



# St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston.

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Fr. Fred's Year of Mercy blog fathermickey.com

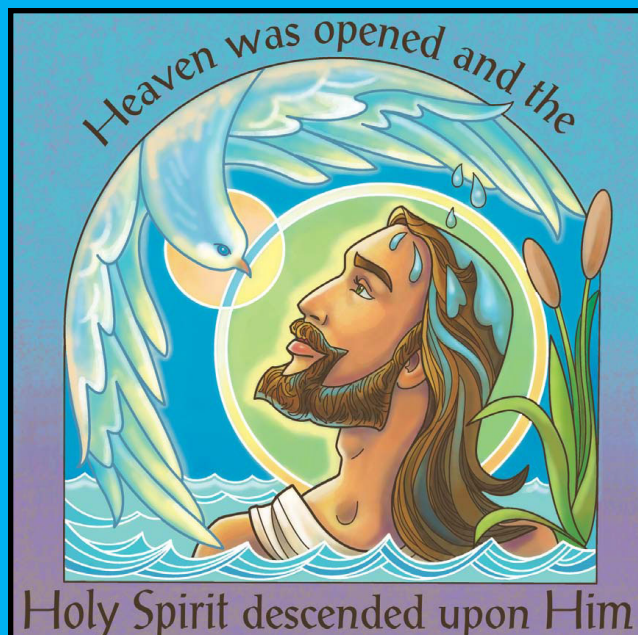
## The Baptism of the Lord

January 10, 2016

### STAFF

#### Rev. Fred Valone .... Pastor

- Felix Ramos .....Permanent Deacon
- Kathy Boscarino .....DRE / Youth Minister
- Maria Delgado .....Elementary CCE Coordinator
- ..... Dir. of Music Ministry
- Jill Baker ..... Nursery Coordinator
- Dell Wells .....Bookkeeper
- Sylvia Vitela ..... Secretary
- Laura Puente .....Custodian



Year of Mercy



**“But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved) . . .” Ephesians 2: 4-5**

### What is it?

It may be only given, not taken or bought; what the sinner desires but the saintly do not.  
*Anonymously submitted; found in current Reader's Digest*

*Answer: Forgiveness*

### LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS

#### Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday	5:30 p.m. (English)
Sunday	7:45 a.m. (English)
	10:45 a.m. (English)
	12:30 p.m. (Spanish)

#### Week Day Mass Schedule

Tuesday - Friday 7:15 a.m.

#### Adoration/Adoracion

Tuesdays after 7:15 mass through 5:30 p.m.

#### Sacrament of Reconciliation Sacramento de Reconciliación

Tuesday / Martes	4:30 - 5:30 p.m.
Saturday / Sabado	4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

#### Parish Office Hours

#### Horario de la Oficina Parroquial

Monday / Lunes	11:00 - 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday—Friday Martes — Viernes	9:00 - 4:30 p.m.

## MASS INTENTIONS of the WEEK

Sat	1/9	5:30 pm	Bob and Frona Massey (54th wedding anniversary)	
Sun	1/10	7:45 am	Phil Kernek	+
		10:45 am	Parishioners	
		12:30 pm	Maria Elena Ramirez	+
Mon	1/11	No Mass		
Tues	1/12	7:15 am	Rev. Richard M. Patrick	+
Wed	1/13	7:15 am	Chad Wagamon	+
Thurs	1/14	7:15 am	Elizabeth Mwendu	+
Fri	1/15	7:15 am	Kenneth Larson	+
Sat	1/16	5:30 pm	St. Thomas Ladies	
Sun	1/17	7:45 am	Parishioners	
		10:45 am	Charles Riley	+
		12:30 pm	Benigno and Oracio Ramirez	+

## Weekly Readings



Mon	1/11	1Sam.1:1-8;Mk.1:14-20
Tues	1/12	1Sam.1:9-20;Mk.1:21-28
Wed	1/13	1Sam.3:1-10,19-20;Mk.1:29-39
Thurs	1/14	1Sam.4:1-11;Mk.1:40-45
Fri	1/15	1Sam.8:4-7,10-22;Mk.2:1-12
Sat	1/16	1Sam.9:1-4,17-19,19:1;Mk.2:13-17
Sun	1/17	Is.62:1-5;1Cor.12:4-11;Jn,2:1-12

### REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS / RECUERDEN EN SUS ORACIONES...

Judy Adib, Steve Aguayo, Richard Almandarez, Veronica Antwi, James Aubey, Irma Avalos, Gene Barrett, Jordan Bergeron, Kathy Boscarino, Fidelis Burton, Phillip Caito, Dick Colgrove, Sunni Cook, Sabrina Coronado, Terry Corral, Melanie Davis, Margie Eglsaer, Colin Defour, Jose Luis Ecamilla, Paul Fivel, Diane Fuller, Diana Garcia, Rita Ghirardi, Winifred Grivich, Mary Gutermuth, Dorothy Laskoskie, Wilson and Naomi Lede, Andrew Leal, Sam and Marie Martinez, Becky McGaughey, Cheri McGee, Coby Meinzer, Carol Mendel, Bill Middleton, Donna Moore, Floyd and Maryann Moore, Tom Morales, Lourdes Mosqueda, Paula Legler Phillips, Brenda Piñeda, Odell Rachal, John Raia, Lillian Rodriguez, Lydia Rodriguez, Maria Ines Rodriguez, Jack Rumfield, Ana Marie Santos, John Sarley, Jerry Seaton, Cindy Schwanke, Marilyn Shepherd, Kayden Bryn Shipley, Wanda H. Smith, Elizabeth Speck, Tim Speck, Alfredo Torres, Emily Torres, David and Dorothy Townsend, Margie Turner, Matthew Varnum, Leo Vasquez, Joe Vitela, Dell Wells, Alma Williams, Rose Youngblood.

**Important Office Memo to all Parish Ministries/Organizations:** As the new year is about to start, we are now scheduling our parish ministries/organizations events in our 2016 calendar. It is important that we receive your yearly schedule to be included. Please email to [svitela@sbcglobal.net](mailto:svitela@sbcglobal.net) or bring them by the office. Thank you for your cooperation.

### LENTEN FAITH-SHARING SMALL GROUPS...

Lent begins on February 10th, and St. Thomas will provide several opportunities to participate in a Lenten faith-sharing small group. A good way to meet Christ is to share faith through Disciples on the Journey. Small groups provide opportunities to:

- \* deepen one's personal relationship with God
- \* enliven one's faith by personal reflection on scripture
- \* provide new insights into the Sunday readings

**Sign-ups will be held on this weekend and next  
January 10th and 17th.**

For those interested in leading a small group, please contact **Kathy Boscarino** at (936) 295-8159.

## Diocesan Service Fund 2015

As of 12/28/2015

Parish Goal	\$35,000.00
Total Amount Paid	\$43,997.00
Total Amount Pledged	\$45,465.00
Amount Paid Over Goal	\$8,997.00
Amount pledged over Goal	\$10,465.00
Total number participants	154
Percent Paid	125.71%

**Stewardship for Solemnity of Mary: \$ 1,444.50**

**Stewardship for January 3rd: \$10,414.61**

**St. Thomas Mission: \$ 2,347.20**

***Thank you for your parish support!***

**TEMPER AND PRIDE...** Temper is what gets most of us into trouble. Pride is what keeps us there. —Anonymous

**HURTFUL SIN...** Sin is not hurtful because it is forbidden, but it is forbidden because it is hurtful.

—Benjamin Franklin

*Father Fred writes...* As we conclude our Christmas season, we might reflect on the goal of this year of mercy. As Pope Francis has stated, *I hope that this year will create a Church of mercy, steeped in love and forgiveness, ready to be like Jesus in every way. That is how the world is being saved.* Saint John of Kanty said that what gives off light must endure burning. This expression can be interpreted in various ways. But if we are going to be merciful as God is merciful (Luke 6:36), then there will be some dying and rising happening in our lives in 2016. While the challenge of being merciful like God seems too big for us weak, imperfect disciples, we must always carry in our hearts the Christmas message, Jesus is Emmanuel - God with us - to help us do that which may seem impossible. A reflection in the *Magnificat* picked up on this theme of God equipping us for our mission. As the *Magnificat* article states: *God's justice requires that he give the creatures whose nature he himself endowed with intelligence all that is needed by them to fulfill the God-imposed demands, and to achieve the God-assigned aims.* At the end of the article, the author makes a good distinction between justice and mercy. God is a perfect balance of both as Psalm 85 reveals to us. As the author of the *Magnificat* article stated: *The essence of justice consists in giving that which is strictly due; but the essence of mercy is to take into account not only that which is strictly due, but also weaknesses, infirmities, and defects of all kinds, and in considering them, to give more than is required by merit and to punish less for offenses than the guilt deserves.* Mercy is how we reflect and share the light of Christ with others. May this be a year stepped in God's mercy.

## K-6 CCE NEWS

Maria Delgado, Elementary CCE Coordinator

**Elementary K-6 CCE** Please pray for the children in St. Thomas Parish Community who are preparing for their sacraments this upcoming spring.

