

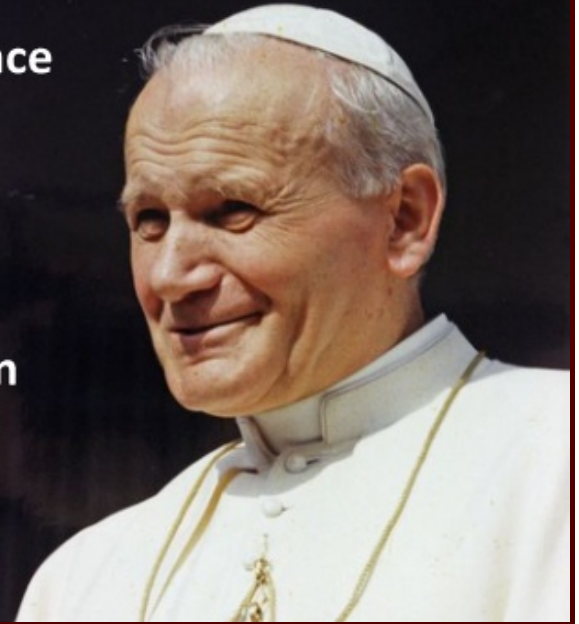
# January 10, 2016

## The Baptism of the Lord

**“The free and unmerited nature of grace is never so evident as on the occasion of a child's baptism.**

**God loves us not because we have merited it, or are worthy of it. Rather, God's love for us is freely given and unearned, surpassing all we could ever hope for or imagine.”**

**Saint John Paul II**



## CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC CHURCH

6300 McKenna Drive, Mobile, Alabama 36608

Email: [Church@CorpusChristiParish.com](mailto:Church@CorpusChristiParish.com) • Website: [www.CorpusChristiParish.com](http://www.CorpusChristiParish.com)

### TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Parish Office: 342-1852 • Fax 342-6313  
School Office: 342-5474, ext. 1 • Fax 380-0325  
Rel. Ed. Office: 342-5474, ext. 7 • Fax 380-0325  
Full-Day Care: 342-2424 • Fax 343-3119  
Youth Ministry: 342-1852 • Fax 342-6313

### PASTORAL STAFF

Very Rev. James F. Zoghby, V.F., Pastor  
Rev. John S. Boudreaux, Associate Pastor  
Deacon Arthur W. Robbins, Deacon  
Sr. Donna Cooper, R.S.M., Visitation Chaplain  
Mrs. Joan T. McMullen, School Principal  
Mrs. Diane M. Stoyka, Parish Catechetical Leader  
Mrs. Judi B. Ankiewicz, R.C.I.A. Coordinator  
Mr. Peter J. Stoyka, Youth Ministry Director  
Mr. C. Clinton Doolittle, Music Director  
Mr. David F. Walker, Gym Manager

### TO REGISTER AS A MEMBER OF THE PARISH

Please fill out a Census Form. Census Forms are available in the church vestibule and parish office.

### COMMUNITY CENTER RENTALS & SERVICES

For rental information and kitchen services, please call the parish office at 342-1852 or 342-1420.

### SUNDAY MASSES

Vigil: 5:30 p.m. Saturday  
Morning: 7:00, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

### WEEKDAY MASSES

6:30 a.m.: Monday through Friday  
8:15 a.m.: Monday through Saturday

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 5:00 p.m. and by request, particularly after the 6:30 & 8:15 a.m. weekday Masses.

### BAPTISM, MARRIAGE, ANOINTING OF SICK

Please call the parish office (342-1852) or information and scheduling baptism, marriage, anointing of sick.

### ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (R.C.I.A.)

Please see published schedule for specific dates and times, or call the parish office (342-1852).

**SUNDAY SCHOOL (C.C.D.)** Grades K–12, Sundays during school year, 10:05-10:55 a.m. in school bldgs.

**SCHOOL, SACS-accredited** for Grades 3K through 8. Child Care for 6-week-old infants to 2-year olds, Monday through Friday, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Please call the school office, 342-5474, ext. 1 for information.

## THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD



### We extend a special welcome to all who wish to join The Catholic Church

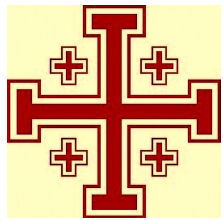
We also extend a special *Welcome Home* to Catholics who have been away from the Church because of sacramental marital status or any other reason.

