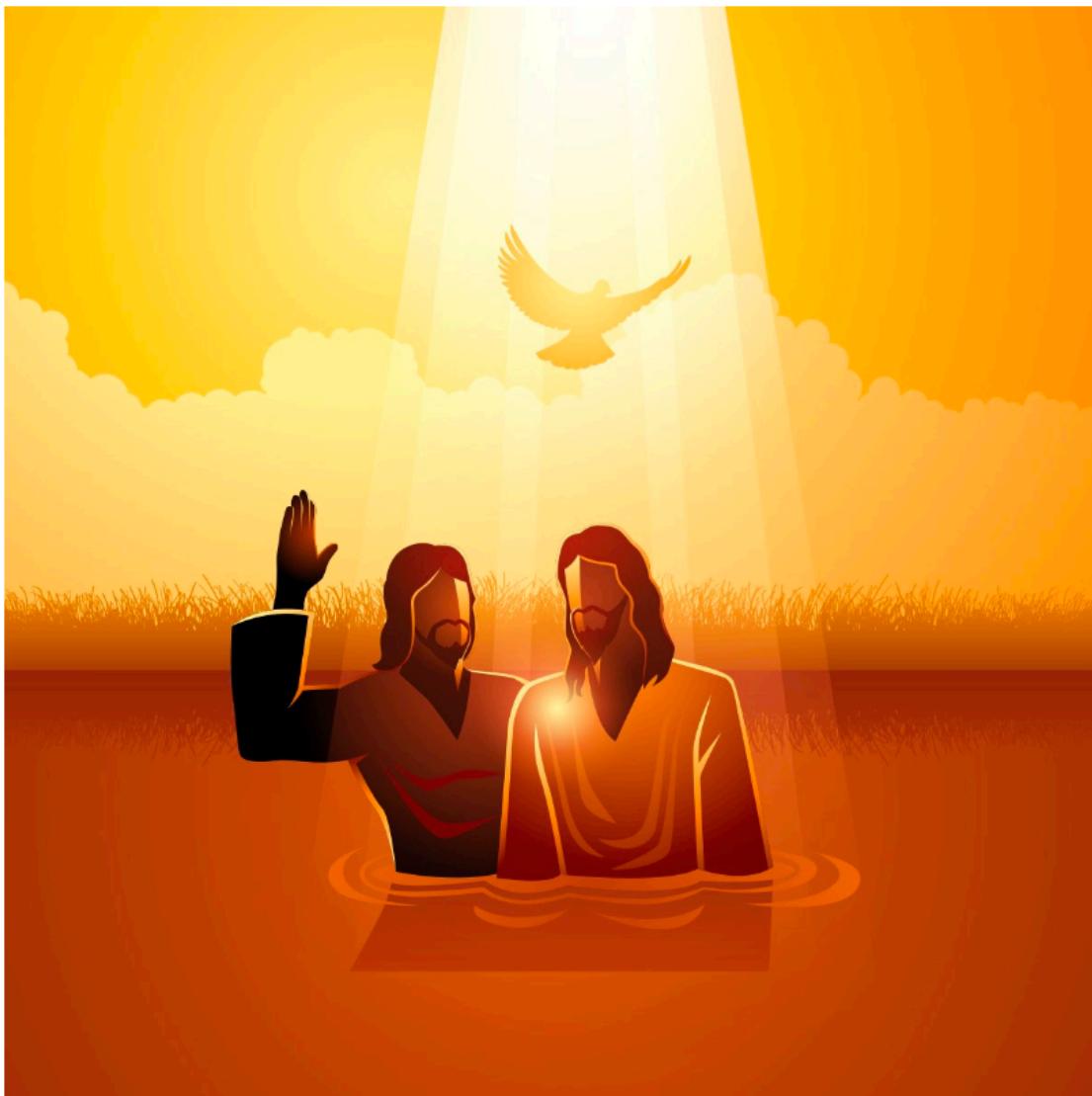


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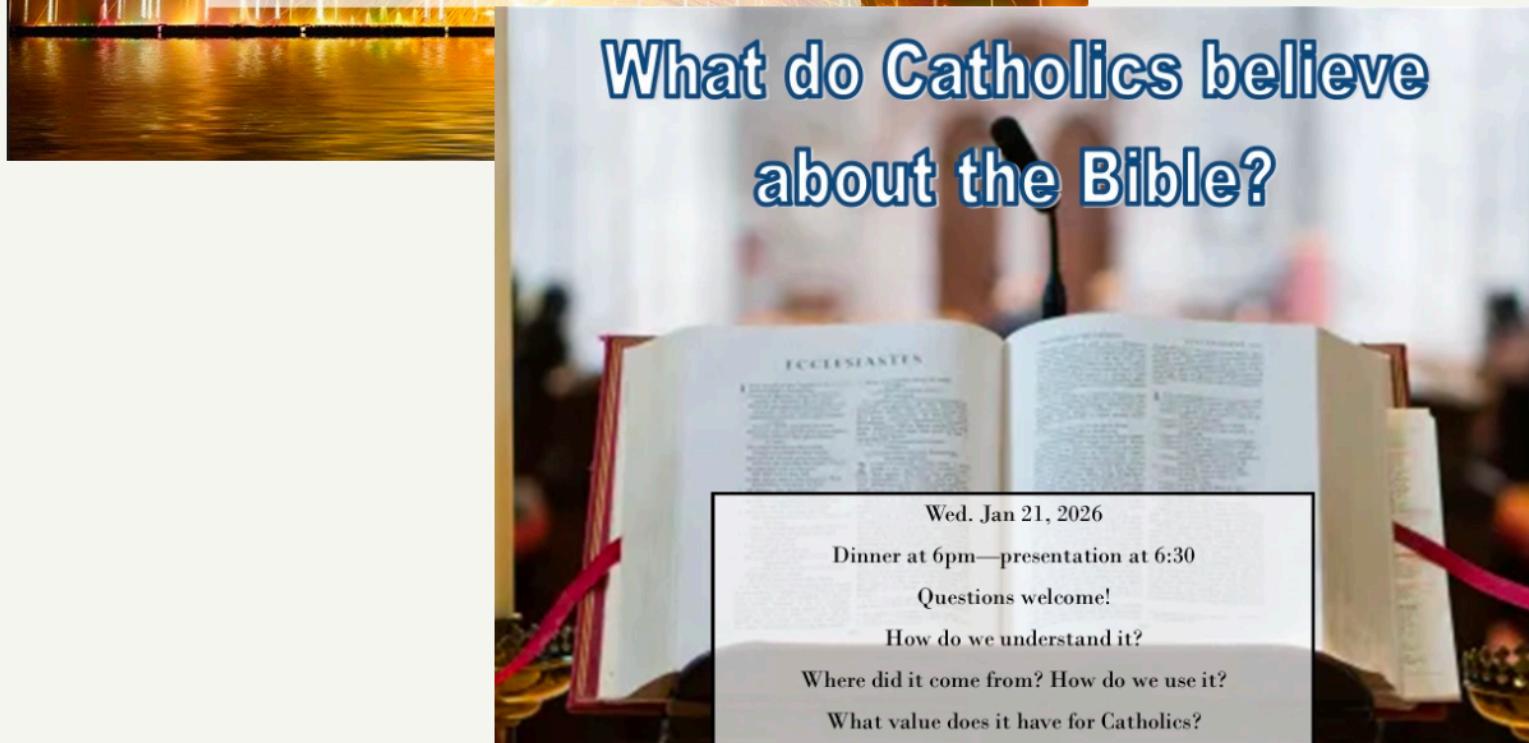
JANUARY 11, 2026



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

FATHER CODY'S NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- RE has resumed every Wednesday from 4-5 pm. We will not meet on the 14th so that all can attend the party.
- An RE Ski Day is scheduled for **Friday, January 23rd** at Showdown. If you are interested, contact Fr. Cody.
- The fall session of the Church Fathers series has concluded. Notes for the series are available on the table at the entrance to the church and online on our website.
 - ◊ The series will return **Wednesday, January 28th at 11:30am.**



A photograph of an open Bible with red leather covers, showing the book of Ecclesiastes. The title text "What do Catholics believe about the Bible?" is overlaid in large blue letters. A white text box in the bottom right corner provides details for the event: "Wed. Jan 21, 2026", "Dinner at 6pm—presentation at 6:30", "Questions welcome!", "How do we understand it?", "Where did it come from? How do we use it?", and "What value does it have for Catholics?"

PARISH INFORMATION

Pastor: Fr. Cody Williams

Email: stbartholomew@gmail.com

Website: stbartholomewmt.org

Phone Number: 406-547-3737

Father Cody's Cell: 406-465-7895

Baptism: Contact Parish Office

Weddings: Contact Parish Office *at least 6 month advance notice is needed to complete marriage preparation.*

Scripture Readings

The Baptism of the Lord

January 11, 2026

Reading 1: Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7
Resp. Psalm: 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10
Reading 2: Acts 10:34-38
Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

MASS SCHEDULE

Confessions on Sunday from 8:30—8:50 am
or by appointment

Sunday Rosary: 8:30 am
Sunday Mass: 9 am

Wednesday Mass: 11 am

This year we approved a budget that requires a much higher amount of income than we have budgeted for many years. This increase in income was due largely to the increasing costs of basic needs like insurance premiums and the costs of running a parish. Each week I will include in the bulletin the amount of money we brought in through the offertory as well as the amount we are above or below our goal for that point in the year. The annual goal is \$51,000 with a weekly average need of \$1000.

