

Dear Padre,

I thought only priests and bishops should distribute Holy Communion at Mass. In my parish, the priest allows laypeople to help him, and I thought laypeople couldn't because our hands are not consecrated.

You're not the only person with this concern, so thank you for taking the time to write. The distribution of holy Communion has nothing to do with "consecrated hands." Ordinary ministers of Communion include bishops and priests, as you rightly identify, but also deacons and installed acolytes. Of the four ordinary ministers, only the hands of bishops and priests are consecrated. Laypeople are extraordinary ministers and are installed to help the priest so that everyone can receive holy Communion without long lines or wearying the (sometimes elderly) priest. Most extraordinary ministers of Communion approach this ministry very prayerfully.

Your question brings up the subject of the full participation of the laity in the Mass, which is part of a highly contentious theological discussion on social media. There is an unfortunate conflict between so-called "traditional Catholics" and "Vatican II Catholics" or, as they are often misrepresented, "Novus Ordo" Catholics. Some Catholics are led to believe that the "new Mass" is not authentic, even though it has been the ordinary form of the Mass for well over fifty years—that is, since the authoritative Second Vatican Council. Many good and faithful people suffer with doubt and anxiety as a result of this confusion. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org



THOMAS GORDON / CATHOLIC

Our Parish COMMUNITY

January 18, 2026

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Isaiah 49:3, 5–6 / 1 Corinthians 1:1–3 / John 1:29–34



Behold the Lamb of God!

ANN M. GARRIDO

Of the many names Scripture provides to help us ponder the mystery of Jesus, one of the most intriguing is the name that John the Baptist offers at the opening of today's gospel: "Behold the Lamb of God!" (John 1:29).

Scripture scholars debate what John means here. Is he alluding to the Passover lamb—that unblemished lamb whose blood the enslaved Israelites were to post over their doorways? The angel of death knew to "pass over" these homes. Perhaps John was saying that by Jesus' blood, the people would be freed from death.

Or was John thinking about the guilt offerings mentioned in the Hebrew Scriptures when priests offered animal sacrifices to God as a way of seeking the removal of their sins? Leviticus mentions use of a scapegoat who would carry the sins of the people away into the desert. (See Leviticus 20–28.) Could John have understood that Jesus would bear the sins of the world?

Or did John have in mind the great constellation Aries, the ram, considered the prince of the stars of the sky, the center from whom all the other constellations were mapped in ancient times? Perhaps John was pointing out that Jesus was the center around whom heaven and earth revolve, like the ruling lamb mentioned in the Book of Revelation.

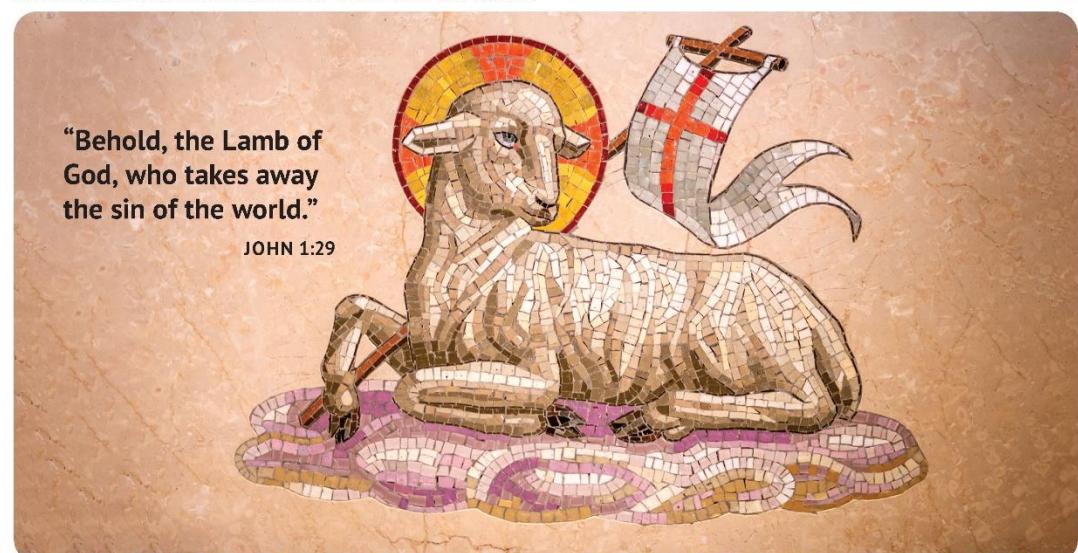
Today at Mass, when the host is elevated and you hear John's words again—"Behold the Lamb of God!"—take a moment to savor these words anew. ●



LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

Reflect

Which understanding of the "Lamb of God" resonates with me?