#### Call, Email or Come

**Call** 342-1852 and leave your name & phone number.

**Email** [Church@CorpusChristiParish.com](mailto:Church@CorpusChristiParish.com).

**Come** to our class Wednesday, Jan. 6, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Adult Education Room of the Corpus Christi Community Center.



### ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (R.C.I.A.)

*Presented by Fr. James F. Zoghby*

Continuing education for Catholic and other adults who would like to learn more about and/or join the Catholic Church. Meetings are in the Adult Ed. Room in the Community Center, Wednesdays, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

**Wednesdays, Jan. 13 & 20: LITURGY:** The prayer life of the Church: The difference between liturgy (Mass, Sacraments, Official Prayer [Liturgy of the Hours]) and popular devotions (rosary, stations of the cross, novenas, etc.); a historical overview of the development of both the liturgy and popular devotions. Apparitions. Religious articles, aids to prayer and contemplation. Last Rites and the Sacrament of the Sick. Communion in the hand or on the tongue? Changes in the Mass. Holy water, making the sign of the cross, genuflecting. What's different about Confession today? Communal reconciliation services.

**Wednesdays, Jan. 27 & Feb. 3: MORALITY:** Living the Christian life. Making moral decisions. Conscience & Church teaching. Marriage Annulments. Controversies. Information on moral issues in Catholic publications. Spiritual growth of the Church and its members.

**Starting Wednesday, Feb. 17:** The overview series of 6 classes will run through March 23, including **Introduction, Bible, Church, Liturgy, Morality, Concluding Session.**

### Receive Emails from the Parish

Please send your email to [church@corpuschristiparish.com](mailto:church@corpuschristiparish.com).

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Classes resume **TODAY, Sunday, Jan. 10, 10:05-10:55 a.m.**  
Info: [DianeStoyka@yahoo.com](mailto:DianeStoyka@yahoo.com) or 342-5474, ext. 7.

### CORPUS CHRISTI SCHOOL

#### Open House

**TODAY, Sunday, Jan. 10, 2016, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, Feb. 21, 2016, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.**

SACS-accredited for Grades 3K through 8.

Child Care for 6-week-old infants to 2-year olds.

**Tours of our school are available by request.**

Info: 342-5474, ext. 1 or [jmcmullen@CorpusChristiParish.com](mailto:jmcmullen@CorpusChristiParish.com)

### Be Prepared Apologetics Series

**Presented by Patrick J. Arensberg**

*Director of the Archdiocesan Office of Religious Education*

**Wed., Jan. 13, 7-8 p.m. Topic: "Are you saved?"**

**Corpus Christi Community Ctr., Conference Room (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)**

This series is open to any interested adult in the archdiocese.

Info: <http://mobilefaithformation.org/be-prepared-dates>.

### Once a month — Next Sunday

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 5:30 p.m. Mass

During the school year (Sept. to May), we have an extra Sunday Mass the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month. High School students serve.

### Year-Round Baby Shower

**for 2B Choices for Women Crisis Pregnancy Center**

Diapers of all sizes, especially sizes 3, 4 and 5 are needed. Also baby wipes, shampoo, wash, powder, oil and bottles. Please no food or formula. Please place items in designated box in the vestibule.

### Society of St. Vincent de Paul

**"Discover true joy by serving the poor in our community."**

**Poor Box, Food, Clothing** donations put in the designated places in the vestibule are distributed by our St. Vincent de Paul Society.

**"In-Need" Drop Box** at the SVDP table in the vestibule. Info will be held in strict confidence and an SVDP member will contact you.

**Join the Society of St. Vincent de Paul by attending a meeting.**

**Meetings:** 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed., **6:30** p.m., Com. Ctr. Conf. Rm. (2<sup>nd</sup> Flr.)

**To obtain assistance, call 432-5173 and leave name & phone no.**

### Widowed Persons' Support Group

For information call parishioner Glen Porter at 666-8977.

### Corpus Christi Choir

**Choir Practice:** Wednesdays, 7:00 to 8:15 p.m. in Room 4 (2<sup>nd</sup> floor of community center). Info: Clint Doolittle, 377-8675.

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

**K of C Meeting:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Tues., Jan. 12, 7 p.m., the Parish House  
**Contact:** Grand Knight, Cosmo Comiskey, 508-0547.