Weekly Collection totals:

11/30/25—\$314.00

12/7/25—\$1611.00

12/14/25—1398.30

12/21/25—705.00

Thank you for your generous support of
St. Bartholomew!

VOCATIONS PRAYER

Lord Jesus, we ask your special blessing on those preparing for the priesthood in our seminaries. We pray that they will grow in faith, hope and love. Give them courage and perseverance and be their constant companion as they prepare to serve you and your people with the fire of your love. Make them holy as you are holy. Amen.

Seminarians

Dcn. Kaleb Mitchell, Riley Helgoe, Brett Rotz, Jamie Severson, Anthony Olmes, James Semling, Carter Anderson, Shae Bills, Matt Keck, Carson Gorton, Jake Smith, Liam Aippersbach, Ryan Frampton, and Mason Yochum.

| St. Bartholomew Calendar | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Sun. 1/11/26 | The Baptism of the Lord The Rosary: 8:30—9am Confession: 8:30—8:50am Mass: 9:00am Coffee Hour after Mass |
| Mon. 1/12/26 | |
| Tues. 1/13/26 | |
| Wed. 1/14/26 | New Year's Party: 6:00pm — no RE this week to be able to attend the party! |
| Thurs. 1/15/26 | |
| Fri. 1/16/26 | |
| Sat. 1/17/26 | |
| Sun. 1/18/26 | Second Sunday of Ordinary Time The Rosary: 8:30—9am Confession: 8:30—8:50am Mass: 9:00am |

BECOMING A MAN OF PRAYER



Men's

SKI RETREAT

FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 1

Join Fr. Cody Williams and other men for a weekend of prayer, skiing/snowboarding, and fraternal time. For more information go to holycrossmt.org/skiretreat

\$50
(covers food & lodging;
lift ticket not included)

INFO & SIGN UP



Basics of Catholicism Part 118—Marriage

Since we are on the topic of vocations, we will now enter into the Sacrament of Matrimony, one of the two Sacraments of Vocation. As the value and importance of marriage continues to dwindle in our society, many people are accepting the idea that marriage is merely a contract or a symbol of love. The Church, however, holds firm that marriage is a Sacrament, a visible expression of the desire and will of God.

Why is marriage a Sacrament and not a contract? Most people turn to the Old Testament as the defense of marriage as a contract. In the Old Testament, Moses established a contract between a man and a woman, between their two families, as the beginnings of marriage. This contract was to ensure the protection and safety of the wife as well as the continuance of the man's household, namely children. The goal of the marriage covenant was to keep the two houses united by the marriage shared between the husband and wife. The parents of the married couple would work to maintain this relationship since there were high costs for breaking the marriage including financial and social repercussions. Nevertheless, some wanted a divorce. Moses allowed a system for divorce both for the man and woman. Yes, women could divorce their husbands in Israelite culture.

As time progressed, the marriage covenant established by Moses degraded and became a mess. Women lost the ability to divorce their husbands except in specific cases namely the husband allowing it. Jesus enters into this sad development of marriage with his new take on marriage. Jesus makes a point that marriage was from the beginning, namely Adam and Eve, and is an unbreakable covenant. He says "because of the hardness of your hearts Moses allowed you to write a bill of divorce." He continues "if a man divorces his wife and marries another, he commits adultery." Clearly Jesus sees something different in the covenant of marriage that was not part of the original Jewish marriage enacted by Moses. What does Jesus see? What was the incredible value of marriage that made the covenant or pact unbreakable?

For the answers to these questions, we will need to spend some time in the Old Testament before we can appreciate the words of Jesus in the New Testament. Let's start with Adam and Eve. God created Adam. Adam could not find a suitable partner from amidst the creatures of the world, so God made Eve. Eve was meant to be Adam's helper, his companion, his realization of God's relationship. Eve was not just another human to Adam neither Adam to Eve. They were a special partnership that mirrored God's relationship with them. This "bond of marriage" between the first two humans created an equality and a mission. Adam and Eve were tasked with the care of the garden and the mutual caring for each other. True equality and mutual love.

Fr. Cody