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# The Baptism

OF THE LORD

January 9, 2022

[John said,] "I am baptizing you with water,  
but one mightier than I is coming.  
I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals."

Luke 3:16

It was on the Fourth Sunday of Advent this past December that we first heard of the two cousins, John and Jesus, meeting. Then it was in the womb of their mothers, Elizabeth and Mary. Now the cousins meet again on the shore of the Jordan River. John is already well known—so much so that people had begun to wonder if he was the long-awaited Messiah. Jesus, on the other hand, is about to begin his ministry. One could say that Jesus entered the waters of the Jordan as a private person and came out of them as a public one. The voice from heaven left no doubt about that. As we come to the end of the Christmas season our readings echo Isaiah and Titus (see Advent and Christmas Day readings) and together with today's Psalm 104 they point us to Pentecost. We are on the cusp of a new creation.

## JOHN THE BAPTIST: PATRON SAINT OF LITURGICAL MINISTERS?

John the Baptist was what we might call today a "social influencer." People paid attention to what he had to say. And

what he said affected the choices people made. Yet today's Gospel reminds us of John the Baptist's ultimate goal: "One mightier than I is coming." The Baptizer walks the fine line between drawing attention to himself with his fiery preaching and then re-directing that attention to Jesus, the "beloved Son." John the Baptist could be considered the "patron saint" of those who minister as lectors, extraordinary ministers of the eucharist, cantors, greeters, acolytes, and musicians. Isn't John's teaching a good goal for a liturgical (or any!) minister? Rooted in the graces of their own baptism, ministers must be skilled and confident enough to draw people's attention (or, at least, not turn them off!) and then gradually re-focus that attention on Jesus. It is a dynamic and awesome responsibility.

Today's Readings: Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30; Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7; Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

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**PASTOR:** Rev. Michael T. "Mike" Snider

### Celebration of the Sacraments:

**Mass:** Saturday: 5:00 PM  
Sunday: 9:00 AM  
Tues - Fri: 9:00 AM

### Reconciliation:

Saturday & Sunday:  
45 minutes before Mass

### Marriage or Baptism:

Contact the parish office six  
(6) months prior to the  
anticipated date 903-769-3235

**Welcome Visitors!**

*We hope that you have enjoyed celebrating Mass with us  
and felt welcomed in our church as your "home away from home."*

*Whether you are new to the area or have lived here for years,  
you are invited to join our parish family. Please come again!*

## Holy Spirit Catholic Church

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Holly Lake Ranch, TX 75765

**Church Phone:** 903-769-3235

**Fr. Mike Snider**  
**Cell Phone:** 903-490-3883

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# The Baptism of the Lord

## We remember in our prayers all the sick, especially the following:

Randy & Louise Beard. Sven Sterner. Kathy Gravatt. Nancy Rasca. Jess Corrigan Jr. Clifford & Frances Jo Moore. Fran & Kathleen Fleming. Naomi Alfred. Dave Cormier. Thomas Holzmann. Jim Hickey. Michael Allen. Joe Fazzio. Ron Emma. Kate Serres. Belinda Flowers. Dona Jordan. Jaye Anderson. Georgette March. Kyle Fabitz. Greg Mooney. Gary Fetsch. Karee Haney. Bollinger Family. Charlie Parker. Tammy Johnson. Carolyn Simmons. Dianne & Gary Laudt. Wanda & George Duke. Doris & Jo Hoffman. Jo Ann Crowell. Ann Richardson. Jacob Stephens. Mary Margaret Ellison. John Kominis. Esther Coronel. Elise Sugg. Joann Rayl. Avery Boultinghouse. Wanda & Mike Stephens. Geri O'Neil. We list the names of our sick Parishioners. Friends and Relatives for one month.