**Men of St. Joseph**

Tuesdays, 7 to 8 a.m. in the Family Room

Also Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m. **in the Parish House**

All men are welcome to meet for prayer, reading the Gospel, and discussion.

Info: Damian Bell, 639-2522 or 367-4486 or [Damian@rockbwm.com](mailto:Damian@rockbwm.com).Wed Evening Info: Walter Bracewell, 599-1650 or [walter.bracewell@gmail.com](mailto:walter.bracewell@gmail.com)**Women of Mary**Wednesdays, 7 to 8 p.m. **Room 3** (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Community Center)

All women are welcome to meet for prayer, reading the Gospel, and discussion.

Info: Sr. Deborah Kennedy, R.S.M., 753-4872.

**Sunday Morning Bible Study**

Meetings resume today, Jan. 3.

8:45 a.m. breakfast; 9:30 a.m. study. Info: Ken Crowley, 423-6921.

**Tuesday Women's Bible Study**9:45 to 11:15 a.m. in **Room 3** (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of the Community Center)

Info: Judi Ankiewicz, 553-7882.

**Tuesday Night Bible Study**

Tuesdays at 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Parish House

(except on 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month, meet in the school library)

Info: Dave Burchette, 367-6660.

**Thursday Women's Bible Study**

Thursdays from 9:15 to 10:45 a.m.

in the Conference Room (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of the Community Center)Info: Joanne Donaghey 554-6753 [joannekd@aol.com](mailto:joannekd@aol.com).**Catholic Social Services Special Announcement**

CSS will host over 35 seminarians from St. John Vianney Seminary late January, providing free services (painting, siding, caulking, patching, window/door repairs, yard clean-up) with skilled construction supervisors. To schedule an assessment or for further info, please contact, John P. Wilson, at Catholic Social Services, 251-895-8417.

**Wednesday Night Dinner**

5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Banquet Hall

\$9.00 for Adults • \$4.00 for Children (Age 12 &amp; under)

Jan. 13: Blackened Fish, Baked Chicken, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Peas & Pearl Onions, Green Salad, Dinner Rolls, Bread Pudding, Iced Tea, Lemonade, Coffee. *Kids Meal*: Chicken Tenders & Fries

**Must RSVP no later than TUESDAY EVENING**

Return an RSVP Card, or call 342-1852 or email

[WedNightDinner@CorpusChristiParish.com](mailto:WedNightDinner@CorpusChristiParish.com)**Pack 29 Cub Scouts**

Jan. 10: Den Meetings, 12:30-2:30 p.m. in the school courtyard .

Jan. 18: Pinewood Derby Build Workshop, courtyard 12 noon-2 pm

Jan. 24: Pack Meeting, – 12:30n-2:30 Community Center.

To Join Cub Scouts or for info: Contact Walter Bracewell 599-1650 or John Carter 422-8116 or visit [ccspack29.scoutlander.com](http://ccspack29.scoutlander.com)**AA – Alanon – OA – CODA**

AA: Sun., 7 p.m., and Wed., 7 p.m., Cougar Den.

Alanon: Sun., 7 p.m., and Wed., 7 p.m., Arts &amp; Sciences Bldg.

OA: Sat., 9 a.m., Arts &amp; Sciences Bldg.

CODA: Tues., 6:45 p.m., Arts &amp; Sciences Bldg.

**Restock the Pantry for the Backpack Ministry**

Thank you for your generous donations during the holiday season.

This month we are in need of canned meats &amp; chili, Spaghetti O's,

Ravioli, small jars of peanut butter & jelly **in plastic containers**.

Please place items on the St. Vincent de Paul table in the vestibule.

**The Women's Club****Tomorrow Night at 6 p.m.** the Corpus Christi Women's Club will

meet at Island Wing Company &amp; Grill. Please bring a bottle of spirits,

OR/and any Mardi Gras-themed item for our raffle basket. All ladies

are welcomed! Contact info: Brittany Comiskey. 508-0526.

**Gulf Coast's Got Sisters! Retreat**

January 29-30

Pray and share with Sisters from different religious communities in the Mobile area as you discern your vocation. This weekend is a great opportunity to be a part of community life, while asking questions about discernment and getting answers in real time. For single women 18-40. Sponsored by Sisters of the Mobile Archdiocese. For more info: Sr. Theresa Sullivan, D.C., at [sistertheresa.sullivan@doc.org](mailto:sistertheresa.sullivan@doc.org) or 812-963-7556. Visit <http://called2.be/GCGSJan16> to register.

