



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 2021

***And a voice came from the heavens,
“You are my beloved Son; with you I am
well pleased.”***

(Mark 1:11)



Holy Cross Catholic Parish

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Pastor - Rev. Noah Carter, STL

336-996-5109, Ext. 11

Deacon - Rev. Mr. Tim Ritchey

336-996-5109, Ext. 23

***From
the
Pastor***



With today's celebration of the Baptism of the Lord, our Christmas season comes to an end. Our Lord chooses to be baptized not because he needs baptism, but to give us an example of what we must do and in order to sanctify the waters by descending into them. Baptism was already a ritual symbol in the ancient Jewish

world. Though "baptism" is a Greek word, it is a translation from the Hebrew and both words mean "washing." In Jewish culture, ceremonial and ritual washing was an important custom. It was used not only for hygienic reasons, but also as a sign of becoming spiritually clean. By Christ's baptism, the symbol becomes a reality and the washing of baptism becomes a sacrament that really washes away original sin.

Consider the antitypes (foreshadowing events) of Baptism. In the beginning, God's Spirit hovered over the waters and he began from that primordial environment of water covering the earth to create the world and all that is in it. Now, the waters of baptism imbued with the Spirit by the priest's blessing recreate the human soul and make the baptized a child of God. The waters of the flood washed away the unrighteousness from the face of the earth. The Israelites in the Exodus passed through the waters of the Red Sea which brought about an end to slavery. Christ himself was baptized by John. Finally, from the cross, Christ willed that water and blood should flow from his side, and as soon as those waters touched the centurion Longinus, he was immediately converted. At last, when Christ ascended to his Father, his one command to the Apostles was go, teach all nations, and baptize them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Baptism is the beginning of the Christian life. It is our spiritual birthday in a sense! I encourage everyone to look up the date of your baptism if you do not recall it. We should give great thanks to God each year for the gift of our baptism.

Fr. Carter

(More Notes from Father on Page 3)

Mass Intentions  for the week	
<i>Saturday, January 9</i> 4:00 PM	<i>June Willhoite† req. by Marie Kinney</i>
<i>Sunday, January 10</i> 8:00 AM	<i>Parishioners of Holy Cross</i>
11:00 AM	<i>John Finn†</i>
2:00 PM (Spanish)	<i>Melanie Velasco Valle req. by Alejandra</i>
<i>Tuesday, January 12</i> 12:30 PM	<i>Nicholas Menzzentto† req. by Joan & Richard Habib</i>
<i>Wednesday, January 13</i> 7:00 PM	<i>Joann Bottega† req. by Joan & Richard Habib</i>
<i>Thursday, January 14</i> 9:00 AM	<i>Katie Stafford</i>
<i>Friday, January 15</i> 9:00 AM	<i>Anne M. Riccio†</i>
<i>Saturday, January 16</i> 4:00 PM	<i>Jay Erdman</i>
<i>Sunday, January 17</i> 8:00 AM	<i>Parishioners of Holy Cross</i>
11:00 AM	<i>George Role III† req. by Jean & Elaine Dion</i>
2:00 PM (Spanish)	<i>Alejandra Velasco Valle req. by Alejandra</i>

CONFESSION TIMES:

Reconciliation is available 30 min. prior to all Masses, and by appointment. **Reconciliación** 30 min. antes de las Misas, y por cita.

Items that Crisis Control can use for January are shampoo, conditioner, laundry detergent, and dishwashing soap. Of course, they will also accept any non-perishable food and toiletry items at any time. Thank you for your generous support of Crisis Control Ministry Food Pantry.



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Heb 1:1-6; Ps 97:1, 2b, 6, 7c, 9; Mk 1:14-20
 Tuesday: Heb 2:5-12; Ps 8:2ab, 5, 6-9; 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: 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19; Ps 40:2, 4, 7-10; 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20; Jn 1:35-42

The beautiful picture of The Baptism of Jesus on the cover of our bulletin this week is a photo of a stained glass window at St. Mark's Catholic Church in Huntersville, NC which was reproduced with permission.

The Parish Office Will Be Closed
January 16 through 18
in Observance of
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

While not all of us are able to attend Mass, the work of Our Church continues. OnLine Giving allows us to make donations to our parish via a smart device or computer while we are away. **Please consider continuing your support of the important work of our parish via OnLine Giving!** OnLine Giving can be accessed through the Holy Cross website: www.holycrossnc.com Thank you for your generosity!

