

# 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

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

## 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

## St. Agnes • St. Boniface • St. John the Evangelist

Rev. Michael Pampara Pastor email: [pamparasdb@gmail.com](mailto:pamparasdb@gmail.com)

Father Michael Cell 308-660-5730

P O Box 309, Stapleton, NE 69163, email: [abjcatholics@gmail.com](mailto:abjcatholics@gmail.com)

Parish Office 308-636-2421; Secretary, Kristie Walz Cell 308-636-8399

Website: [www.abjcatholic.org](http://www.abjcatholic.org) - Facebook Page: St Agnes, St Boniface & St John the Evangelist

## Behold the Lamb of God!

ANN M. GARRIDO

**O**f 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?**

*"Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world."*

JOHN 1:29



## Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) January 18, 2026

This Sunday we break from our reading of Matthew's Gospel (the primary Gospel for our current liturgical cycle, Cycle A) to read from John's Gospel. We heard Matthew's account of Jesus' baptism last Sunday, on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Today, we hear John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus as found in John's Gospel. John's Gospel differs from the other Gospels because John does not describe Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist. Instead, John the Baptist announces that he knows that Jesus is the Son of God.

In today's reading, John the Baptist sees Jesus approaching and cries out, giving witness about who Jesus is. In John's testimony he says that he saw the Spirit descend upon Jesus. By this sign, John the Baptist knew that Jesus was the one who is to come after him.

John the Baptist uses two titles for Jesus that are familiar to us. John calls Jesus the "Lamb of God" and the "Son of God." By using these titles, John the Baptist identifies Jesus' ultimate purpose: to redeem sinful humanity.

John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus clearly distinguishes John's baptism from the Baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John baptizes with water; Jesus will baptize with the Holy Spirit. John also puts his practice of baptism in the context of Jesus' ministry. The purpose of John's baptism was to make Jesus known to Israel.

John the Baptist's sense of purpose is clearly identified in this reading: he baptized in order to prepare for and make known the ministry of the One who was to follow. John's witness is an excellent example of what it means to be a disciple. By our Baptism, we are called to make Jesus known to all the world by our words and by the witness of our lives.

### Mass Schedule & Intentions For the week of Jan 19, 2026

Mon.	Jan.	19	No Mass
Tues.	Jan.	20	7:00 AM SJ No Mass
Wed.	Jan.	21	5:30 PM SA No Mass
Thurs.	Jan.	22	5:30 PM SB No Mass
Fri.	Jan.	23	8:30 AM SJ No Mass
Sun.	Jan..	25	8:00 AM SJ Anna Walz
Sun.	Jan..	25	9:30 AM SA People of the Parish
Sun.	Jan.	25	11:00 AM SB Nancy Willis †

### Save The Date!

St Agnes will be hosting Totus Tuus this Summer!  
June 21-26<sup>th</sup>.

Registration will open March 16<sup>th</sup>.  
Students that have completed K to 12<sup>th</sup> grade are invited.



Eugene Andre Jan 19<sup>th</sup>  
Oakley Brogan. Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Zola Karn Jan 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Mike Lehmukler Jan 24<sup>th</sup>



Mr. & Mrs. Steve Berger  
Jan 20th

### Ministry Schedule

Date: Jan 25	St John's	St Agnes	St Boniface
<b>Time</b>	<u>Sunday 8:00 AM</u>	<u>Sunday 9:30 AM</u>	<u>Sunday 11:00 AM</u>
<b>Hospitality</b>	Cole & Lacy K.	Sue D. & Pam L.	Dan & Jo T.
<b>Lector</b>	Jenny J.	John B.	Mike P.
<b>Server</b>	Gregory W. & Kelsey A.		Breckn D. & Taygen B.
<b>EMHC</b>	Jason & Jenny J.	Evan B. & Gary M.	Rod B. & Lana P.
	<b>Music:</b> Toby K.		<b>Communion to shut ins</b> Verla B.

### St. John's

*Our Gifts to God & Church*  
January 11, 2026  
Total Collection: **\$12290.00**

Diocesan Appeal  
Dollar Goal \$3550 of \$5179  
with 10 of 15 Donors

CCD Wed, **Jan 21st**  
PreK to 5th 3:40 PM  
6th -12<sup>th</sup> Supper 6:30 M. Walz  
Class Begins 7:00 PM

### St. Agnes

*Our Gifts to God & Church*  
January 11, 2026  
Total Collection: **\$311.00**

Diocesan Appeal  
Dollar Goal the  
**GOAL is MET!!!**

Thrift Store  
Open Jan 23 9AM to 4PM  
**CCD Wed Jan 21st**  
Elementary 3:40 PM  
High School 7:30 PM Meal **Ann L.**

### St. Boniface

*Our Gifts to God & Church*  
January 11, 2026  
Total Collection: **\$732.00**

Diocesan Appeal  
Dollar Goal \$6600 of \$7452  
with 15 of 17 Donors

**CCD Wed. Jan 21st**  
PreK to 2<sup>nd</sup> 4-5 PM  
Supper 6:10  
Class 6:30 to 7:30 PM

### Registration Opens Feb 1<sup>st</sup> – Feb 8<sup>th</sup>

Higher Ground Extreme Faith July 5-9 Grades 6-8

Steubenville (June 19-2) Grades 9-12

Higher Ground May 24-29 or May 3 -June 5  
Grades 10-12

Each parish has stipends to help cover the cost.

### The Word Among Us

As you finish your word Among Us  
each month Aleta from St Agnes  
would like them. You can send  
them with the Sunday collection,  
and I will see that they get to St  
Agnes.