**40 Days for Life**

You are invited to the 40 Days for Life of Mobile, Spring 2016 Campaign, CAST THE VISION Dinner at Original Oyster House on the Causeway, at 6:30pm, on Thursday, January 21, 2016. Dinner will be Buffet Style at a nominal cost. It will be held in the Middle Bay Banquet Room. Come learn how you and your church or other organization can be a part of 1.) Ending abortion in Mobile and 2.) Spreading the good news of the many people and places in Mobile that provide the help to those in crisis pregnancies. If you plan to attend, please RSVP by Tuesday, Jan. 19, to Mae and Chris Rehm, [maemouse@aol.com](mailto:maemouse@aol.com) or at 251-554-2032.

**High School Confirmation Schedules**Info: Diane Stoyka, [DianeStoyka@yahoo.com](mailto:DianeStoyka@yahoo.com) or 342-5474, ext. 7.

**Class of 2018:** Sat., Jan. 30, 2016: Confirmation Retreat, Visitation Monastery, 10:00-4:30, Lessons 2,3 & 4.

Sun., Aug. 2016: Spirit Day 11:00-3:00, Lesson 8.

**Class of 2019:** Sunday Feb. 21, 2016: Spirit Day, Lessons 5 & 7.**BAPTIZED IN CHRIST****Helen Rose Bolus**

(daughter of Matthew Bolus &amp; Rachel Theresa Bru Bolus)

**Connor Thomas D'Lima**

(son of Anthony Francis D'Lima &amp; Brandi Nicole Criscione D'Lima)

**Emily Claire Robertson**

(daughter of Matthew Miller Robertson &amp; Katherine Ann Manas Robertson)

**Christopher Quinn Schwall**

(son of Christopher Lee Schwall &amp; Harlan Lee Toole Schwall)

**Welcome New Parishioners**

Allan, Jr. & Lara Cox and their daughter, Zoe + Mike Dederichs + Nora Graham + Steve & Cherri Harrington + Chuck & Joan Harrison + Ed & Mariellen Herman

**REST IN PEACE**

Rose Marie Menken

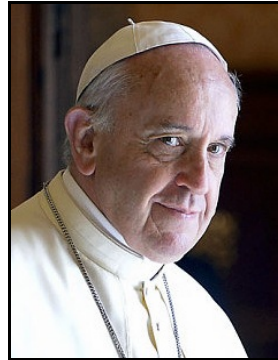


## Flowers

The flowers before the altar this weekend have been placed in memory of **Gertrudis Hernandez** on the 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of her death. Given by his daughter, Susan.

## Flowers

The flowers before the pulpit this weekend have been placed in memory of **Rosa Mercedes** on the 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of her death. Given by her daughter, Sarah Logsdon.



In his remarks to participants at the close of the recent Synod on the Family, Pope Francis said all should refrain from being “doctors of the law,” and he said that “the true defenders of doctrine are not those who uphold its letter, but its spirit. We must exalt the greatness of the true God, who does not treat us according to our merits or

even according to our works but solely according to the boundless generosity of his mercy.

“This means overcoming the recurring temptations of the elder brother [in the parable of the prodigal son] (Lk 15:25-32) and the jealous laborers [in the parable of the workers in the vineyard] (Mt 20:1-16).

“The Church’s first duty is not to hand down condemnations or anathemas, but to proclaim God’s mercy, to call to conversion, and to lead all men and women to salvation in the Lord (Jn 12:44-50).

Pope Benedict XVI, too, said: “Mercy is indeed the central nucleus of the Gospel message.” Years before his election and ministry as Pope Benedict XVI, some of the homilies given by then Cardinal Ratzinger have recently been published with his approval. In one of those homilies, he criticized those who are like the “rigid doctors of the law” who “imagine God as a kind of really strict school teacher assigning humanity homework that only very few people would be able to do.” Such “rigid doctors of the law” would think that, for the majority of people, “the notebook of their lives will be handed back with the grade: ‘Poor!’”

Pope Francis said that the synod “was about bearing witness to everyone that the Gospel continues to be a vital source of eternal newness, against all those who would ‘indoctrinate’ it in dead stones to be hurled at others.” He said it was also about “laying bare the closed hearts which frequently hide even behind the Church’s teachings, in order to sit in the chair of Moses and judge, sometimes with superiority and superficiality, difficult cases and wounded families.”

