



Dear Friends,

What is the best gift you have ever received? Was it a new car? A diamond ring? Some sports equipment? A cuddly little puppy? The more time passes, the more I can't help but contemplate what I believe to be the greatest gift that I have received. It is a gift that keeps on giving. What is it? Well, it was a gift given to me by my parents and that gift was the gift of faith through Baptism.

Now, I know what you are thinking. You are probably thinking . . . "Baptism? A gift?" You might even think to yourselves, "That's kind of a boring gift! I'd rather have a new laptop, or an HDTV, or a gift certificate for a pedicure!" Permit me to explain.

You see, the more I think about it, the more privileged I feel that I was incorporated into the Body of Christ through baptism. It was in Baptism that I received my faith. Because of my baptism, I belong to a community of believers. Because of my baptism, I have a profound relationship with a God to whom I can turn when things become difficult or who is a loving companion when things are just fine. My baptism initiated me into a life of faith that gives me the hope throughout life that I will one day live in paradise. Most importantly, salvation is offered to me through faith. What a tremendous gift it is to be a believer in the God of love!

Think about it. What if our parents had chosen not to give you and me the gift of faith? How empty would life be? There would be no Christmas celebrations, no Easter egg hunts, and nowhere to go in distress. There would be no spiritual sustenance through Holy Communion or strengthening through Confirmation. Life has a supernatural dimension because of faith. There would be no hope of eternal salvation if it weren't for faith. It is this dimension that gives ultimate fulfillment to our lives and everything pales in comparison to that!

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Jesus did not need to be baptized because He is God. Because He is God, He is sinless. Nevertheless, Jesus chose to be baptized by John in order that He might set an example for us as to what is necessary for salvation and to make holy the waters of all baptism. At the moment of His baptism, Jesus began his public ministry and ultimately brought to completion the act of salvation.

As we celebrate this wonderful day, we are reminded of the fact that our Baptism is a gift. Let us not reject this gift by falling into sin. Instead, let us surrender our lives to the life of grace and strive always to live in God's light. It is also a reminder of the importance of having our children baptized. If you have neglected giving your child the gift of faith, perhaps now is the time to celebrate this gift. If you are an adult and have never been baptized, I encourage you to take this step. You will never regret it! God bless.

Fr. Paul

**Saturday, January 9, 2009**

8:00 AM +James Utleby  
by Golden Girls Club Team #4  
4:30 PM +Robert Marion Black  
by Walter & Dolores Taylor

**Sunday, January 10, 2009**

**The Baptism of the Lord**

8:30 AM +Blanch Soucek  
by Dolores McMorro  
11:00AM Dorothy Janosek – Happy Birthday  
by Mr & Mrs Steve Janosek  
6:00 PM Parishioners & Benefactors of St. John's

**Monday, January 11, 2009**

8:00 AM +Sam Huff  
by Oscar & Ola Mae Soliz

**Tuesday, January 12, 2009**

8:00 AM +Lydia Canales  
by Mr & Mrs Alejandro Lopez

**Wednesday, January 13, 2009**

8:00 AM +Robert Marion Black  
by Lenora Z. Dansky

**Thursday, January 14, 2009**

8:00 AM +Annita Coburn  
by Jim Coburn

**Friday, January 15, 2009**

8:00 AM +Dolores Lamb  
by Keith Ponish

**Next Saturday, January 16, 2009**

8:00 AM +Jose & Tomasita Rodriguez  
by Carlos Rodriguez  
4:30 PM Souls of Purgatory  
by Mr & Mrs Bayardo

**Next Sunday, January 17, 2009**

**Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

8:30 AM +Albert Huerta  
by Steve & Laura Okoniewski  
11:00 AM +Maria Antonieta Ramirez  
by Sons & Daughters  
6:00 PM Parishioners & Benefactors

**Readings for the Week of January 10, 2010**

**Sunday:** The Baptism of the Lord  
Is 42:1-4, 6-7; Ps 29; Acts 10:34-38; Lk 3:15-16, 21-22  
**Monday:** First Week in Ordinary Time  
1 Sm 1:1-8; Ps 116; Mk 1:14-20  
**Tuesday:** 1 Sm 1:9-20; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8; Mk 1:21-28  
**Wednesday:** Saint Hilary, bishop, doctor  
1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Ps 40; Mk 1:29-39  
**Thursday:** 1 Sm 4:1-11; Ps 44; Mk 1:40-45  
**Friday:** 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Ps 89; Mk 2:1-12  
**Saturday:** 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a; Ps 21; Mk 2:13-17  
**Sunday:** Second Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Is 62:1-5; Ps 96; 1 Cor 12:4-11; Jn 2:1-11

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH ...**



Paul Koehler, Chris Perez, Beatrice Ferrell, Joseph A. Eicher, Edward Nemecek, Oscar Soliz, Gus Blomquist, Jimmy Alvarez, Florence Fuertez, Eddie Rivera, Mary Ann Broyles, Mike Konz, Gabriel Alvarado, Cookie Adame, Cameron Marshall, Frances La Vecchia, Gilbert Rodriguez, Alvaro Ramos Olier, Cattia Longoria, Debbie Fuqua, Amelia Ysasi Herrera, Reid Ebrom, Antonia Martinez, David & Ariana Hernandez, Joseph Treviño, J. R. Rios, Adan Benavides, Sr., Mia Jolie Rios, Ofelia Arredondo.

