect anymore... so we perform a profound bow to show our reverence and respect. Consider a bow if you can't genuflect...

Then... in your "travels" around the church... if / when you pass in front of the altar / Tabernacle...

Please acknowledge the presence of Our Lord! Stop... take that full 4 seconds... to Bow or Genuflect..

Do it properly / respectfully.

Well... that's about it for now... We just have to remind ourselves every once in a while.

Until next time... Once again... Happy New Year! and... God Bless- DT.

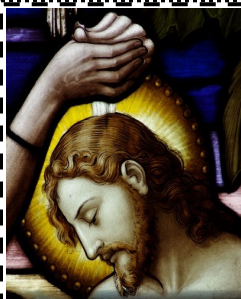


### Mid-Year Enrollment Drive

Now enrolling children 18 Months of Age thru 8th Grade

Special Mid-Year Tuition Rates

Contact us at [www.St-Thomas-More-School.org](http://www.St-Thomas-More-School.org) or [LBrown@STMCS62.org](mailto:LBrown@STMCS62.org) or at the School Office at (210) 655-2882



### Gospel Meditation - *The Baptism of the Lord*

Baptism is so incredibly important for the salvation of humankind, not only eternally but here and now. Our existence depends upon it. It gives us the affirmation we need from God by gifting us with the same intimate relationship Jesus had with the Father.

We are blessed with the direction and clear purpose we need in order to be productive stewards and faithful Christians. Baptism calls us to remember, accept, and deal with the sins and inequities of our past regardless of how hurtful and serious.

We consciously choose to turn away from them and put on the new life of Christ.

To do this well, we must look hard and long at our sins and failings, listen to what they are saying and learn from them. If we ignore the past, collectively or personally, or pretend that it never happened, we will never grow. We will surely die.

People need to hear the message, lived and spoken, delivered by the baptized members of the Body of Christ. It is an essential message of hope that is layered with visions of justice, peace, reconciliation, redemption, blessing, and healing. It is a message that helps us remember what has gone before, the graces and the sins, and bring ourselves by God's help where we need to be. We are called to do much more than sit home behind our closed doors.

We have a message to deliver... *Are we ready to do so?*

### MEDITACIÓN DEL EVANGELIO – *El Bautismo del Señor*

Con la fiesta del Bautismo del Señor se termina el ciclo de la Navidad. El Bautismo del Señor es como una nueva Epifanía o manifestación. “Jesús, el Mesías enviado por Dios”, se manifiesta al pueblo para salvarlo.

En este Evangelio se manifiestan dos voces.

La voz de Juan que dice: “Detrás de mí viene uno con más poder que yo. Yo no soy digno de desatar la correa de sus sandalias, aunque fuera arrodillándome ante él. “El mensaje de Juan es simple pero muy claro. Desaparecer él para que Jesús crezca. No menciona su nombre, pero sí, su grandeza y la magnitud de su humildad. Juan se considera indigno, inclusive de arrodillarse ante él. Jesús, es el Hijo de Dios.

La segunda voz, es la Divina, se escucha desde el cielo. “Al momento de salir del agua, Jesús vio los Cielos abiertos: el Espíritu bajaba sobre él como lo hace la paloma, mientras se escuchaban estas palabras del Cielo: “Tu eres mi Hijo, el Amado, mi Elegido.” (Marcos 1:10-11). Jesús, es el predilecto del Padre. Por eso esas palabras hermosas.

La liturgia de este domingo es un llamado a la comunidad parroquial para no quebrantarse en los momentos difíciles que está pasando. Nuestro compromiso como bautizado, por el contrario, debe salir a flote en cada momento de la vida cotidiana.

Como hijo-hija predilecto de Dios debemos seguir a Jesús como único camino. Cada día el deber del bautizado es conocer más y más a Jesucristo, caminando hacia su interior para dar paso al diálogo sincero que torna la vida a Dios.

¡Goza tu bautismo, goza el ser hijo-hija de Dios haciendo el bien!



*St. Thomas More English  
Prayer Group*



Contacts: Olga Guerrero: (210) 657-1610 or  
Stella Lopez: (210) 618-6977



*Grupo de Oración  
Familias compartiendo la palabra*



El grupo de oración se reúne los viernes a las 7 pm.  
Para mas informacion contacte Maria Isabel Hernandez.