Pope Francis said that those in the Gospel accounts who were focused on following the letter of the law [of the Sabbath rest] were so extreme that the “Jesus had to ask them, ‘but, then, is it possible to do good on the Sabbath or is it forbidden?’ He said they were “closed-minded men who are so attached to the letter of the law that they were always closing the doorway to hope, love and salvation.”

**FIRST COLLECTION TODAY:** Tithing Offerings.  
**SECOND COLLECTION TODAY:** Corpus Christi Building Fund.

**RETIRED RELIGIOUS COLLECTION FINAL:** \$4,413.00  
**CHRISTMAS ONLINE & COLLECTION:** \$60,764.87

**DEC. 27<sup>TH</sup> BUILDING FUND ONLINE & COLLECTION:** \$17,065.80  
**DEC. 27<sup>TH</sup> TITHING ONLINE & COLLECTION:** \$21,252.34

**JAN. 3<sup>RD</sup> BUILDING FUND ONLINE & COLLECTION:** \$3,349.50  
**JAN. 3<sup>RD</sup> TITHING ONLINE & COLLECTION:** \$24,495.25

## Thank You and God Bless You

God bless all who tithe and contribute to support God’s work here, and those who make a special bequest in their will for Corpus Christi Church. For info, or to transfer shares of stock to Corpus Christi Church, contact your stockbroker, or call Selena Hemphill at Morgan Stanley at 470-1084 or 800-624-7814.



**To set up Online Giving:** Please go to [www.CorpusChristiParish.com](http://www.CorpusChristiParish.com); click “Church”; then click the green Online Giving icon on the left side of the church’s homepage. Follow the instructions to either make a one-time contribution, or set up a recurring withdrawal, from a checking, saving or credit card account to tithing or building fund, school annual fund or other special collection. **For assistance**, call 1-800-348-2886, ext 4, or the parish office, 342-1852.



## Offering Envelopes

If you wish to use Offering Envelopes, just notify the parish office (342-1852). An initial set will be sent to you right away, and then, every two months, you will receive a two-month’s supply of envelopes.

## Reports of Contributions

Annual reports of contributions for 2015 will be mailed this week. Reports of Contributions as well as detailed / itemized reports can always be obtained by contacting the parish office at 342-1852 or [Church@CorpusChristiParish.com](mailto:Church@CorpusChristiParish.com). Detailed / itemized reports show each individual amount given, with date, check number or “EFT” or “Cash” or “Stock.”

**“The core message of God is that of mercy.”**

— Pope Francis



## **Papal Baptisms**

On the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord in 2014, Pope Francis baptized 32 children in the Sistine Chapel.

Included among the children was a little girl, Giulia, whose parents were married only civilly. This was the first time a child from a sacramentally invalid marriage was baptized in a public papal Mass. The parents, Ivan Scardia and Nicolette Franco, told reporters that they had been at a General Audience on September 25 and asked the pope if he would baptize their second child, and he accepted.

There is no Church law against baptizing children of Catholic parents who are married outside the Church, or of a Catholic parent in an invalid marriage. Canon 868 states only that, for a baptism to be licitly performed, there has to be a founded hope that the child will be brought up in the Catholic religion. Also, Church law states that the faithful have a right to the sacraments and there must be a good reason to withhold them.

## **Never necessary to refuse baptism**

Speaking in a homily at the ordination of 19 new priests for the diocese of Rome, Pope Francis told the new priests: “With baptism, you unite new faithful to the People of God. It is never necessary to refuse baptism to someone who asks for it!”

And he said that in the Sacrament of Reconciliation “you will remit sins in the name of Christ and of the Church. And I ask you to never tire of being merciful. You will be in the confessional to forgive, not to condemn. Imitate the Father who never tires of forgiving.”

And Pope Francis said that a priest must be intent only on pleasing God and not himself. “It is ugly to see a priest who lives to please himself, who acts like a peacock” strutting around.

## **“Bureaucratic obstacles...”**

In a recent weekday homily, Pope Francis said that “grace is more important than all the bureaucracy.” He said that “so many times we people of the Church are a factory to create obstacles so people can’t arrive at grace. May the Lord help us to understand this.” He said that those in the Church who are in charge of administering the sacraments must leave room for God’s grace, and not put “bureaucratic” obstacles in the way, making it hard for people to get close to God.