**K-6 Elemental CCE** Por favor de orar por nuestros hijos en nuestra Parroquia de Sto. Tomas quines se preparan para recibir sus sacramentos en la Primavera.

**ENGLISH BAPTISM PREPARATION SESSION...** will be held on Tuesday, January 12th at 7:00 p.m. in the Adult Education Bldg. Please pre-register in the office before attending session. A copy of the child's birth certificate should be presented at time of registration. Deadline for registration is Friday, January 8th.

**THE CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS ...** will meet on Monday, January 11th at 6:30 p.m. in the parish hall.

**JOIN US... on Monday, January 11th at 9:00 AM** to take down the remaining decorations in the church. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

### Part-time Music Coordinator Needed

St. Thomas is currently looking for a part-time Music Coordinator. The position will be open January 1, 2016. The successful applicant will be proficient in both piano (read and play piano music as written) and vocals. This person should have 2-3 years of experience in leading music, cantoring and accompanying in a Mass setting. This may become a fulltime position in May. Please contact the church office at **936-295-8159** if interested.

### Adult Confirmation class forming

We are currently forming the Adult Confirmation Class. Those eligible must be baptized and receive first Eucharist; 18 years of age and have graduated High School; if married, they are married in the Catholic faith or have an irregular marriage corrected before Confirmation. Please contact **Kathy Boscarino** or the church office at **936-295-8159**.

## *Who will Serve?*

St. Thomas is looking for youth to serve at the Altar. Youth must have completed the 4th grade and have received their first Holy Communion, are registered members of our parish and *are at a maturity level appropriate for serving at the altar of our Lord.*

### ALTAR SERVER MINISTRY WORKSHOP

When: Saturday 1/30/2016

Time: 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Where: STAY Youth Center

For more information please contact Kathy at the church office or IBVO

 <p>St. Thomas the Apostle Youth</p>	<p><b>Contact Information</b>          Kathy Boscarino, DRE/YM          kathybosc@sbcglobal.net          (936) 520-6524  <a href="http://www.saintthomashuntsville.org">http://www.saintthomashuntsville.org</a></p>	<p><i>Weekly Events</i></p> <p>Sundays CCE 9:15 a.m.—10:30 a.m.          Edge (7th –8th grade) Parish Hall          Lifeteen (9th– 11th) Youth Center</p> <p>Wednesdays <i>STAY</i> Youth Night          6:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m. Yourh Center</p>
<p>But God proved His love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. Romans 5:8</p>		

*News and Events*

Sunday, January 17, 2016 No CCE

Wednesday, January 20, 2016 STAY Youth Night

*Upcoming Events*

Saturday, January 30, 2016 Altar Server Training 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. STAY Youth Bldg.

Saturday, Feb 20, 2016 Archdiocesan Junior High Youth Rally—10:30 a.m.—9:00 p.m. @ St. Simon & Jude. Opened to all 6th, 7th and 8th graders. Registration is due 1/17/2016 Fee: \$40.00  
 Theme: **Mercy Games** Registration forms can be picked up during Edge, CCE, Youth Night or online @ [www.saintthomashuntsville.org](http://www.saintthomashuntsville.org) under Faith Formation / Edge Contact Kathy Boscarino, DRE/YM for more information.

**YOU'RE INVITED**

*Please come to the:*

**Jubilee for Laity**

**When:** Monday 1/18/2016;  
 5:00 p.m.—7:30 p.m.

**Where:** Parish Hall

**Why:** To Celebrate You,  
 St. Thomas Parishioner

**ESTÁS INVITADO**

*Por favor venga a la:*

**Jubileo de los laicos**

**Cuando:** Lunes 1/18/2016  
 5:00 p.m.—7:30 p.m.

**Donde:** Salón Parroquial

**Por qué:** Para celebrarte a tí.  
 Feligrés de Santo Tomás



**TURNING THE TIDE...** When everything goes against you, till it seems as though you could not hold on a minute longer, never give up then, for that is just the place and time that the tide will turn. —Harriet Beecher Stowe