## Please pray for the men and women active military service from our parish

**community:** Dawn Quinn, US Army PFC (Granddaughter of Bob & Jean Quinn). Reid Patrick Hope, US Marine (Nephew of Mike & Wanda Stephens). 1LT Joseph Chandler, U.S. Army (Nephew of Mike & Margaret Jemigan) Seaman Logan Adkinson (great grandson of Fr. Mike). Jay Guajardo, Navy Rescue School (Great Nephew of Lex & Liza Forster). Senior Airman, Natalie York (Daughter of Steve & Julie York). Pvt First Class Randall Scheaffer US Army (Grandson of Carlos & Pat Gallardo). Lt. "JG" Gary Buchanan; Capt. Blake Gaughan; 2nd Lt. Will Corrigan (Great Nephews of Jess & Eva Corrigan). Paul Moreno E4 AMT 3rd Class (Grandson of Kathy & Dale Boman). Staff Sergeant Daniel Hodan. U.S. Army (Grandson of Ron & Barbara Eamma). Warrant Officer Michael Hauck (Son of Jerry & Vicki Hauck & brother of Cathy Ellis) & Seaman Rainer Hauck (Grandson of Jerry & Vicki Hauck & nephew of Jeff & Cathy Ellis).

## Mass—Intentions

**Sat. 1/08 Mike Fleming+** (K of C)  
**Sun 1/09 Melinda Miller+** (K of C) **9:00am MASS, changed to 4:00pm TODAY ONLY**  
**Tue 1/11**  
**Wed 1/12**  
**Thurs 1/13**  
**Fri. 1/14**  
**Sat. 1/15 Luke Miller** (K of C)

**NO 9:00am Mass or Adoration  
This week.**

## PARISH SUPPORT

Average weekly amounts for the month of October, 2021

Expenditures \$ 3,882

Regular and debt & maintenance collections \$ 3,562

Attendance: 1/1/22 Saturday: 52 1/2/22 Sunday: 63

One can Give without Loving... But one cannot Love without Giving.

## Pope's Intention for January:



For true human fraternity. We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

## Reflection question:

What can I do this week to be well pleasing to God?

## TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading:** Isaiah speaks of the Servant whom the Lord upholds; he shall bring forth justice to the nations (Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7) or Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11.

**Psalms:** The Lord will bless his people with peace (Psalm 29) or Psalm 104.

**Second Reading:** Jesus was anointed by God with the Holy Spirit; he went out healing and doing good (Acts 10:34-38) or Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7.

**Gospel:** A voice comes from heaven proclaiming Jesus as the beloved Son, with whom God is well pleased (Luke 3:15-16, 21-22).

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

**Monday:** 1 Sm 1:1-8; Ps 116:12-19; Mk 1:14-20

**Tuesday:** 1 Sm 1:9-20; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Mk 1:21-28

**Wednesday:** 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Ps 40:2, 5, 7-10; Mk 1:29-39

**Thursday:** 1 Sm 4:1-11; Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25; Mk 1:40-45

**Friday:** 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Ps 89:16-19; Mk 2:1-12

**Saturday:** 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a; Ps 21:2-7; Mk 2:13-17

**Sunday:** Is 62:1-5; Ps 96:1-3, 7-10; 1 Cor 12:4-11; Jn 2:1-11

## PRAYER OF THE WEEK

The Baptism of the Lord  
 Almighty ever-living God,  
 who, when Christ had been baptized in the River Jordan  
 and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him,  
 solemnly declared him your beloved Son,  
 grant that your children by adoption,  
 reborn of water and the Holy Spirit,  
 may always be well pleasing to you.  
 Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
 who lives and reigns with you  
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 God, for ever and ever.

## BAPTISMAL DEATH AND RESURRECTION

As we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, we also honor our own baptism as our initiation into the Christian life and community. In the Gospel, the baptism of Jesus, with his immersion and then emergence from the water, points to his later submission to God at his death, and his emergence from the grave at his resurrection. This pattern of death and resurrection is our path too, as followers of Jesus.

