Background on the Gospel Reading

Although the liturgical season of Ordinary Time begins this week, today's reading continues with the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord, which concludes the Christmas season. Today's reading from the Gospel according to John immediately follows John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus and his identification of Jesus as the Lamb of God. Having been baptized by John, Jesus begins to gather followers. The first followers sought out Jesus because of the testimony and witness of John the Baptist.

We are familiar with the title that John the Baptist uses for Jesus—the Lamb of God. We hear it weekly at the fraction rite during Mass. For those who heard John the Baptist, however, this title recalled key themes from the Old Testament. It alludes to the paschal lamb offered as a sacrifice when God freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, the event that is commemorated by the Jewish Passover celebration. The designation also recalls the prophet Isaiah's description of the suffering servant of Israel. In using this name for Jesus, John the Baptist predicts Jesus' passion and death and the new interpretation of Passover that will begin with Jesus' Last Supper.

We learn in today's reading how Jesus' first followers were gathered. The first two, Andrew and another man, were followers of John the Baptist. After hearing John's testimony, they became followers of Jesus. During their time with Jesus, the details of which are not specified, Andrew and the other follower came to believe that Jesus was the Messiah. Andrew then brings his brother, Simon, to Jesus. Immediately, Jesus gave Simon a new name, calling him Peter, which means "rock" in Greek. The renaming of Simon to Peter is reported in all four of the Gospels.

In the exchange between Andrew, the other disciple, and Jesus, we see an example of the usual pattern for first-century Jewish rabbinical schools. Jews sought out rabbis and established themselves as disciples of a particular rabbi. Jesus appears to have been unique in that he sought out individuals, inviting them to be his followers. In the passage that follows, John's Gospel tells us how Jesus took the initiative in calling Philip and Nathanael.

Jesus asks Andrew and the other disciple, "What are you looking for?" This is a telling question, and one that we might often ask of ourselves. John the Baptist testified to Jesus' identity, the Lamb of God, using the framework of the Old Testament. Andrew, Simon, and the other first disciples were looking for the Messiah, whom they also came to know as the Son of God. What do we look for and what do we find in Jesus?.

www.loyolapress.com

<u>BIBLE STUDY</u>: The next bible study will be held on Thursday January 18, 2024 at 7pm.

January 14, 2024 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sacred Heart Parish

A Stewardship Parish in Union with Christ



Parish Information

Pastor: Fr. Lee Lainey Office Administrator: Roseann Janes Office Hours: Monday to Friday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

465 Curling Street Corner Brook, NL, A2H 3K8 Tel: (709) 785-5025 curlingparish@hotmail.com e-transfers: sacredheartrcparish@hotmail.com Password "<u>Church</u>" Note: include your envelope # www.sacredheartrcparish.ca

Diocesan website: rcchurch.com

Weekend Masses:	Saturday 4:30 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m.	
Weekday Mass:	NEW HOURS:	
	10a.m Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday*.	
Daily mass i	s cancelled any day schools are closed due to bad weather.	
*Lohnes Complex	First Friday of each month - 2 pm at the Lohnes Complex.	
	*Note: No mass at the church on this day.	
Bible Study:	Thursday January 18 at 7pm.	
Holy Hour of Adoration:	Postponed until further notice.	
Reconciliation:	By request.	
Marriages:	Six months' notice required. A year's notice is recommended.	
Baptisms:	Please call the Parish Office to schedule preparation session.	
Family Connections:	At www.rcchurch.com you will find a link to family connections.	
St. Vincent de Paul:	To assist those in need. Call 709-638-9010.	