## **Roll out the red carpet!**

Father Joseph Champlin, a well-known pastor, writer and lecturer, said we are often more interested in making everyone attend a stated number of specific classes, and meeting other requirements, than we are at making the sacraments available to people. He suggests that what is needed is more emphasis on rolling out the red carpet than in creating red tape.

**“May the Church be a place of mercy and of hope in God, where everyone can feel welcomed, loved, forgiven, and encouraged to live the good life of the Gospel. And to feel welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged, the Church’s doors must be open, that all may come in, and that we can go out of those doors to proclaim the Gospel.”**

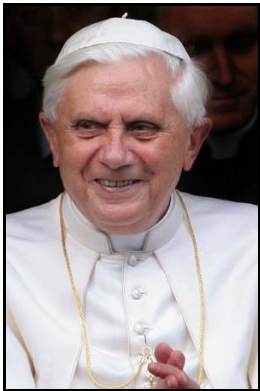
---Pope Francis

## Baptism: “God’s gift to the child”

**God loves us not because we have merited it, or are worthy of it. Rather, God’s love for us is freely given and unearned, surpassing all we could ever hope for or imagine.”** *St. John Paul II*

While stating that it is right, in the pastoral practice of infant Baptism, that the sacrament should be administered when there is a well-founded hope that the child will be brought up in the Catholic faith so that the sacrament will bear fruit, St. John Paul said, “At times, however, the Church’s guidelines are interpreted more strictly than they are meant to be. As a result, parents are told without sufficient reason that their child’s baptism must be postponed, or even refused. Prudence and pastoral charity suggest a more understanding attitude towards those who approach the Church with good intentions to request baptism for their child. The same pastoral charity should also restrain pastors from making demands that are not required by the Church’s doctrine or law.

“It is important that the first sacrament of Christian initiation should be seen primarily as God the Father’s gift to the child. The free and unmerited nature of grace is never so evident as on the occasion of a child’s baptism.”  
*In this is love, not that we have loved God, but that God has loved us and sent his Son to be the expiation for our sins.*  
(1 John 4:10)  
— **St. John Paul II**



## Eucharist: “It is right to be generous”

When I was young I was rather severe. I said, ‘the sacraments are the sacraments of the faith, and when the faith isn’t there, where there’s not practice of the faith, the sacraments can’t be conferred...’

When I was Archbishop of Munich I always discussed this with my pastors, and there were two factions, one severe and one more generous.

I, too, in the course of time, have realized that we have to follow instead the example of the Lord, who was very open with the people who were at the margins of the faith at that time. He was a Lord of mercy with sinners – too open, according to many of the official authorities – welcoming them or allowing himself to be welcomed at their dinners, drawing them to himself in his communion.

If we can see even a tiny flame of desire for communion in the Church, a desire from these children who want to enter into communion with Jesus, it seems right to be rather generous.

The true sense of catechesis, in fact, should be this: to carry the flame of the love of Jesus, even if it’s small, to the hearts of children, and through the children to their parents, thereby opening anew the places of the faith in our time.