*Palabras del Padre Fred...* Al concluir la temporada de Navidad, podríamos reflexionar sobre la meta de este año de la misericordia. Como Francisco ha dicho, *Yo espero que este año pueda crear una Iglesia de la misericordia, llena de amor y perdón, lista para ser como Jesús en todos los sentidos. Así es como se está salvando el mundo.* San Juan de Kanty dijo que lo que ofrece luz, debe permanecer encendido. Esta expresión se puede interpretar de varias maneras. Pero si vamos a ser misericordiosos como Dios es misericordioso (Lucas 6:36), entonces habrá un poco de morir y resucitar sucediendo en nuestras vidas en el 2016. Mientras que el reto de ser misericordiosos como Dios parece demasiado grande para nosotros que somos débil, imperfectos discípulos, siempre debemos llevar en nuestro corazón el mensaje de Navidad, Jesús es Emmanuel - Dios con nosotros - para ayudarnos a hacer lo que puede parecer imposible. Una reflexión en el *Magnificat* recogió sobre este tema de Dios nos equipamiento para nuestra misión. Como el artículo *Magnificat* expresa: *la justicia de Dios exige que se le dé a las criaturas cuya naturaleza él mismo dotado de inteligencia de todo lo que se necesita por ellos para cumplir con las exigencias impuestas por Dios, y para lograr los objetivos asignados por Dios.* Al final del artículo, el autor hace una buena distinción entre la justicia y la misericordia. Dios es un perfecto equilibrio de ambos como el Salmo 85 nos revela. A medida que el autor del artículo *Magnificat* declaró: *La esencia de la justicia consiste en dar lo estrictamente debido; pero la esencia de la misericordia es tener en cuenta no sólo lo que es estrictamente debido, pero también debilidades, enfermedades, y defectos de todo tipo, y al considerar los dar más de lo requerido por el mérito y castigar menos por delitos que la culpa merece.* La misericordia es la forma en que reflexionamos y compartimos la luz de Cristo con los demás. Que este sea un año lleno de la misericordia de Dios.

**Respect Life Events ...** Saturday, January 16:  
**Houston Mass and Rosary For Life ...** Join the Helpers of God's Precious Infants in a peaceful, prayerful Mass and Rosary to solemnly mark the 43rd anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade decision and the loss of over 57 million American children. 8:30 a.m. Mass at Catholic Charismatic Center, 1949 Cullen, Houston, followed by Rosary Procession to Planned Parenthood, 4600 Gulf Freeway. All Priests and deacons are invited to participate. Please bring your own albs. For more information, contact Vicky Whynott at **832-875-5126** or in Spanish, Viola Griselda Mendoza-Morales at **832-660-3924**.

Join the Helpers of God's Precious Infants at the **Austin Rally For Life** Saturday, January 23  
Buses are available from Houston, Pearland and Spring. Contact Life Advocates (**713-682-LIFE** or email: **lifeadv@lifeadv.net**), Richard Lang-Pearland (**713-298-4755** email: **right.2.life@sbcglobal.net**) or Christ The Good Shepherd-Spring at **281-376-6831**. For more info go to **www.texasrallyforlife.org**

**Do you know a couple that is having a challenging situation in their relationship and need help?**  
We may be able to coach you as a couple. We offer enrichment sessions, consulting and mentoring for married couples experiencing some crisis or challenges in their relationship. For more detailed information please contact the office of Family Life Ministry at **713-741-8711**.

**¿Está interesado (a) en hablar con alguien sobre su relación matrimonial?** Podemos ayudarle si está atravesando por algún reto en su relación de pareja. Ofrecemos sesiones de enriquecimiento matrimonial, consultoría y mentoría. Para mayor información por favor comuníquese al **713- 741-8711**.

**NOTICIA IMPORTANTE de la oficina para todos los ministerios de la parroquia:** A medida que el nuevo año está a punto de comenzar, ahora estamos programando el calendario de eventos de nuestros ministerios/organizaciones parroquiales para el año 2016. **Es importante que envíe su calendario anual para ser incluidos.** Envíe por correo electrónico a **svitela@sbcglobal.net** o puede llevarlo a la oficina. Gracias por su cooperación.

**SESIONES DE PREPARACIÓN PARA BAUTISMO...** Miércoles y jueves, el 13 y 14 de enero, 7:00p.m. en salón parroquial. Participantes deben registrarse en la oficina antes de asistir las sesiones. Una copia del certificado de nacimiento del niño/a debe ser presentada. Última fecha para inscribirse es el viernes, 8 de enero.

**Desea obtener alguna ayuda para saber como manejar a sus hijos?** La oficina del Ministerio de Vida Familiar cuenta con un selecto grupo de 8 profesionales alrededor de la Arquidiócesis que pueden proveer estos servicios a padres que desean obtener ayuda en la crianza de sus hijos. Estos programas están diseñados para ofrecer formación y para guiar a los padres en diversas situaciones. Para mayor información por favor comuníquese al **713-741-8739** o al **713-741-8711**.