**This Week at Our Parish**

**Sunday, January 10, 2021**  
9:00 am Faith Formation (Eng) - School

**Monday, January 11, 2021**

**Tuesday, January 12, 2021**  
5:30 pm Diving Mercy Cenacle - Church  
6:30 pm Guadalupe Monthly Rosary - Church

**Wednesday, January 13, 2021**

**Thursday, January 14, 2021**  
7:00 pm RCIA - Rectory Meeting Room

**Friday, January 15, 2021**

**Saturday, January 16, 2021**  
9:00 am Faith Formation (Span) - School  
4:00 pm Reconciliation

**Sunday, January 17, 2021**  
9:00 am Faith Formation (Eng) - School

**CIVIL UNION?**

Is your marriage recognized by God and the Church? *Would you like it to be?*

Every 'case' is unique but if you would like your marriage 'Blessed by the Church,' we would love to talk with you.

Contact Fr. Mike, either of your Deacons or call the Parish Office for more information.

**Sanctuary Light Intention:**

**†Jeff Manning**

**Liturgical Roles**

**Saturday, January 16, 2021**  
5 pm **Altar Servers** - (None)  
**Eucharistic Ministers** - Dcn Rolando  
**Lector** - M.Fisher

**Sunday, January 17, 2021**  
8 am **Altar Servers** - (None)  
**Eucharistic Ministers** - Dcn Tim  
**Lector** - C.Brown

10 am **Altar Servers** - (None)  
**Eucharistic Ministers** - Dcn Tim  
**Lector** - Abi.Perez

12 pm **Altar Servers** - (None)  
**Eucharistic Ministers** - Dcn Rolando  
**Lector** - E+L.Leon

**Mass Intentions**

**Saturday, January 9, 2021**  
8:00 am †Armando Cruz Lucia by Family  
5:00 pm †David Krause by Family

**Sunday, January 10, 2021**  
8:00 am †Armando Cruz Lucia by Family  
10:00 am †Genevieve Oswald by Oswald Family  
†Ray Dumenil by Volpenhein Family  
12:00 pm †Valdemar Gutierrez by Isela Bazan  
†Daniel Antuna & Jose Luna  
By Deacon Rolando, Martha and Marisol

**Monday, January 11, 2021**  
8:00 am †Mary Nguyen by Family

**Tuesday, January 12, 2021**  
8:00 am **All Those Affected by the Corona Virus**

**Wednesday, January 13, 2021**  
8:00 am †Rosie Reyes & †Suzell Waller by Eddie Reyes  
†Arnold Perales by Family

**Thursday, January 14, 2021**  
8:00 am **STM Parishioners**

**Friday, January 15, 2021**  
8:00 am **†Deceased STM Parishioners**

**Saturday, January 16, 2021**  
8:00 am †Mary Nguyen by Family  
5:00 pm †David Krause by Family

**Sunday, January 17, 2021**  
8:00 am **All Clergy and Religious**  
10:00 am †David Krause by Volpenhein Family  
12:00 pm †Florentina Castro by Isela Bazan  
†Daniel Antuna & Jose Luna  
By Deacon Rolando, Martha and Marisol

**Lecturas de la Semana del jan 11 - 17**

**Lunes:** Heb 1:1-6; Sal 96:1,2,6,7,9; Mc 1:14-20  
**Martes:** Heb 2:5-12; Sal 8:2,5-9; Mc 1:21-28  
**Miércoles:** Heb 2:14-18; Sal 104:1-4,6-9; Mc 1:29-39  
**Jueves:** Heb 3:7-14; Sal 94:6-11; Mc 1:40-45  
**Viernes:** Heb 4:1-5,11; Sal 77:3,4,6-8; Mc 2:1-12  
**Sábado:** Heb 4:12-16; Sal 18:8-10,15; Mc 2:13-17  
**Domingo:** 1Sm 3:3-10,19; Sal 39:2,4,7-10;  
1Cor 6:13-15,17-20; Jn 1:35-42

**Readings for the week of Jan 11- 17**

**Monday:** Heb 1:1-6; Ps 97:1,2b,6,7c,9; Mk 1:14-20  
**Tuesday:** Heb 2:5-12; Ps 8:2,5-9; Mk 1:21-28  
**Wednesday:** Heb 2:14-18; Ps 105:1-4,6--9; Mk 1:29-39  
**Thursday:** Heb 3:7-14; Ps 95:6-11; Mk 1:40-45  
**Friday:** Heb 4:1-5,11; Ps 78:3,4bc,6c-8; Mk 2:1-12  
**Saturday:** Heb 4:12-16; Ps 19:8-10,15; Mk 2:13-17  
**Sunday:** 1Sm 3:3b-10,19; Ps 40:2,4,7-10;  
1Cor 6:13c-15a,17-20; Jn 1:35-42