

# Holy Cross Catholic Church

## The Baptism of the Lord

January 11, 2026

### Parish Staff

#### Pastor

*Father Michael Hendershott,  
S.T.L.*

#### Pastoral Care of the Sick

*Deacon Stephen May  
(865) 221-1076*

#### Parish Secretary

*Rebekah Snyder  
(865) 429-5587  
office@holycrosscatholicchurchtn.org*

#### Resource Manager

*Michael Landree  
resources@holycrosscatholicchurchtn.org*

### Office Hours

**Monday-Friday**  
9:00am-2:00pm

### Gift Shop Hours

**Monday-Friday**  
9:00am-2:00pm

#### Weekends

After all Masses



The Baptism of Christ, Bartolomé Esteban Murillo

### Mass Schedule

#### Tuesday-Friday

12:00pm

#### Saturday

5:00pm English  
7:00pm Español

#### Sunday

8:00am English  
10:30am English

### Confession

#### Saturday

3:00-4:00pm  
6:30-6:55pm

#### First Saturday

8:30-9:30am

### Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament

First Friday 1:00pm until  
10:00am Saturday

# A Note from the Pastor

***Dear Parishioners and Friends of Holy Cross,***

Blessed feast of the Baptism of Our Lord! In today's Gospel, we hear the voice of the Father saying, "*This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.*" This is one of the few times in Sacred Scripture that we hear the Father speaking, and it is the only time that the Holy Spirit descends upon Christ like a dove. The Father declared who Jesus is, His identity, and how He was pleasing to His Heavenly Father—how much the Father loves His Beloved Son. Notice that the Father's Love precedes Our Lord's public mission. He is not loved by the Father after the successful completion of His mission—to come into the world and die for our sins. Rather the Father's Love comes before Our Lord's mission and gives Him the strength to complete His mission. In the Baptism of Our Lord, Jesus is affirmed in His identity and strengthened by the Father's Love to be driven by the Holy Spirit into the desert precisely to endure temptation and to give us an example of how to combat temptation by prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. This time in the desert prepared Him for His public ministry, to successfully complete the mission of redeeming us from our sins on the Holy Cross through His passion, death, and resurrection.

It is fitting then that we are focusing on promoting holy vocations in this new Year of Our Lord 2026. We will be praying for and considering how to best respond to the call of God in our life to fulfill the mission that He desires for us for our fulfillment, happiness, beatitude. Like Jesus, we need the affirmation of the truth of our identity from the heavenly Father and be strengthened by the Father's Love in order to respond to God's call. First therefore we pray for vocations, many holy vocations, to Holy Orders, Religious Life, and Holy Matrimony. Second, we learn about vocations in the Church. And third we prayerfully support and gently encourage those who God may be calling to the mission of a vocation. When I was growing up, the things that helped me the most to prayerfully discern the call of God in my life were the following:

1. **Daily Mass** with devout receptions of Holy Communion accompanied by a prayer of preparation for Holy Communion beforehand and prayers of thanksgiving afterwards to foster an interior life of receptivity to divine grace. There are some beautiful prayers in our missals that can be used to help foster fruitful receptions of Holy Communion.
2. **Monthly Confession** to remove the obstacles of sin so that God's work can become ever more profound in the soul by overcoming temptations and sins by sacramental grace to foster spiritual growth.
3. **Monthly Holy Hour of Adoration** before the Most Blessed Sacrament exposed for veneration to cultivate an interior spiritual life through meditation and silence so that the voice of the Father's affirming and strengthening Love can be heard more profoundly. Thus God's mission for our lives may be heard and fulfilled with the help of His grace.
4. **The Daily Rosary**, a devotion to Our Blessed Mother Mary, sweetly and beautifully teaches us how to be disciples of Christ through contemplating and living the sacred mysteries in the lives of Jesus and Mary. Our Lady is the model disciple who shows us by her example how to listen to the voice of God and follow in His Way.

Visit [dioknox.org/vocations](http://dioknox.org/vocations) for more information on discerning vocations and how to be in contact with the Diocese of Knoxville to receive gentle support in the prayerful process of contemplating and considering a vocation to serve God and His Holy Church.