## The Baptism of the Lord

### Please Pray For Our Troops



Sgt. Roger Elkins, Glen Turner Jr., Sgt Matt Maufin, Aaron Philipchuck, Dwayne Solis, Charles Krohn Jr., Oscar Rossi Billy Swatzell, James O'Donnell, Paul Adame, Brandon Felton, Zicorian Coleman, Wendy Hand, D'Aldo Alaniz, Paul Walton, Joseph Yglesias, Jaime Robles, Rudy Hoyt, Roseann Guerrero, Sr. Airman Charlie Stevens, Sr. Airman Patrick Scheuter, Matt Hettinger, Mike Brown, Erik Garza, Damian Saldivar, Maj. Chuck Taylor, Alex Saucedo, Jay Alvarez, John Rodriguez, Jr., Jimmy Karjian, Orlando Rodriguez, Ken Demick, Yvette T. Demick, Scott Nielsen, Timothy Johnson, Mr. Rogers, Lt. jg John Dolby III, Michael Nelson, Michael A. Berry, Gabriel Reza, Mike Llamas, Manny Olvalle, Luis Martinez, Lt. Hector Jude Garcia, Lt. jg Kristopher McAbee, Capt. John A. Malley, Chris Hesse, Natalie Manzano, Capt. Cristian Alejandro Pinzon, David D. Ruiz, Melissa Davila, Ramon Panganiban, Jr., Sgt. Carlos Torres, Jr., Michael D. Valdez, Lt. Norman Renfro.

### Ministry Schedules

#### This Week's Lectors:

#### Next Week' Lectors

4:30 pm Leonard & Jackie Lee	4:30 pm Paulette Guajardo
8:30am Mary Jones	8:30am Alonzo Rivera
11:00am Cat Longoria	11:00am Karen McIntire

#### This Week's EM's:

#### Next Week's EM's:

4:30 pm Olaya Soliz, Luz Bernardo, Linda, Michael & Crystal Hite	4:30 pm Sally Escobar, Randy Ritter, Judy & Gerald Beckman, Mary, Samantha & Tracy Mora
8:30am Maricela Spencer, Connie Salas, Bonner Dorsey, Roland & Leila Longoria	8:30am Imelda Ramirez, Connie Salas, Mary Carrillo, Mary Jo & Mark Cheesman
11:00am Maribel Muñoz, Rene & Janie Esquivel, Cat Longoria, Judy Cruz, Velma Moreno	11:00 am Marlene King, Norma Huerta, Cindy Morin, Cynthia & Gabriel Gatica, Maribel Muñoz

#### This Week's Ushers:

#### Next Week's Ushers:

4:30pm James Coburn, Gene Gonzalez, Patty Dolan, Richard Dolan	4:30pm James Coburn, Patty Dolan, Richard Dolan, Don Fettig
8:30am Lawrence Balderas, Rhonda Balderas, Steve Hansen, Monica Hansen	8:30am Allan Rasmussen, Jane Cheesman, Bill Cheesman, Bea Heenan
11:00am Roberto Moreno, Mike Navada, David Garcia, Henry Lamb	11:00am Vanessa Bedoya, Victoria Bedoya, Mike Navada, David Garcia

### Sunday Collection



*Gifts for God*

Dec 25 & Dec 27, 2009

Envelope & Loose	\$8,514.37	\$7,242.15
Building Fund		25.00
Religious Retirement		200.00

**Bless the Lord  
my soul.**

### St. John's Parish Dates to Remember

Jan 10	9:00 AM	Blood Drive	
Jan 11	7:00 PM	Women's Council Meeting	RM #1
Jan 12	6:30 PM	Junior Girl Scouts	RM #4
Jan 13	7:00 PM	Bible Study	Church
Jan 18		<b>NO</b> Parish Council Meeting	

### Mother Theresa Homeless Shelter



Sister Rose, her staff and all their clients are so grateful to the generous members of St. John's for the wonderful gifts contributed through the angel tree. Your gifts brought joy to so many of the less fortunate. Thank you for all you do. We will be making a regular delivery to the shelter on **Wednesday, January 13**. Paper products, laundry supplies, hand sanitizer, and personal hygiene items, are greatly appreciated and needed. They also have a special need for coffee and coffee creamer.

### Ministries Day Conference

Everyone involved in any ministry or organization at St. John's is encouraged and urged to attend the annual Ministries Day Conference sponsored by the Diocese of Corpus Christi. The conference features speakers on various topics related to ministry, pastoral care, and charity. The Keynote Speaker is Most Rev. Frank J. Caggiano, Auxiliary Bishop of Brooklyn. The Conference will be held on **Saturday, January 16, 2010 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** To receive the group rate: Register at the parish office. Cost is \$20, of which the parish will pay half for anyone interested. Please register as soon as possible. For more information call 991-4400.

### New Parish Photo Directory



We need you to make our new family album complete. Help us put faces with names by participating in our 2<sup>nd</sup> parish photo directory. We have chosen Lifetouch to help us get to know one another better and to tell our history. Lifetouch will be here from February 2 - 6 and from February 9 - 13. Every family that participates will receive a complimentary 8 X 10 portrait (no purchase necessary). We will be scheduling portrait sessions soon.

### Youth Ministry Announcements

**LIFE TEEN:** Get ready for our Spring KICKOFF **this Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>** at 7pm-8:30pm! \*

You can now sign up for STEUBENVILLE SOUTH June 25-27, 2010!!! Get the form and more info from Angie – limited spots so sign up soon.

**EDGE:** A new semester of EDGE is almost here! Be there **Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>** at 7pm-8:15pm! \*

\*If you are new to Life Teen or Edge or haven't filled out a registration yet, go to [www.stjohnyouth.com](http://www.stjohnyouth.com) and click on Life Teen/Edge and go to "registration" on the right to print out a form.