RECEIVED WITH THANKS January 6 & 7, 2024

Regular Sunday	1425.00
Loose Offering	51.00
Parish Dues	290.00
Envelope Cost	75.00
Building Fund	130.00
New Years Day	80.00
Christmas	100.00
Votive Candles	32.00
Mass Stipends	80.00

MASS INTENTIONS

Tues. 10am	Late Mary Gallant	
	Late Fred Hayes	
Wed. 10am	Late Rob Fewer	
	Late Jack Neville	
Thurs. 10am	Late Brian Canning	
Fri. 10am	Late Jack Hearn	
	Late Father Jim Robertson	
	Late Nina Parsons	
	Late Joan Barriault	
Sat. 4:30pm	Late Betty Bruce	
	Late Louis Rumbolt	
	Special Intentions	
Sun. 11am	Late Father Bernard Buckle	
	Late Alice Murphy	

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

January 20			
Reader	Eucharistic Minister		
Joan Penney	John Carroll		
January 21			
Reader	Eucharistic Minister		
Amelia Dicks	Margaret Dalley		
Communion to the sick – Barbara Neville			

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING RESCHEDULED:

It is now being held on Tuesday January 16th at 6pm at Sacred Heart Parish Church Meeting Room.

DONATION IN MEMORY: Thank you to Jack Barriault for your donation in memory of the late Joan Barriault.

WEEKDAY MASS: Remember weekday mass is now at 10a.m. each morning and held in the Meeting Room. The weekend masses will remain the same.

SACRED HEART BINGO: Bingo will start again on the last Sunday of each month and the next one is on January 28, 2024. Doors will open at 1pm and bingo will start at 2pm.

Correction: Names beginning A to E can continue to donate cash or merchandise towards the bingo.

LADIES GROUP MEETING: The next ladies group meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at 1:30pm. Please bring a friend and join us for some fun.

BISHOP O'REILLY ASSEMBLY 0624 will be meeting at All Hallows Parish Humber Road Corner Brook on Tuesday January 16th at 7:45 P.M. We ask that Sir Knights please attend and wear Shirt and Tie as this will be our Installation of Officers.

WINNER, ALL HALLOWS 50/50 FUNDRAISER:

Congratulations to Mr. Joe Byrne of Irishtown-Summerside who is the lucky winner of our 50/50 ticket fundraiser! The draw December 21st and the prize amount was \$15,885.00. Sincere thanks to all for your support. **ST. VINCENT DE PAUL:** The Society of St. Vincent de Paul will be holding its regular monthly meeting on **Wednesday, January 17, 2024** in the **basement of the Cathedral at 3 PM**. If you're looking to become more active as a community volunteer this year, please drop by and find out how rewarding it can be being a member of St. Vincent de Paul.

NL HEALTH SERVICES SEEKING VOLUNTEERS:

Western Zone is seeking volunteers. Looking for meaningful ways to spend your spare time and feel a sense of purpose? The Western Zone of Newfoundland and Labrador Health Services is looking for volunteers. You will get the opportunity to make a valuable contribution to our residents, patients and clients. Spending time with volunteers makes our residents and patients happier and they feel less lonely. Share your skills, knowledge and time. Work in a gift shop. Join an auxiliary. Prepare afternoon treats for palliative care patients and their families. Read to patients and residents. Be a dining companion. Provide musical entertainment. There are many ways you can volunteer. If you are interested call 709-784-5369 or email volunteerresources @westernheath.nl.ca to find out more. You too will benefit as you will meet new people and experience personal satisfaction.

PARISH OUTREACH: This committee is offering to bring communions and provide a pastoral visit to those who wish to have this ongoing contact. To anyone needing a pastoral visit or communion to the sick please call the parish office at 709-785-5025 and you will be directed to a committee member.

THE SEARCH: This is an innovative video series that tackles the key questions of every human heart. In seven beautifully filmed episodes, experts from multiple fields of science, medicine, psychology, art, and religion examine our place in the larger story of existence.

This will be held for 7 Wednesday evenings from 7pm – 8:15pm, Starting January 24th -March 13th (Ash Wednesday excluded) at Sacred Heart Parish Church.

This is FREE and open to All Adults.

For registration and information please contact the parish office by email (curlingparish@hotmail.com) or telephone during office hours at 709-785-5025.

Reflection

God's Call

God's call is mysterious; it comes in the darkness of faith.

It is so fine, so subtle, that it is only with the deepest silence within us that we can hear it.

And yet nothing is surer or stronger, nothing is so decisive and overpowering, as that call.

> This call is uninterrupted: God is always calling us.

Carlo Carretto

Flor McCarthy, New Sunday and Holy Day Liturgies – Year B, Dominican Publications, Dublin (Ireland), 1999, p.170