SOME "HOUSEKEEPING" ISSUES FROM FATHER CARTER

PLEASE DO NOT MOVE CHAIRS - In the back of the church are free-standing chairs. It is important that individuals do not move these chairs. When they are frequently moved, dragged, lifted, and repositioned, the joints become weak. It is also a liability issue if someone is injured while moving chairs, which are not light. It is also important that we keep the back wall by the confessional clear for the confession line. It is not permitted to move chairs and reposition them. Thank you for your cooperation.

RESERVED PEWS - You will notice that the pews in the back of each section have new "reserved" signs on them. These signs are there to indicate that these pews are prioritized for parishioners who are disabled, handicapped, or otherwise not able to come up for Communion. After discussions with the Liturgy Commission in the Spring, we wanted to streamline Communion for those parishioners who cannot come forward. This allows for a quicker distribution of Holy Communion. As a reminder, those who need Communion brought to them are asked to sit in these reserved pews, or in the front of the two center sections. This is the ordinary way that we distribute Holy Communion to our handicap parishioners.

VISITING PRIESTS - A number of parishioners have lamented the fact that I regularly celebrate the Spanish Mass on Sundays, but not the morning Masses. Available priests to assist me during my recovery are very difficult to find. Unfortunately, none of the priests that have responded to my requests speak Spanish. Therefore, our visiting priests have been assisting with the English Masses while I attend to the Spanish-speaking parishioners. Thank you for understanding this practical limitation. And please pray for more vocations to the priesthood!

LOW GLUTEN HOSTS - An increasing number of parishioners have been asking about gluten-free hosts. To be clear, the Catholic Church does not use gluten-free hosts because no gluten means that it is not real bread and, therefore, cannot be consecrated for Holy Communion. However, the Church does allow for "low-gluten" hosts for those who have Celiac disease. These hosts have less than 0.01% gluten content. In 2004, a Celiac disease specialist wrote that a patient with Celiac disease would have to consume 270 low-gluten wafers in a day to reach any point of danger or even discomfort. Those who have Celiac disease and would like to receive a low-gluten host for Holy Communion should arrive to Mass 15 minutes early and request from the Mass sacristan to prepare a low-gluten host. Please also introduce yourself to the priest. You will go to him for Holy Communion, so he needs to know who you are in order to give you the low-gluten host, which is kept in a dish separate from the regular hosts.



The U.S. Bishops' Pastoral Letter on Stewardship reminds us that Baptism gives all of His disciples a share in His priestly work and calls them "to offer up the world and all that is in it - especially themselves - to the Lord of all."



Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Frances McGowan, a founding parishioner who passed away recently. May Frances rest in the peace of Christ, and may those who love her be comforted by our prayers.

2021 Combined Mission Collection January 16-17



As part of the diocesan combined collections program, the Collection for the Church in Latin America, the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, Church in Africa, Catholic Home Missions, and the United States Mission Collection have been combined into one second collection. That collection will be taken up at all Masses next weekend. Your contribution to the good work of these organizations will give you an opportunity to participate in the missionary activity of the Church on both a local and world level. This week you should receive a letter from our Vicar General and Chancellor, Father Winslow, with an informative brochure. Please take the time to read through the brochure and become more familiar with the good work done by each of these organizations. The envelope for this collection is part of your parish envelope packet.

Como parte del programa de la Colecta Combinada para la Iglesia en Latino-América, la Iglesia en el centro y este de Europa, las Misiones Nacionales Católicas y las misiones de los Estados Unidos se han combinado en una segunda colecta. Tendrá lugar en todas las misas el próximo fin de semana. Su generosa contribución al buen trabajo de estas organizaciones le dará una oportunidad de participar en la actividad misionera de la iglesia a nivel local y al nivel mundial. El sobre de esta colecta es parte del paquete de sobres de su parroquia.

23rd Annual Rally & March for Life January 16th, 2021 at 1:00 PM Bicentennial Plaza, Raleigh

NC Right to Life invites you to join fellow North Carolinians as we gather in Raleigh with our new Lt. Governor Mark Robinson to protest the anniversary of Roe vs. Wade and remember the more than 60 million unborn babies whose lives have been lost by abortion since 1973. Masks & social distancing will be recommended in accordance with CDC recommendations. We look forward to you joining us for this energizing pro-life event. See our website for further information:
<https://ncrtl.org>

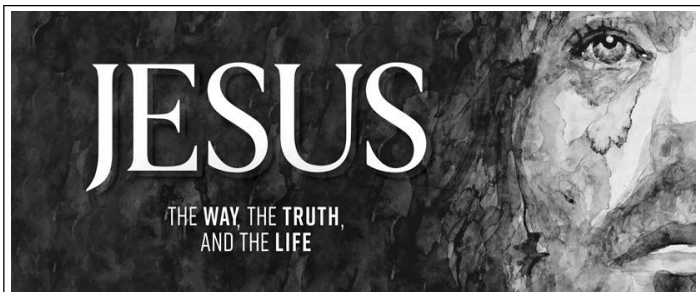

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Next Triad regional pro-life meeting/call Monday January 11 at 6:30pm.