# Mass Intentions & Readings

Saturday after Epiphany  
The Baptism of the Lord  
Monday of the First Week in Ordinary Time  
Tuesday of the First Week in Ordinary Time  
Wednesday of the First Week in Ordinary Time  
Thursday of the First Week in Ordinary Time  
Friday of the First Week in Ordinary Time  
Saint Anthony  
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, January 10  
Sunday, January 11  
Monday, January 12  
Tuesday, January 13  
Wednesday, January 14  
Thursday, January 15  
Friday, January 16  
Saturday, January 17  
Sunday, January 18

† Denotes deceased

5pm † Holy Souls in Purgatory  
7pm † Maria Siszka

8am People of Holy Cross  
10:30am † Natalie Alexander

No Mass

12pm Patsy Lemming

12m † Patrick Lemming

12pm † George & Martha Billetz

12pm † Rev. Jozef Zawada

5pm People of Holy Cross  
7pm † Rev. Ron Stone

8am Tom Kane  
10:30am DellaSantina Family

## Pray for the Living & the Dead

Oremos por los Vivos y los Muertos

Recalling that praying for the living and the dead is one of the seven spiritual works of mercy, let us pray for one another, especially for those in need of our prayers.

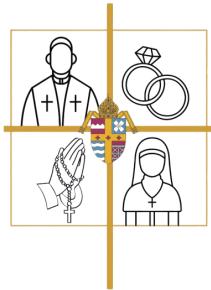
Recordando que orar por los vivos y los muertos es una de las siete obras espirituales de misericordia, oremos unos por otros, especialmente por aquellos que necesitan nuestras oraciones.

In your charity, please pray for: Madelyn Exposito, Russel Qualantone, Frank Aparicio, Teresita Fajardo, Adrian Hernandez, Nicolas Hernandez, Jesus Arguez, Clarissa Palcone, Carolyn Stecher

If you would like to submit the name of a loved one to be prayed for, please contact the parish office. Names will be included for one month, unless noted otherwise.

Si desea enviar el nombre de un ser querido para que se ore por él, póngase en contacto con la oficina parroquial. Los nombres se incluirán durante un mes, a menos que se indique lo contrario.

# Special Announcement



## Called By Name Sunday Diocese of Knoxville Office of Vocations

January 17-18, 2026

*"I have called you by name; you are Mine." - Isaiah 43:1*

**Called by Name** is a diocesan-wide campaign to identify faithful young Catholics, both men and women, who could be future leaders in the Church.

This includes, of course, those who may be called to priesthood and religious life, but also anyone who is serving the Church with their gifts and talents.

Parishioners are asked to submit the names of young people in high school or older, boys and girls, who show love and devotion to the Church, and **who possibly could be called to priesthood or religious life**.

The Office of Vocations will offer gentle support to these young people as they discern their vocations.



Visit <https://dioknox.org/called-by-name-form> or fill out a form in **the narthex** to submit the names of a young person that you believe may have a vocation to priesthood or religious life.

You could be the one that encourages them to consider giving their life to God!

## Announcements

### Mass Music Update

### *Actualización sobre la música en la misa*

We will be returning to the Latin Gloria that Father Ron Stone introduced to the parish. During Christmastide & Lent, we will be learning the Kyrie, Sanctus, & Agnus Dei that go along with this Mass setting. The scores and mp3 recordings for the Kyrie & Gloria are available on our website. If you would like these texted to you, please text "Mass Parts" to (865) 771-4929.

*Retomaremos el Gloria en latín que el Padre Ron Stone introdujo en la parroquia. Durante la Navidad y la Cuaresma, aprenderemos el Kyrie, el Sanctus y el Agnus Dei que acompañan a esta misa. Las partituras y las grabaciones en mp3 del Kyrie y el Gloria están disponibles en nuestra página web. Si desea recibirlas por mensaje de texto, envíe un mensaje con la palabra "Partes de la Misa" al (865)771-4929.*

### Diocesan Employment Opportunities

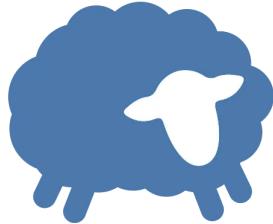
The Diocese of Knoxville Chancery Office is seeking a **Coordinator of Youth Ministry** and an **Administrative Assistant to the Office of Youth and Young Adults**.

