

Holy Cross

A COMMUNITY CALLED TO BE A WITNESS TO THE GLORIOUS VICTORY OF THE CROSS

WELCOME

CONTACT US

7851-54th Ave North St. Petersburg, FL 33709 Phone: 727-546-3315 Website: holycrossrcc.com

Very Rev. Fr. Emery Longanga, PhD, VF Pastor Rev. Fr. Jesus Martinez Parochial Vicar Rev. Mr. Rick Zeitler Permanent Deacon

WELCOME MESSAGE

We the welcoming family of Holy Cross are delighted to have you join our parish family. Whether you are new to the area, seeking a new parish home, or returning to the practice of your Catholic faith, we hope you come and spend some time with us at Mass and in prayer and adoration. We seek to offer as many opportunities as possible for parishioners to come together as a family of faith. We pray that you may find warmth and spiritual growth here at Holy Cross!



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

610

After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. - Lk 3:21-22a

Sucedió que entre la gente que se bautizaba, también Jesús fue bautizado. Mientras éste oraba, se abrió el cielo y el Espíritu Santo bajó sobre él en forma sensible, como de una paloma. - Lc 3, 21-22

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

[Leccionario II © 1987 Comisión Episcopal de Pastoral Litúrgica de la Conferencia del Episcopado Mexicano.

OLP

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...

DEAR FRIENDS,

Today we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. It is also the end of the Christmas season. With the Baptism of the Lord we enter in the first part of Ordinary Time, the time we are invited to live the spirit of discipleship sustained by hope and faith in the Lord who calls each and all of us to partake in the mission of transforming the world.

As he goes down to the Jourdan riverbank to be baptized by John the Baptist, the Lord teaches us humility. He reminds us that we cannot transform this world without humbly accepting the message which transforms us inside ward. Humility means first of all that we acknowledge and recognize that we depend upon God who created us with and for a purpose. Jesus showed us that He cam to fulfill the purpose for which the Father sent Him: to redeem the world. This, He did it with humility and self-sacrifice. We, likewise, are invited to reflect on the meaning the sacrament of baptism we have received. Undoubtedly, baptism has made us benefit the forgiveness of our sins and made us children of God is a special way. Still, there is something we overlook, namely that by our baptism we have become witnesses of the kind of love and mercy that nobody can give. As witnesses, we are meant to spread the message of humility and love that makes us sharers in the divinity of the Son of God.

The feast of the Baptism of the Lord bears a special meaning this year, as we embark of the synodal journey. It is a call for us to listen to one another and to build a more loving and embracing church and world. To live the spirituality of the synod is to stretch out our hands to embrace and welcome each other; it is also to open our ears to listen to one another and to be determined to journey together as one family. All this requires humility and self-sacrifice, death to ourself in order to make it possible for another brother or sister to have the opportunity to share his/her faith and life journey.

As we renew our baptism promises today, let us resolve to contribute to building of the church as family of God and work towards a more loving, embracing and unified world. Let us make the church, this great family of God, a safe haven for all who hunger for love, understanding and support. And let us continue to pray for one another, and for our parish family.

May God bless us all and help us to engage in the process of interior transformation that will bear fruits in our daily life.

Fr. Emery

QUERIDOS AMIGOS,

Hoy celebramos el Bautismo del Señor. También es el final de la temporada navideña. Con el Bautismo del Señor entramos en la primera parte del Tiempo Ordinario, el tiempo en el que somos invitados a vivir el espíritu de discipulado sostenido por la esperanza y la fe en el Señor que nos llama a todos y cada uno de nosotros a participar en la misión de transformar el mundo.