The Carolina Pro-Life Action Network of the Triad (C-PLAN) is organizing a regional pro-life meeting for Catholic respect life leaders and volunteers on Monday January 11 from 6:30 pm to 7:45pm via conference call. The meeting will discuss upcoming pro-life events, news and help coordinate various pro-life activities. All Catholics interested in becoming more involved in pro-life efforts are encouraged to join. C-PLAN is a coalition of parish respect life leaders in the Triad. To learn more or to join our e-mail list, please contact Mike FitzGerald at triadprolifecatholics@gmail.com

It's Tax Time Again!

IRS trained and certified **tax aid volunteers are available in the Senior Center** located in the basement (elevator available) of the former library. They **assist all ages with federal and NC tax returns**. Due to COVID restrictions, you will remain in your car and documents will be picked up, scanned, and returned to you. **The service is free but appointments are required and fewer are scheduled this year.** If you have investments at a brokerage, you can call early but make your appointment for after March 1st when their forms arrive. Starting Monday, January 18th, phone 336-992-3180 Mon. to Thurs. 9 AM to noon to make your appointment.



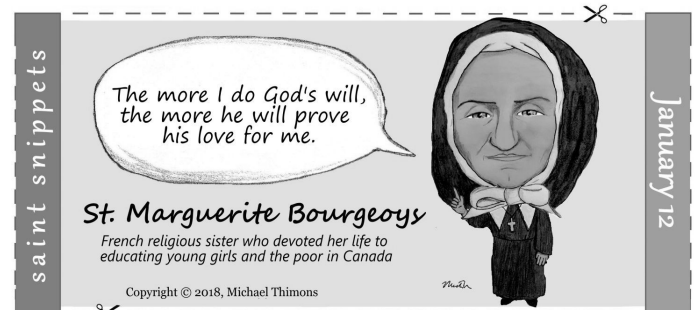
Jesus is our savior, our redeemer, our Lord, and our God. Our belief in Jesus is what makes us who we are as Catholics, as Christians, but do we really know him as we should? Is Jesus a part of your life, or is he at the center of your life as he should be? We invite you to make him the center of your life by joining us for *Jesus: The Way, the Truth, and the Life*, a 10-week video study program that explores the entirety of Jesus' life and what he means for us as Catholics today. Holy Cross will begin the *Jesus* study on January 12/13 at 6:30 p.m./10:00 a.m. Participants will view an engaging video presentation by Marcellino D'Ambrosio, Jeff Cavins, and Edward Sri at home and then meet via zoom for lively group discussion and fellowship. For more information or to register, contact Marie Kinney at holycrosskinney@triadbiz.rr.com or 336 996-5109, Extension 21. We hope you can join us!

ASCENSION
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Rest in Peace 

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Our sincere condolences to Wilma Tilley on the death of her brother, John Schlensker, who passed away. May John rest in the peace of Christ, and may those who love him be comforted by our prayers.



SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES THIS WEEK

Sunday: The Baptism of the Lord
Monday: First Week in Ordinary Time begins
Wednesday: St. Hilary
Saturday: Blessed Virgin Mary

St. Leo Catholic School Open House on January 13, 2021

Want your child to benefit from the intellectual, social, and spiritual blessings of a world-class Catholic education? St. Leo Catholic School (grades K through 8) warmly invites you to come to our Open House on Wednesday, January 13 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Here are the top five reasons to choose St. Leo's:

- St. Leo's is a nationally recognized Blue Ribbon School of Excellence
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- Our school is technologically prepared for the future and well-equipped to maintain our excellent academic programs and reputation.
- Here, students learn to be active members of their faith community. Catholic traditions and gospel values come alive every day throughout the year.
- Our small, supportive environment nurtures each child by actively engaging the whole family.

Please RSVP by calling Ed Jones, Director of Marketing and Recruitment, at (336) 748-8252, ext. 250; or email Ed at ejones@stleocatholic.com

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN

(Never known to fail)

O Most Beautiful Flower of Mt. Carmel,
Fruitful Vine, Splendor of Heaven,
Blessed Mother of the Son of God,
Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my
Necessity. O Start of the Sea, help me and
Show me herein you are my Mother.
O Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of
Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you
from the bottom of my heart to succor
me in my necessity
(make request).

There are none that can withstand your
Power. O Mary conceived without sin,
Pray for us who have recourse to thee
(3 times).