Throughout life, often in small ways, we learn to surrender our limited and self-centered agendas. This surrender often feels like death. The sacrament of Baptism ritually enacts this pattern to remind us of Jesus' death and resurrection, so that we too might embrace the deaths and resurrections of our own lives. As Jesus emerged from the water, he encountered his Father and the Holy Spirit. Like Jesus, we can know we are God's beloved, empowered by the Spirit.





**Looking for a Director of Religious Education (DRE) for our parish.** If you are interested and have questions, please call the office at 903-769-3235 for more information.



**We are still looking for an organist for our parish.** If you are interested; you know of someone, or have ideas please call the office at 903-769-3235.



We are in **desperate need** of Ushers and Lectors for Saturdays & Sundays. Please call the church office 903-769-3235 and leave a message.

**Mass in Reparation of Roe vs. Wade:** Bishop Strickland invites all Catholics in the Diocese of Tyler to make a pilgrimage to the **Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception (432 S. Broadway, Tyler) on Saturday, January 22 at 12 noon.** There, a special Mass will take place in reparation of the tragic Roe v. Wade court decision that has led to the death of millions of babies here in the United States. For more information, please email [prolife365@yahoo.com](mailto:prolife365@yahoo.com). Sponsored by the Sanctity of Life Action Committee, a ministry of the Diocese of Tyler.

**JANUARY NEWS & EVENTS**

**Sat., Jan. 8th:** Fr. Mike is still not feeling well. **NO 9:00am Patriotic Mass & Rosary for Peace in America, today.** Fr. Dominic will be here for our **5:00pm Mass. Immediately following 5:00pm Mass: Free Spaghetti Dinner for Holy Spirit Parishioners in St. Jude's Hall**

**Sun., Jan. 9th:** **NO 9:00am Mass or Coffee & Donuts.** Fr. Love will be here for a **4:00pm Mass today only.** Sorry, for the inconvenience, no priests available for 9:00am Mass.

**Tues., Jan 11th—Fri., Jan. 14th:** NO 9:00am Mass or Adoration this week.

**Sun., Jan. 16th:** Immediately following 9:00am Mass coffee & donuts in St. Jude's Hall. Jane Bidlack facilitates "The Bible and Mass Study" Class in the middle classroom.

**Sun., Jan. 23rd:** Following 9:00am Mass coffee & donuts in St. Jude's Hall.

**Sun., Jan. 30th:** Following 9:00am Mass coffee & donuts in St. Jude's Hall.

**January Second Collections:** 22nd & 23rd: "Church in Latin America." 29th & 30th: "Diocese of Tyler Catholic Schools."

**Cenacle of Life:** Cenacle of Life devotion each Wed. from 3:00—4:00pm. Please join us in church as we pray two rosaries for an end to abortion, euthanasia and all sins against the sanctity of human life. **Questions call Vicki Hauck 817-637-9382**

**Legion of Mary—Pilgrim Statue:** Our Lady of Fatima Statue is now ready to visit your home. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex or you may contact: Marge Clymer, 903-216-7953 or Jane Bidlack, 903-569-7749. If scheduling permits, the Statue may be kept for two weeks.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**DIOCESAN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS**



**FEBRUARY 12, 2022**

**CATHEDRAL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION TYLER, TEXAS**

**2:00 PM**

**MORE INFORMATION TO COME**

**2022 CALENDARS** LOCATED IN THE HALLWAY BETWEEN THE CHURCH AND ST. JUDE'S HALL. ONE PER FAMILY

The Welcome Committee is looking for outdoor Christmas decorations (no lights) that parishioners do not plan to use any further at their homes. These decorations will be used in next year's walking trail display in Holly Lake Ranch. If you have any outdoor decorations (no lights please) to donate that are in good condition please contact Anna Parker at 903.833.7019 (hm) or email [parkerbiz52@yahoo.com](mailto:parkerbiz52@yahoo.com) Thank you.