Mientras baja a la orilla del río Jourdan para ser bautizado por Juan el Bautista, el Señor nos enseña la humildad. Nos recuerda que no podemos transformar este mundo sin aceptar humildemente el mensaje que nos transforma por dentro. La humildad significa, ante todo, que reconocemos y reconocemos que dependemos de Dios, quien nos creó con un propósito y con un propósito. Jesús nos mostró que podía cumplir el propósito por el cual el Padre lo envió: redimir al mundo. Esto lo hizo con humildad y abnegación. Asimismo, se nos invita a reflexionar sobre el significado del sacramento del bautismo que hemos recibido. Sin duda, el bautismo nos ha hecho beneficiarnos del perdón de nuestros pecados y nos ha convertido en hijos de Dios de una manera especial. Sin embargo, hay algo que pasamos por alto, a saber, que por nuestro bautismo nos hemos convertido en testigos del tipo de amor y misericordia que nadie puede dar. Como testigos, estamos destinados a difundir el mensaje de humildad y amor que nos hace partícipes de la divinidad del Hijo de Dios.

La fiesta del Bautismo del Señor tiene un significado especial este año, ya que nos embarcamos en el camino sinodal. Es un llamado para que nos escuchemos unos a otros y construyamos una iglesia y un mundo más amorosos y acogedores. Vivir la espiritualidad del sínodo es extender las manos para abrazarnos y acogernos; es también abrir nuestros oídos para escucharnos unos a otros y estar decididos a caminar juntos como una familia. Todo esto requiere humildad y abnegación, la muerte a nosotros mismos para hacer posible que otro hermano o hermana tenga la oportunidad de compartir su fe y su camino de vida. Al renovar nuestras promesas de bautismo hoy, resolvamos contribuir a la edificación de la iglesia como familia de Dios y trabajar hacia un mundo más amoroso, acogedor y unificado. Hagamos de la iglesia, esta gran familia de Dios, un refugio seguro para todos los que tienen hambre de amor, comprensión y apoyo. Y sigamos orando unos por otros y por nuestra familia parroquial.

Que Dios nos bendiga a todos y nos ayude a emprender el proceso de transformación interior que dará frutos en nuestra vida diaria.

P. Emery

READINGS

FIRST READING

IS 42:1-4, 6-7

Thus says the LORD:

Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased, upon whom I have put my spirit;

he shall bring forth justice to the nations,

not crying out, not shouting,

not making his voice heard in the street.

a bruised reed he shall not break,

and a smoldering wick he shall not quench,

until he establishes justice on the earth;

the coastlands will wait for his teaching.

I, the LORD, have called you for the victory of justice, I have grasped you by the hand;

I formed you, and set you

as a covenant of the people,

a light for the nations,

to open the eyes of the blind,

to bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness.

SECOND READING

ACTS 10:34-38

Peter proceeded to speak to those gathered

in the house of Cornelius, saying:

"In truth, I see that God shows no partiality.

Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly

is acceptable to him.

You know the word that he sent to the Israelites as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

what has happened all over Judea,

beginning in Galilee after the baptism

that John preached,

how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth

with the Holy Spirit and power.

He went about doing good

and healing all those oppressed by the devil,

for God was with him."

LK 3:15-16, 21-22

The people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ.

John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water,

but one mightier than I is coming.

I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals.

He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

After all the people had been baptized

and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying,

heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him

in bodily form like a dove.

And a voice came from heaven,

"You are my beloved Son;

with you I am well pleased."

MASS SCHEDULE

MON, TUE, THURS & FRI

8:00 am & 12:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

8:00 am & 12:00 pm, 7:00 pm (Spanish)

SATURDAY

8:00 am & 4:00 pm, 6:00 pm (French)

SUNDAY

8:00 & 10:00 am, 12:30 pm (Spanish)

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Wednesday & First Friday 8:30 - 11:30 am

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

First Friday 12:00 pm

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Saturday 3:00-3:45 pm, Sunday 11:30 am-12:15 pm