— **Pope Benedict XVI**

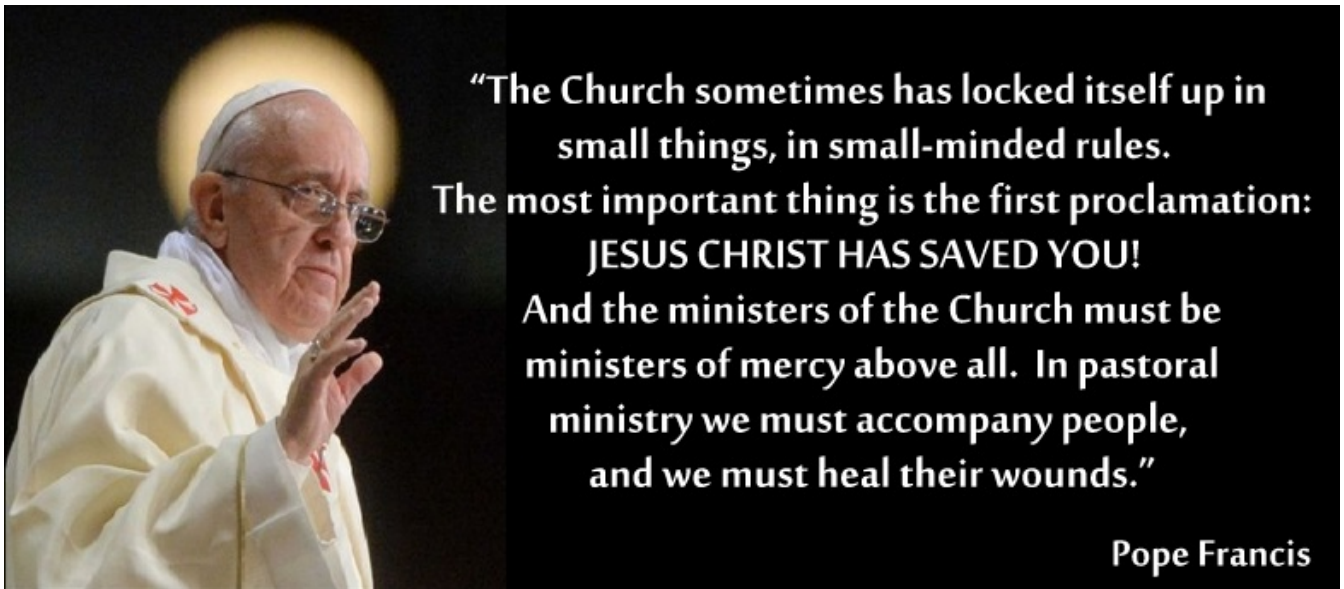
## “How can you turn these people away?!”

When archbishop in Argentina, Pope Francis accused fellow clergy of hypocrisy and of forgetting that Jesus touched lepers and ate with prostitutes. And he criticized priests who refused to baptize the babies who were born out of wedlock. He called them modern-day Pharisees who congratulate themselves while condemning others. He said: “In our ecclesiastical region there are priests who won’t baptize the children of single mothers because those babies were not conceived in the sanctity of marriage. These priests are today’s hypocrites. Those who clericalize the Church – who separate the people of God from salvation. How can you turn these people away when they belong to us!”



**“The core message of God is that of mercy. God has an unfathomable capacity to pardon, but people are often harder on each other than God is toward sinners... Sometimes we even like to beat others down, to condemn others. When we have a heart of stone, it happens that we pick up real stones and stone Jesus Christ in the person of our brothers and sisters, especially in the weakest of them.”**  
— **Pope Francis**





## The Church should keep an open door for sinners ...

Pope Francis said the Catholic Church should not be closed off to sinners like a “pastoral customs house,” giving as an example baptism for the children of unmarried mothers. “We are often controllers of the faith instead of facilitators.”

He gave as an example a priest who had turned down a baptism for a child born to a single mother. “This woman had the courage to continue her pregnancy and not send her child back to its sender. And what does she find? A closed door! This is not zeal, this is distance from God!” As archbishop of Buenos Aires, Francis pushed for priests and bishops to perform baptisms for children born out of wedlock.

Pope Francis said: “The triumphalism of the Church stops the Church. It becomes a Church that journeys only halfway to its goal of salvation because people become satisfied with everything being well-organized — all the offices, everything in its place, everything beautiful, efficient.”

The pope spoke about the importance of priests, parish workers and parishioners being open and welcoming to those who come to the parish asking for something. He used several examples, including that of a couple who goes to a parish to arrange their wedding, but before being congratulated, are told how much it will cost and are asked for their baptismal certificates.

“Too many times, we are faith-checkers instead of facilitators of the people’s faith. Jesus instituted seven sacraments, and we, with this kind of attitude, institute an eighth sacrament: the sacrament of pastoral control.”

Pope Francis again forcefully emphasized the Catholic Church’s need to be merciful, pointedly asking who Christians think they are when they do not allow someone to re-enter the church community.

He said: “Who are you who shuts the door of your heart to a man or a woman who wants to return back to the people of God because the Holy Spirit has stirred his or her heart?”

The Church, he said, “is the home of Jesus, and Jesus welcomes – but not only welcomes, he goes to find people. And if people are hurt, what does Jesus do? Scold them because they are hurt? No, he comes and carries them on his shoulders.”

And Pope Francis said, “How many times today in Christian communities people find closed doors.” Mimicking unwelcoming parishioners, the pope said: “People are told, ‘You have done wrong, and you cannot enter. If you want to come to Mass on Sunday you must stay in your place, but you may not do more.’”