

St. Francis of Assisi Mission



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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



Good News!

January 11, 2026

The Baptism of the Lord (A)

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

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. 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). ●

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Mass Schedule

Sunday: 9:15 AM
St. John of the Cross

Saturday: 6:00 PM

Sunday: 7:30 AM, 11:00 AM ~ English
6:00 PM ~ Spanish

Daily Mass:

Mon., Tues., & Fri. ~ 8:00 AM
Thurs. (Sp.) ~ 6:00 PM ~

Adoration ~

Thurs. (Sp.) - 6:30 PM

1st Saturday Mass: 8:00 AM

Reconciliation

Thursday: 5:30 PM

Saturday: 5:00 PM - 5:30 PM

Sunday: 5:30 PM

Please contact Fr. Patrick by phone
or email if you need to make an
appointment for Confession or
Anointing of the Sick.

Parish Office Hours

St. John of the Cross

Mon., Tues., Wed., and Thurs.

8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

1:00 PM - 4:30 PM

CLOSED FOR LUNCH

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

OFFICE IS CLOSED

Fri., Sat., & Sun.

Worship & Prayer

MASS INTENTIONS

Sun.-Jan. 11	9:15 AM	† Phyllis A. Toler by Charles D. Toler People of the Parish
Sun.-Jan. 18	9:15 AM	† Phyllis A. Toler by Charles D. Toler People of the Parish

PRAYER LIST

May He bless all who are in need of His strength, especially:

Ana Culpepper, Henry Garrett, Kenton Heider, Paula Heider, Gerald Lindsey, Melba Malik, Cheryl Marshall, Adrian Nunez, Daniel Nunez, Phillip Torres, Paige Trevino, Adolfo Trevino, and Bo Weaver

Praying for expecting mothers and their babies:
Theresa Laurienti and Amanda Smithwick

Please contact the parish office for any additions or deletions.



Praying for our Military

We remember these service personnel in each 'Mass for the Families of the Parish'

Air Force: Preston Holliday, Alayah Moore, Deborah Thomas, Audrey Winstead

Army: Father Jim Craig, Magdeleena Delaney, Celine De Los Santos, Allen McDonald, Jacob Madrid, Eduardo Enrique Perales, Robert Ponce, Fernando Ramos III, Anthony Rios, Tyree Winstead

Coast Guard: Corey Bunton and Joshua Salinas

Marines: Aurora Alarcon, Hunter Frees, and Andre Rodriguez

Navy: Cory Elyasevich, Diane Martinez, and Noah Vasquez

Please pray for our
ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY!



Stewardship of Treasure

PREVIOUS WEEK	12/28/2025	CURRENT WEEK	01/04/2026
Collection	\$365.00	Collection	\$657.00
Christmas	\$339.00	New Year's	\$167.00
Our Living Church Bldg Fund	\$200.00	December Online Giving	\$926.00

The **SECOND** collection this weekend supports our **Religious Education Program**.
Your continued support of growing the faith of our youth is truly appreciated!

Please be aware of a scam using Father Patrick's name on an email. This latest scam involves an email that appears to be from Father Patrick asking for your "assistance with a staff project". **DO NOT REPLY**.
This is a **SCAM**.



Parish Organizations

ALTAR & ROSARY SOCIETY
NEXT MEETING: JANUARY 12 @ 2PM

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS # 8335
NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 3, 2026

Works of Mercy

The next bread and pastries distributions will be at 9AM
at **SJoC** on **Wednesday, January 14**, and at
St. Francis on **Saturday, February 14**.



Coastal Bend Food Bank distributions at 9AM at
St. John of the Cross on **Thursday, February 5**, and
at **St. Francis of Assisi** on **Saturday, January 24**.