MASS INTENTIONS

†

†

†

†

†

SAT, JAN 8

8:00 am

4:00 pm

6:00 pm

SUN, JAN9

8:00 am

10:00 am

12:30 pm

MON, JAN 10

8:00 am

12:00 pm

TUES, JAN 11

8:00 am

12:00 pm

WED, JAN 12

8:00 am

12:00 pm

7:00 pm

THURS, JAN 13

8:00 am

12:00 pm

FRI, JAN 14

8:00 am

12:00 pm

SAT, JAN 15

8:00 am 4:00 pm

6:00 pm

SUN, JAN 16

8:00 am

10:00 am

12:30 pm

1JN 5:14-21/JN 3:22-30

Bridget McKenna

Gerald & Mary Geniusz & Family

Agnes Bowman

IS 42:1-4, 6-7/ACTS 10:34-38/LK 3:15-16, 21-

Holy Cross Parishioners

Betty Yoakem

Jacinta Espinoza Ramirez

1 SM 1:1-8/MK 1:14-20

Mary Whiteford

Juan Flores

1SM 1:9-20/MK 1:21-28

Mary Whiteford

Theresa Herouix

1 SM 3:1-10, 19-20/MK 1:29-39 **Vocations**

Rose Miltec Jose & Maria Vasallo

1SM 4:1-11/MK 1:40-45

Antonio Falci

Yen Nguyen

1 SM 8:4-7, 10-22A/MK 2:1-12

Ionathan Toledo Maria Antonia Moreno Perez

1 SM 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1A/MK 2:13-17

Charles Henry Wittman, Jr.

Women's Club

Michael Heggen

IS 62:1-5/1 COR 12:4-11/JN 2:1-11

James Pennington

Holy Cross Parishioners

Neftali Candelario Velez

PARISH NEWS



BINGO

Please join us for Monday evening BINGO! Doors open at 4pm. First games start at 5:45pm. Bring a friend or two! \$12 to start. Three jackpots. Hotdogs, snacks, pastries, and drinks for sale. A big thank you to all of our generous volunteers!

WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE

The Holy Cross Women's Club is in need of warm clothing (new or gently used and CLEAN). Most needed items are jackets, sweaters, jeans, socks, blankets and men's clothing. Please drop off your donated items Jan 29 & 30 ONLY in the narthex of the church! Thank you!

RUMMAGE SALE

Our next rummage sale will be February 25 & 26! Stay tuned for more information! No donations needed.

BLOOD DRIVE

Our next blood drive will be next Sunday, January 16, from 9:30 am—Noon. Donors will receive a long sleeved t-shirt and a \$10 gift card! Thank you for your generosity!

BIBLE STUDY

We are starting a ten-week study on the Gospel of Matthew in **February**, at 10 am in one of the classrooms on campus. Our group leader will be Kristen Noakes-Fry. Books are \$20. Please contact the office to register.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE THIS WEEK

Sunday, January 9

Eucharistic Ministers: 8am—N Banks, C Banks, 10am—M Branesky, A Shaw, **Lectors:** 8am—D Ashcroft, I Ashcroft, 10am—L Reale, 12:30pm—Ibeliace, Eduardo, Pedro, Pedro Jr.

Monday, January 10

Lectors: 8am—M Taylor, 12pm—K Noakes

Tuesday, January 11

Lectors: 8am—K Noakes, 12pm—M Taylor

Wednesday, January 12

Lectors: 8am—L Reale, 12pm—M Taylor, 7pm—Pablo

Thursday, January 13

Lectors: 8am—M Taylor, 12pm—L Shields

Friday, January 14

Lectors: 8am—A Convery, 12pm—L Ferreira

Saturday, January 15

Eucharistic Ministers: 4pm—T Charron, K Hossley,

Lectors: 8am—A Convery, 4pm—J Terrell

Sunday, January 16

Eucharistic Ministers: 8am—Sr Patrick, S Pacheco, 10am—J Ortez, R Hughes, **Lectors:** 8am—M Branesky, 10am—L Reale, 12:30pm—Jessica, Erik a, Norma, Rosa



PRAYER REQUESTS

Please note that names will be automatically removed from this list after three months. Please call the parish office to add a name to this list.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING

Faith, Mary, Meghan, Paul, Edith, Peggy Anne, Sylvia, Jean Ann, Felicitas, Adolfo, Jesus, Ileane, William, Jacob, Jeremy, Miranda, Lydia, Annette, Angela, Cecelia, Christine, Jill, Finnley, Jim, Lupita, Jeremiah, Jared, Phyllis, Natalie, Virginia, Jenn, Joe, Rick, Bud, Donna, Susan, Denise, George, Carmelita, Margaret H., Gianna, Tina, Laura, John, Gail, Karon, Beth Anne, Joe, Evelyn, Gerry, Ben, Mr. & Mrs. Verstappen, Victor, Karen, Rose Marie, John, Maureen, Colin, Paul, John, Joseph, Peggy, Kami, Katie, Anne-Marie, Simo, Josephine, Terry, Bill, Maria, Holly, Doris, Zima, Craig, Sharon, Mike, Robert, Phyllis, Jodi, Carly, Ann, Sharon, Beverly, Emily, Lynn, Mary Lou, Catherine, Roger, Maria, Alfredo, Eleanor, Dayana, Janet, Marilyn, Mary Ann, Bobby, Charlie, Christina, Peggy H., Mark, Renee, Glenn, Mary, Lynn, Sandra, Sally, Nick, Frank, Ed M., Paulette, Frank, Bozana, Mary Ellen, Sharon, Patty, Carlos, Maria Julia, Paula, Pam, Catherine, Amanda, Pat, Dennis, Lauren, Grace, Heidi, Scott, Lisa, Dawn Marie, Declan, Bodhi, Zora, Marie, Katherine, Miguel, Nick, Sharon, Frankie, Kathy, Lisa, Pam, Frank, Sara, Nick, Lynn, Sarah Kristen, Joseph & Theresa, Pierotti Family, Sarah, Maggie, Dyllan, Elba, Artie & Halai, Annie, Jeanie, Anne, Lynn, Chuck, Carl, Bella, Bill, Montana, Eli, Susan, Karen, Fran, Diane & Troy & Family, Lori, Patricia & Anthony, Paul, Kathy, Maryann, Mario, Anthony, Christina, Joseph & Lucy, Chuck, Robert, Missa, David, Chuck, Sue Ann, Tina, Angie, Don, Justine, Maria, the Agars, Eleanor, Fr. Tom, Arlene, Brooke, Vincent, Larry, Daniel, Kristen, Susan, Donna, Evelyn, Carmelita, Meg

STEWARDSHIP: I HOPE I AM LIKE HIM

"Who is this Christ? Is he like you?"

Perhaps you've heard this story, often attributed to the life of St. Teresa of Calcutta. A sick man asked her this question, as he marveled at her tireless service to himself and others in the name of someone named Jesus Christ.

"He is nothing like me," the saint is said to have answered. "But I hope I am like him."

Though the authenticity of this exchange cannot be verified, its message rings perfectly true: all the value of our stewardship lies in its relativity to the one in whose name we perform it.

Consider the figure of John the Baptist — a magnificent, towering character even purely from a literary or historical perspective. A martyr who fed on wild locusts and boldly spoke truth to power — a man so great some mistook him for the Messiah.

But why is he great? Because he prepared the way. All his accomplishments and escapades mean nothing if they are taken out of the context of salvation history. He only makes sense relative to Christ — and this is exactly as he wanted it. "One worthier than I is coming," he insists. And because of that humility and

that total embrace of God's will, he is given one of the greatest honors in the New Testament — he baptizes the Son of God.

Let's examine our lives in the light of their relativity to Christ. How do we prepare the way? When Christ comes to us, what do we do? How do we leave ourselves open to be actors in God's plan?

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

©LPi



PARISH STEWARDSHIP

Weekend of January 1-2, 2022

Envelopes: 160 (out of 737 families)
Online Giving: \$ 1,738.00 (from 33 donors)

Weekly Total: \$ 8,905.44 Annual Budget: \$ 291,200.00

2021 APA

As of December 20, 2021

Goal: \$ 69,248.00 Pledged: \$ 58,743.00 Paid: \$ 63,428.75

Pledges: 252 (out of 737 families)

APA Pledging

Many people feel that they can participate at a sacrificial gift level if they make payments over a period of time. We currently work with monthly and annual pledge cycles. Donors who pledge will receive reminders according to their designated payment schedule.