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
January 19	January 20	January 21	January 22	January 23	January 24	January 25
Weekday	Weekday	St. Agnes, Virgin and Martyr	Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children	Weekday	St. Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church	Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Sm 15:16–23 Mk 2:18–22	1 Sm 16:1–13 Mk 2:23–28	1 Sm 17:32–33, 37, 40–51 Mk 3:1–6	1 Sm 18:6–9; 19:1–7 Mk 3:7–12	1 Sm 24:3–21 Mk 3:13–19	Is 8:23–9:3 1 Cor 1:10–13, 12, 19, 23–27 Mt 4:12–23 or 4:12–17	1 Sm 1:1–4, 11–17 2 Sm 1:1–27 Mk 3:20–21



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A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Ours is a time marked by a growing search for spirituality, particularly evident in young people, who are longing for authentic relationships and guides in life. Hence, it is important that the Christian community be farsighted in discerning the challenges of today's world and in nurturing the desire for faith present in the heart of every man and woman.

MESSAGE TO SEMINAR PARTICIPANTS, ROME, MAY 28, 2025

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Carmen Merrill, Dennis Doyle, Tom Leuschen,
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WELCOME! NO MATTER WHAT YOUR PRESENT OR PAST STATUS IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, NO MATTER YOUR PERSONAL HISTORY, AGE, RACE OR BACKGROUND, YOU ARE INVITED, WELCOMED, ACCEPTED, AND LOVED AT ST. GENEVIEVE CATHOLIC PARISH.

RECONCILIATION: (Confession) available, following Mass, on Sunday and Wednesday – please contact Fr. Pedro, before mass, to confirm availability. Also by appointment.

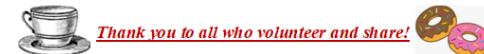
BAPTISM: Please contact the Deacon or Pastor, [at least one month](#) prior to desired date.

SACRAMENT of MARRIAGE: Please contact the Deacon or Pastor [at least six months](#) prior to desired date.

Please remember St. Genevieve Parish in your Will
THANK YOU for your donations!

Weekly Budget: \$1,255.00
01/04/26: \$1,503.00 01/11/26: \$1,032.00
Building Fund Donations: \$150.00
*December On-line Donations: \$1,140.00

***ON-LINE DONATIONS** can be an easy and inexpensive way to routinely support St. Genevieve. Go to methowcatholic.org and look for the little blue stick man. Questions? Call Nancy at 253-370-0798.



CAFFEINE & CALORIES: The weekly social hour continues, after Mass. Please consider hosting C & C. Contact Alicia Brown for info, 509-429-1621.



BUILDING COMMITTEE

People with ideas about the new parish hall, especially those with building skills, are welcome to Contact the Building Committee.

PARENTS: Please do not allow your children to play on/around the new block retaining wall. Thank you!



The Cove is always in need of toilet paper. Pet food is especially needed in the winter. Donations can be left in the basket at the side door.

Mass Schedule:

Sunday, Jan 18 @ 11:00 am, **Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**, Rosary @ 10:20 am
Wednesday, Jan 21 @ 9:30 am, **Word & Communion Service**, Rosary 9:00 am
Sunday, Jan 25 @ 11:00 am, **Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**, Rosary @ 10:20 am



Liturgy of the Word

Isaiah 49:3, 5–6 From my mother's womb, I am God's servant. Psalm 40 "Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will." **1 Corinthians 1:1–3** Greetings to you, a holy people in Christ. John 1:29–34 Behold, the Lamb of God!

Today we are reminded to listen for Jesus' call to follow him. Isaiah realized God's call of service, referring to himself as God's servant, commissioned to proclaim God's salvation to the ends of the earth. Paul recognized that God willed him to be an apostle and today we hear him tell the members of the church in Corinth that God calls them to be holy. John the Baptist points to Jesus as the Lamb of God and Son of God, the one to follow instead of him. May we listen for his call so that we may respond, "Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will."

Question of the Week: How will I witness to my faith, to Jesus, this week?



ANNOUNCEMENTS

A warm welcome to Fr. Pat Kerst from Spokane, our celebrant for today's Mass and for next Sunday Jan 25, during Fr. Pedro's absence.



Christ our Light



ADORATION

Following First Friday Mass and Benediction, there will be Adoration of the Lord until 12:00 p.m. Come and adore the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament for a few minutes or an hour or more. Of course, you can always come into the church and adore the Lord present in the Tabernacle whenever it is convenient for you.



Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.



Please Remember
 in Your Prayers

Judy Dayharsh
Dayharsh Family
Robert Springer
Cor Bader
Wannita Knox
Malachi Knox
Jeff Springer
Hal Groat
Ana Cotner
John Spannuth
Joseph Carbajal
Mark Crum
Roland Cruz
Duncan Bronson
Jim Perra
Brooke Stendera
Lupe Garcia
Bill Wilburn
Sheila Kerr
Jonathan Kessler
Fr. Sean Thomson
Thomson Family
Evangeline Grace Knox
Melissa Larson
Howard Burcham
Terry & Barb Anderson
Bernice Morgan

Repose of the Soul of