**The Holy Spirit Food Ministry** would like to thank all our parishioners for their food donations. The large plastic bin is located by in the hallway by Bridget's office. **We are in the need of peanut butter; (urgent) canned vegetables; pasta sauce; cereal and pudding cups.**

**Looking for volunteers to get involved with the Food Ministry.** Call or email Bob Mailliard at 903-769-3963 or [theduckdude@att.net](mailto:theduckdude@att.net)

*Thank you, Bob Mailliard; Bryan & Dolly Todd; Stan & Terry Evans; Al & Evelyn Murfin. Holy Spirit Food Ministry Team*

Article for the Big Sandy-Hawkins Journal. 5 January 2022 Edition  
(Submission date: 31 December 2021) Submitted by Randy Munoz.

**What is the origin of the Magi? Its traditional history** (<https://en.nature-via.com/what-is-the-origin-of-the-magi-its-traditional-history>)

The day December 25<sup>th</sup>, the birth of Jesus of Nazareth is celebrated throughout the western world, **thus beginning the Christmas period**. However, over the last decades we have witnessed as other religious traditions have begun to have a rooting more than remarkable in our society. On this occasion we refer to the holiday of **Three Wise Men**, a denomination that they received the priests who came from the Far East to pay tribute with small amounts of gold, incense and myrrh to that child born in Bethlehem. Although it was not until the New Testament, more specifically in the Gospel of Matthew when these were mentioned for the first time "wizards", That from the beginning were not magicians or kings. From the third century, it was when it was intuited that these three characters could carry the King's title due to gifts they carried and the presumptuousness of their clothes. The story told in these evangelical writings tells us that three magicians came from the Far East, crossing the entire Sinai desert guided by the Pole Star until finally they came to Jerusalem. It was there where they interviewed the king Herod the Great, to which they asked if the rumors were true that assured that the one who was already known was born "King of the Jews".

**The three wise men: Melchor, Gaspar and Baltasar.** How did they receive the names by which the Three Wise Men are known nowadays? Surely many of you will ask. It would be necessary to go back to the 6th century when the names of Melchior Caspar and Balthazar appeared for the first time in the mosaic of San Apollinaire Nuovo in Ravenna. Each of them represented the "three races " of the Middle Ages. First, there was Melchor, who was playing a leading role of the Europeans. Next up was Baltasar who was a faithful portrait of Africans (hence his black complexion). And finally, there was Gaspar who was the one who looked like the Asians. With the passage of time, this religious milestone began to acquire more relevance in the popular herald. In fact, **January 6** is the day known as the "**Epiphany of the Lord**", an ephemeris that is very important within the religious calendar ... celebrated in many countries. t.

**Main traditions of the Magi: Cavalcade and roscón** Spain is one of the greatest exponents in the celebration of the Three Kings Day. From the 19th century, the tradition of giving gifts to children began, imitating what was done in the Anglo-Saxon countries with the festival of San Nicolás (or Santa Claus). From then on, this celebration went away magnifying and acquiring more relevance until the night before of Three Kings (the January 5) began to celebrate a ride that was led by the Three Kings, who did not stop throwing candies and sweets from their impressive floats. The first of them took place in the Alcoy village of Alcoy back in 1886. And from then on, this tradition began to spread through the rest of Spanish cities and even in some Spanish-speaking countries as Mexico, Argentina or Paraguay. After this magical night , the children had to leave a pair of sweets in their shoes to give the Three Wise Men accompanied in addition to some bowls with water and milk for their camels. After this, if the children had behaved well, they received their coveted gifts. But if they had been bad, they received instead sweet black coal. Also, during the festivity of January 6 it is very common to taste a **Roscón de Reyes** ... a [Spanish version of a King Cake] made with candied fruit, yeast, sugar and egg filled with cream or chocolate in which its interior is a little surprise.

By way of summary, we can say that this is the whole tradition that surrounds the mysticism and magic of the Three Wise Men, a holiday that will surely remain very alive despite the passage of time. And it is a nice way to welcome the new year, surrounded by our friends and loved ones.



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