Holy Mary, I place this cause in your
Hands (3 times).

3 Our Father, 3 Hail Mary, 3 Glory Be

Say this prayer for 3 consecutive days.
You must publish it, and it will be granted
to you.

Suspect sexual abuse or misconduct?

If you have information about possible sexual abuse or misconduct by any clergy, employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Charlotte, report concerns safely, securely and anonymously 24/7 over the phone using the diocese's new hotline, 1-888-630-5929, or online: www.RedFlagReporting.com/RCDOC

Please note: If you suspect a child is in danger, please contact 9-1-1 or your local law enforcement agency.

Safe Environment training

Did you know that every Church worker must go through abuse prevention and education training? Find more information about the Diocese of Charlotte's Safe Environment program, sign up for Protecting God's Children training and more: <https://charlottediocese.org/human-resources/safe-environment>

For more information or questions, please contact the diocese's Human Resources Office at <https://charlottediocese.org/human-resources> or call 704-370-6299.

Join thousands of Catholics nationwide in the annual **Respect Life novena, 9 Days for Life, Thursday, January 21 – Friday, January 29**. Get daily intentions, brief reflections, and more. **Sign up at 9daysforlife.com!**



- **Marcha por la Vida en Holy Cross:** ¡Únase a nuestros programas de la Formación de Fe y del Grupo Juvenil para nuestra propia Marcha por la Vida que comenzará en el territorio de la parroquia! Acompáñanos el viernes, 29 de enero a las 12pm (mediodía) en el estacionamiento de la parroquia para una presentación en vivo en nuestra pantalla de cine al aire libre del rally Marcha por la Vida que se lleva a cabo en Washington, DC a las 1pm. Comenzaremos nuestra propia marcha aquí en Kernersville. ¡Tendremos actividades especiales antes de la marcha para hacer carteles y playeras este al pendiente de nuestras redes sociales para fechas y horas! Facebook: Holy Cross Faith Formation, Holy Cross Youth Ministry y por Instagram.

- **Marcha y Manifestación por el Derecho a la Vida en Carolina del Norte: Llevar a cabo el sábado 16 de enero a partir de la 1pm.** ¡Estas invitado! Únase con todos los demás del Carolina del Norte y con nuestro nuevo Vicegobernador Mark Rosbinson en Bicentennial Plaza, en el centro de Raleigh, para este evento energízate pro-vida. Para más información visite nuestra página: <https://ncrtl.org>.
- **Corresponsabilidad:** Hoy celebramos el Bautismo del Señor. La carta pastoral de los obispos de los Estados Unidos sobre la mayordomía nos recuerda que el bautismo les da a todos los discípulos del Señor una participación en su obra sacerdotal y los llama a “ofrecer el mundo y todo lo que hay en él, especialmente ellos mismos, al Señor de todos.”
- Como parte del programa de la Colecta Combinada para la Iglesia en Latino-América, la Iglesia en el centro y este de Europa, las Misiones Nacionales Católicas y las misiones de los Estados Unidos se han combinado en una segunda colecta. Tendrá lugar en todas las misas el próximo fin de semana. Su generosa contribución al buen trabajo de estas organizaciones le dará una oportunidad de participar en la actividad misionera de la iglesia a nivel local y al nivel mundial. El sobre de esta colecta es parte del paquete de sobres de su parroquia
- **Plática Pre-Bautismal:** La próxima plática pre-bautismal se ofrecerá el 4 de febrero del 2021. Recuerde que debe estar registrados como miembros de la parroquia por lo menos 6 meses para poder asistir. Debe a ver visto los 3 videos de Renacer. Para poder ver los 3 videos de renacer debe ingresarse en la página de la parroquia que es holycrossnc.com y abajo encontrara el link de Formed y haz clic donde dice Register. Y luego donde dice parish/city ingese el nombre de la ciudad: Kernersville y se registra. Recuerde de guardar su nombre de usuario (user) y su contraseña (password). Para más información o para registrarse para la plática pre-bautismal por favor de comunicarse con Juana Mayra al (336) 996-5604 o al correo electrónico holycrossfrancisco@yahoo.com.
- No habrá misa ni adoración al Santísimo ya que el Padre Carter estará presente en la Marcha por la Vida de parte de la Diócesis de Charlotte el viernes, 15 de enero.

Reflexión

“Lléname Señor de tu Espíritu y renueva la faz de la tierra.”

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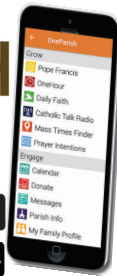
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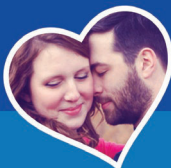
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