APA One-Time Gifts

If donors prefer, a one-time gift can be paid at the time of commitment or payment can be scheduled for later.

APA Electronic Giving

All major credit and debit cards (MasterCard, American Express, Visa and Discover) as well as direct debit payments are accepted. Donor managed online giving is available through the diocesan website at:

https://s.dosp.org/give

APA Checks

Please **do not** combine APA and Offertory in one check.



ALTAR FLOWERS

A huge thank you to everyone who has contributed to our Christmas flowers fund this year!

SANCTUARY LAMP

There are no sanctuary lamp intentions this week.

ALTAR BREAD & WINE

There are no altar bread and wine intentions this week.

CATHOLIC MINISTRY APPEAL

FUNDING DIOCESAN MINISTRIES AND SERVICES

2022 CATHOLIC MINISTRY APPEAL (CMA)

We are changing the way the Diocese funds ministries and shared expenses. Starting in 2022, diocesan leadership provided through the Office of the Bishop, Chancellor and Vicar General necessary for shepherding our local church will be funded through a Cathedraticum tax equal to 2% of parish offertory and donations. Diocesan ministries will be funded through a new, voluntary "Catholic Ministry Appeal," and the former "Annual Pastoral Appeal" (APA) will no longer take place.

Pledging

We currently work with monthly, quarterly and annual pledge cycles. Donors who pledge and do not establish an e-payment account will receive reminders through the mail according to their chosen payment schedule.

One-Time Gift

A one-time gift can be paid at the time of commitment or payment can be scheduled a later date.

Online Giving (E-Giving)

We accept all major credit/debit cards (MasterCard, American Express, Visa and Discover) as well as direct debit payments through our secure online giving system.

Donor managed online giving is available through

- 1. Our diocesan website at: GivetoMinistry.dosp.org
- 2. Text to give (NEW!) Donors can text "2022appeal" to 727-788-5125 to receive a direct link to our secure online giving page
- 3. QR Code (NEW!) Donors can scan the code below and be redirected to our secure online giving page Authorization forms for credit cards and direct debit donations are not available on in-pew envelopes or on commitment cards mailed to homes. If donors require assistance, they can contact the Campaign Processing Office by phone at 727-341-6841.



PRAYER FOR THE CATHOLIC MINISTRY APPEAL

More numerous than the stars in the sky are your blessings, O Good and Gracious God. You have called us to spread the Good News of your Son, Jesus Christ, through our words and actions. Strengthen our faith and open our hearts to care for all our brothers and sisters, especially those who need us the most. Help us to understand the difference we can make, the love we can share and the lives we can bring to Christ through our Catholic Ministry Appeal. We pray that your grace, O Lord, will lead us to be your loving heart and hands today. Amen.

ORACIÓN POR EL LLAMAMIENTO DEL MINISTERIO CATÓLICO

Más numerosas que las estrellas en el cielo son tus bendiciones, oh Dios bondadoso y compasivo. Nos has llamado para anunciar la buena nueva de tu Hijo, Jesucristo, mediante nuestras palabras y acciones. Fortalece nuestra fe y abre nuestros corazones para que cuidemos de todos nuestros hermanos y hermanas, especialmente aquellos que más nos necesitan. Ayúdanos a comprender la diferencia que podemos hacer, el amor que podemos compartir y las vidas que podemos acercar a Cristo a través de la Campaña para los Ministerios Católicos. Oramos para que tu gracia, oh Señor, nos lleve a ser hoy tu corazón y tus manos amorosas. Amén.