Please see the diocesan website for detailed job descriptions at <https://dioknox.org/employment>  
Send cover letter and resume  
to Maura Lentz at [mlentz@dioknox.org](mailto:mlentz@dioknox.org)

### National Collection for the Church in Latin America

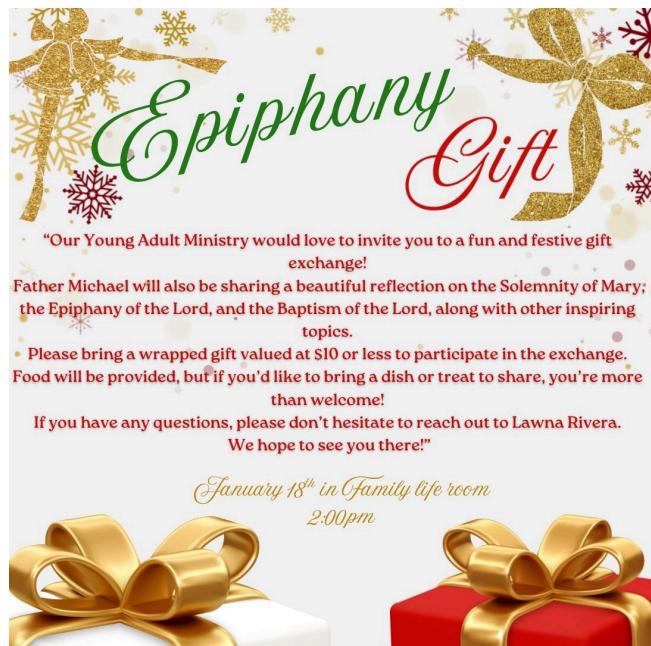
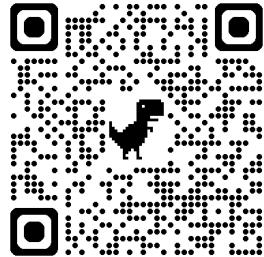
A second collection will be taken up on the weekend of January 25 in support of the pastoral work of the Church in the Caribbean, Mexico, Central America, and South America. Your donation will assist the bishops, priests and religious in countries such as Haiti, El Salvador and Chile in their work of evangelization, the formation of seminarians and religious, catechesis, and youth ministry. Thank you for your generosity in support of the Church in Latin America.

# Announcements



## Flocknote

We are excited to announce that we have Flocknote for the Parish! We will be using it to send out important announcements and parish updates via email. We also plan to start a periodic newsletter. If you would like to sign up, you can find the form at the bottom of the front page of our website, or by scanning the QR code on this page. We also have sign-up slips in the narthex.



## Weekly Events

### Bible Study

Join our Pastor in a contemplative study of the Word of God in Sacred Scripture on Thursdays at 9:30am in the Family Life Room. Father Hendershott provides scriptural commentary as we read through Genesis and meditate on the Providence of God through salvation history.

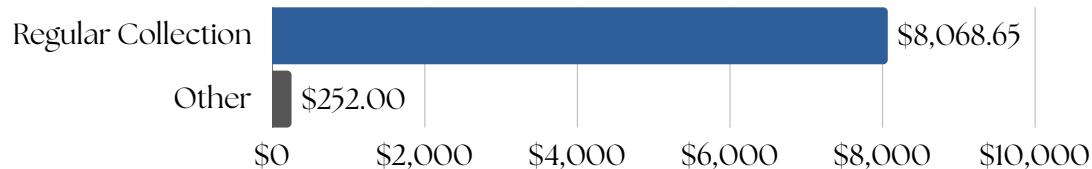
### High School Youth Group Escuela Secundaria Para Grupo Juvenil

Grades 9-12 meeting once a month on a designated Tuesday from 6-8pm in the Family Life Room. All high school and soon to be high school students are welcomed to attend. The next meeting will be January 15th. For more information, contact Nick Sisto at: [nlsisto@wlwlaw.net](mailto:nlsisto@wlwlaw.net)

*El grupo de jóvenes de secundaria, de los grados 9 -12 se reúnen los martes de 6pm a 8:00pm Siempre va a ver comida y diversión. Alentamos a todos nuestros estudiantes de escuela secundaria y futuros estudiantes de escuela secundaria que asisten. Para obtener más información, comuníquese con Nick Sisto.*