Diocesan News

Everyone is invited to attend Solemn Vespers and Mass of Installation of Bishop Mario Avilés.
Solemn Vespers: Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at 6:30PM at Most Precious Blood Catholic Church Pro-Cathedral, 3502 Saratoga Blvd.
The Diocese of Corpus Christi invites you to the solemn installation of
His Excellency **Most Reverend Mario Alberto Avilés, C.O.** as the Ninth Bishop of Corpus Christi
By His Excellency **Most Reverend Joe. S. Vásquez** Archbishop of Galveston-Houston
in the presence of His Eminence **Christophe Cardinal Pierre** Apostolic Nuncio to the United States
Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at 2:00PM at Most Precious Blood Catholic Church Pro-Cathedral 3502 Saratoga Boulevard, Corpus Christi.
Reception immediately following at Maria Goretti Youth Center

Community

The Orange Grove Area will hold their Mid-Winter Bash to raise funds for the museum's Fire Recovery Account on Saturday evening, January 24, 2026 at the Orange Grove Rifle Club. Contact Ernest Henderson at 361 207-0383 for tickets and sponsorship information.

A Note From Our Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,



The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord ends the Church's Christmas Season, and I will be returning to wearing the green vestments. Sunday afternoon all of the Christmas decorations will be taken down and stored for next December 25th. I hope that many will be there to help, especially with the large or heavy boxes. Setting up the decorations takes far more work than taking them down! Thank you for your help.

The great majority of people will view the Baptism of their child, or an adult, as the end of a process of instructions for the parents and the godparents, or for those children and adults and their godparents. They have finally gotten their Baptism and they are finished. Now they just have to go to Mass on Sundays and celebrate Confession and the other Sacraments as those might be needed in their lives. But if we take a good look at today's Gospel reading, the Baptism of the Lord is not the end but the beginning of his public ministry. It is our Catholic traditional understanding that for the first thirty years of His life, Jesus quietly grew up in Nazareth in the home of Mary and Joseph. He had, like all humans, to learn to walk and to talk and to eat just like any baby and child. Jesus had to go to school to learn to read and write so that he could participate in the synagogue services each Sabbath. Jesus learned the carpentry trade from his father Joseph and learned to help Mary with the household tasks. It was during this "silent" time in the Scriptures from the age of twelve to age thirty that Joseph died. At the age of twelve, He went up with them to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover. Jesus remained in Jerusalem, while Joseph and Mary were returning to Nazareth. *They "lost" the Son of God?* They found Him in the temple conversing with the priests. Jesus "then went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. ⁵² And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man" (LK 2:51-52) And a few verses later in Luke's Gospel that after His baptism by John the Baptist we read, "Now Jesus himself was about thirty years old when he began his ministry" (LK 3:23).

For Jesus, His baptism by St. John the Baptist was the beginning of His preaching and teaching. Jesus performs His first miracle of the Water turned into Wine at the wedding in Cana very soon thereafter. Jesus then begins His Galilean ministry when he would go to the synagogue and read from the scroll, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord." And then He said to them, "Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing". After the thirty years in Nazareth, Jesus begins the work that God had sent him to do.

That is the same for us when we receive any of the seven Sacraments! It is not the final culmination of a process, but the very beginning of a new work and ability before God. At the end of the Mass and at the end of most of the sacraments, the phrase "Go and proclaim the Word of the Lord" is proclaimed. It is part of the Great Commissioning in the Gospels. The last words of the Gospel of Matthew are: "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." This three-fold instruction was given to the Apostles and to all of us! In that ONE sentence Jesus tells us, "to teach, to baptize, and to make disciples". It is not just to baptize, but to make disciples by teaching them the faith. When we are Baptized or Confirmed or Married, we are again "commissioned" to go forth and show others our faith in Jesus and in Salvation by living a life of goodness and holiness. So, on this Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, take a minute and recommit yourselves to those promises you made to God on those days you received your Sacraments.

Love and Prayers.

Fr. Patrick

P.S. For all those who gave me gifts either for my Birthday celebration or for Christmas, a most sincere "Thank You for your love, kindness, and support". This year with the days on which Christmas and the Solemnity of Mary occurred, it has been a marathon of seventeen days and more than thirty-six Masses, I have fallen behind on my Thank You cards. Please be patient with me as I will get them written. Fr. Pat

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	1 Sm 1:9-20	1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20	1 Sm 4:1-11	1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a	1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a	Is 49:3, 5-6
Mk 1:14-20	Mk 1:21-28	Mk 1:29-39	Mk 1:40-45	Mk 2:1-12	Mk 2:13-17	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 MIGUEL / 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