Very Rev. Emery Longanga, PhD *Pastor*

Rev. Fr. Jesus Martinez *Parochial Vicar*

Rev. Mr. Rick Zeitler Permanent Deacon Michele Williams Parish Manager

Marie Meza Parish Secretary

Neil Guan

Director of Faith Formation

Shirley Schuler Housekeeper Bunny Harmon Evangelization & Worship

Angelica Bañuelos-Espino Weddings & Quinceañeras

Millie Haylock Baptisms

FAITH FORMATION

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

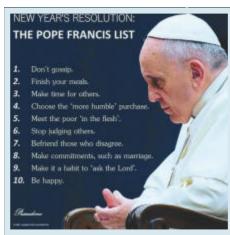
Celebrating a new year always comes with the tradition of creating resolution for oneself to improve, become better, or become richer. However, our society doesn't take into account that God is the only way for us to accomplish these resolutions. If you want to be happier and stronger, follow these tips and start it today!!!

- 1. Make prayer a priority! Some say that prayer is memorizing and reciting words. Most do not recognize that prayer is talking to God. When you drive in your car, talk to God. Thank God for your life.
- 2. Ask for help, when you need help! We do not live alone on this earth. Even hermits in monasteries rely on God for help in silence. As we hear in the Gospel of St. Luke, "For there is nothing impossible for God." We also need to ask others for help. God gave us each other.
- 3. Read the Scriptures! You might say, "I don't have time." Just like number one, make time. We give excuses for unnecessary things in our lives. How can we not give time to something essential like the scriptures?
- 4. Persevere in Prayer! Do not forget that God is always present.



Even in times we forget to pray. Pray when you do remember.

5. Create good habits! This one is the hardest to do. The previous tips mentioned deal all with creating



good habits. I suggest looking at your strengths and recognizing your weaknesses. This will help you start a strong foundation to your resolutions.

SAINT OUOTE OF THE WEEK

"No matter how sinful one may have been, if he has devotion to Mary, it is impossible that he be lost." Saint Hilary of Poitiers

FORMED WATCHLIST

This week's FORMED weekly watchlist is *Lourdes: A Story of Faith, Science, and Miracles,* a movie about a French journalist who finds his faith through the miracles of Lourdes. Visit us at holycrossrcc.com to watch this film for free on FORMED.org!



SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL THANK YOU

"We sincerely thank the parish for their support in 2021. Here is our stewardship report for 2020-21 fiscal year:

"We made 347 deliveries of 1,598 bags of food, which provided food for 896 individual people. We paid utility bills totaling \$1,774.50.We spent \$9,396.43 for food, and received

approximately \$6,583.57 worth of donated food, the majority was from the Faith Formation food drive. We also gave \$2,720.00 worth of Publix gift cards for Thanksgiving and Christmas to 82 families.

"We accomplished all the above through the generosity of our parish members, who made contributions to the poor boxes and donated food. "Thank You!"



4810 Central Avenue | 321-3321 www.brettfuneralhome.net

Elder Law Attorneys



Gilbert J. & Susan A. Rooth Ryan P. Rooth & Marie R. Zorrilla Wills, Estates, Medicaid **Asset Protection** 397-4768 | www.RoothLaw.com

Complete Plumbing Services & Supplies Johnnie Jones Plumbing Co.

Founded by Carl H. Jonasson Sr. Barbara J. Pace CFC 1427395

27247 23rd Ave. North **727-323-2300** St. Petersburg, FL 33713-4318

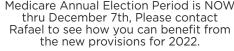
THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE



Wade W. Hancock, D.M.D.

727-541-5606









We accept medicare. Accepting new patients

Come visit us, we have 7 medical centers conveniently located in Bradenton, Clearwater, East Tampa, Largo, North Tampa, St. Petersburg and West Tampa

Simply call (727) 732-9587 to schedule a tour and get a \$10 Gift Card



ADVERTISE HERE NOW!

Contact Greg Maurer to place an ad today! gmaurer@4LPi.com or (941) 243-3206





'The Specialists in Home Repairs' 7855 62nd Way N.

544-5914 Mention This Ad to Receive

\$25 Off Any Service www.beselplumbing.com

State Lic.# CFC 1426188



Stay connected to our faith community no matter where you are by signing up to get our bulletin delivered straight to your email!

www.ParishesOnline.com