# Stewardship

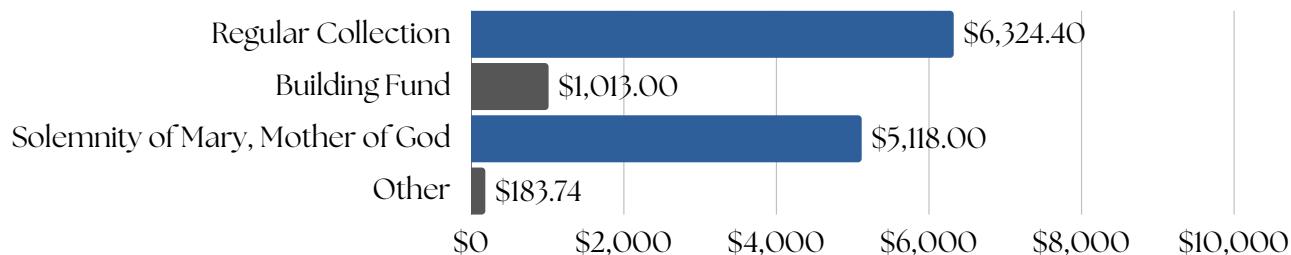
December 20/21



December 27/28



January 3/4



Since on average 3 out of 5 Mass attendees are visitors, we invite our guests to consider a “timeshare” stewardship with our parish. Our website has a donation link, and donations can be set to match *the time you share with us*.

As our monthly expenses are \$25,000, please consider Holy Cross in your donations and in your will.

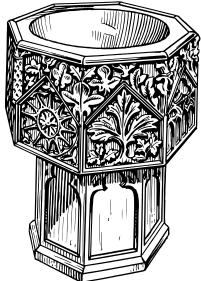
*You are being enriched in every way for all generosity, which through us produces thanksgiving to God, for the administration of this public service is not only supplying the needs of the holy ones but is also overflowing in many acts of thanksgiving to God...*

*Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!*

*2 Corinthians 11-12, 15*

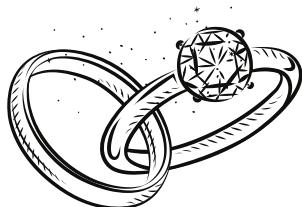
# Sacramental Preparation

## **Baptism**



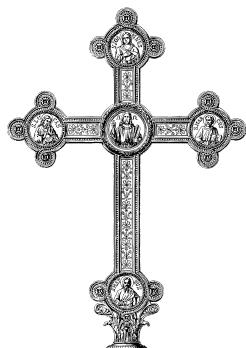
Congratulations on your newborn! In order to prepare for baptism, parents and god parents need to attend baptismal preparation classes before the proposed baptism date.

*Si necesita información para bautizos en español, por favor comuníquese con el señor Alejandro Mondragón, El está encargado de la preparación para los bautizos. Su numero de teléfono es: (865) 227-9380.*



## **Matrimony**

Congratulations on your engagement! Please contact the parish office to make arrangements for your marriage at least four months before your desired wedding date.



## **Catholic Faith Formation Classes**

We have Faith Formation classes on Wednesday nights 6:30-7:30pm. Our religious education teachers prepare children in grades K-12 to receive their sacraments. For more information, please contact our Director of Religious Education, Gianfranco, at [gdellasantina@yahoo.com](mailto:gdellasantina@yahoo.com).



## ***Are you interested in becoming Catholic?***

Holy Mother Church welcomes you! For more information, please contact our OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults) teacher, Tylor Starkey, at [t.starkey88@gmail.com](mailto:t.starkey88@gmail.com).

## Bulletin Notes

### Bulletin Submission Deadline

### *Fecha límite para la presentación de boletines*

Please submit requests for weekend bulletin or pulpit announcements to the Parish Office email address by 5pm on Monday.

*Por favor, envíen las solicitudes para los avisos del boletín o los anuncios desde el púlpito del fin de semana a la dirección de correo electrónico de la oficina parroquial antes de las 5 de la tarde del lunes.*

### Advertising Opportunity

### *Oportunidad publicitaria*

If you would like to advertise your business on the back of our Holy Cross bulletin & provide a donation to help cover the weekly printing costs, please contact the Parish Office.

*Si desea anunciar su negocio en la parte posterior de nuestro boletín de Holy Cross y hacer una donación para ayudar a cubrir los costos de impresión semanales, comuníquese con la oficina parroquial.*