

# 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 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	2 Sm 1:1–4, 11–12, 19, 23–27 Mk 3:20–21	Is 8:23–9:3 1 Cor 1:10–13, 17 Mt 4:12–23 or 4:12–17



THANS ORRICO / CATHOPIC



FRANCISCO XAVIER ESPINOZA / CATHOPIC

## 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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# 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

**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.

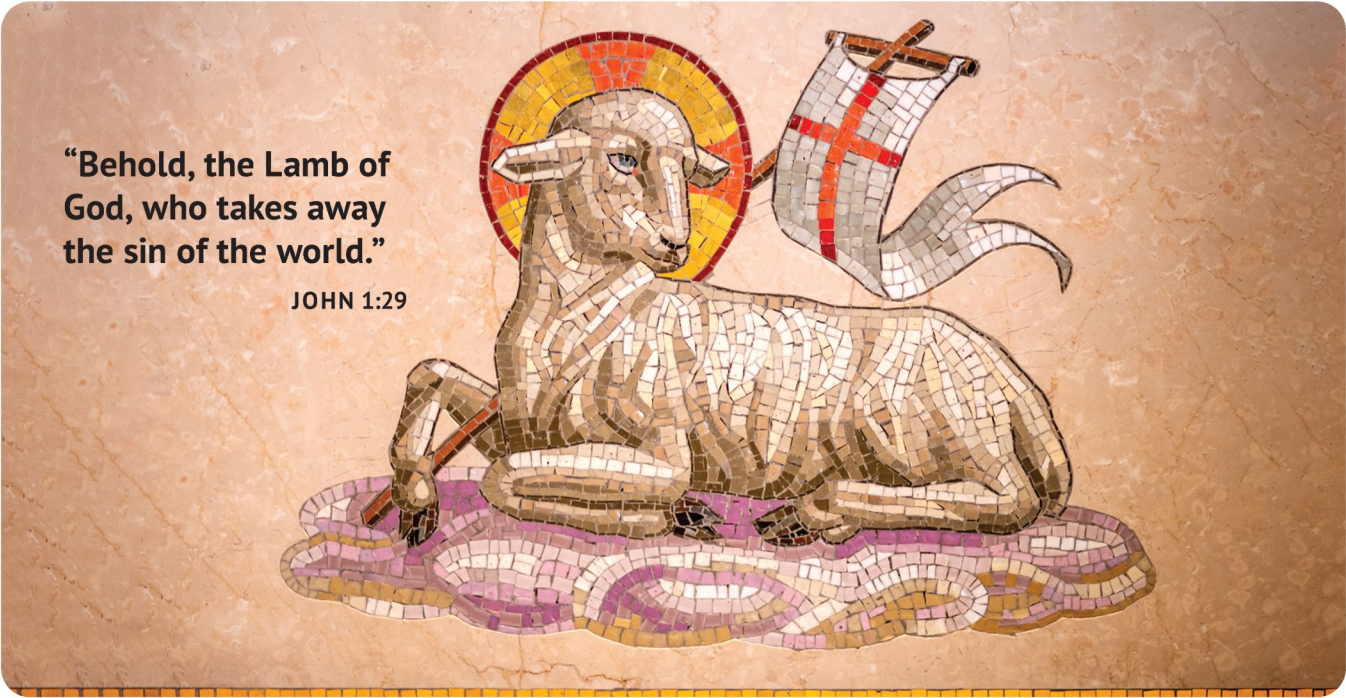
Today at Mass, when the host is elevated and you hear John's words again—"Behold the Lamb of God!"—take a moment to savor these words anew. ●



LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

### Reflect

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







**St. Paul Catholic Church**

713 CRAWFORD STREET  
VICKSBURG, MS 39180

Second Sunday in O.T.  
January 17 & 18, 2026



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**Parish Announcements**

**First Communion**

Letters for First Communion have gone out to second grade students. If you did not receive your letter, please contact the church office.

**Lunch and Scripture**

12PM, January 21 at Billy's. Speaker: Syd Johnston. Topic: Part 2 of Catholic position regarding Jewish people and Israel. Pizza & Salad are provided. Donations are appreciated. RSVP to the office, 601-636-0140 or reply on our Facebook post.

**Mardi Gras Potluck**

There will be a Mardi Gras Potluck lunch Sunday, February 15 after the 10:30 AM Mass. Gumbo, Jambalaya, hotdogs and King Cake will be provided. A Meal Train sign-up will be available at a later date to sign up for side dishes.

**Parish Council**

We would like to thank Kevin Mahoney, Allyson Johnston, Bryan Brabston, and Janis Koestler for their service on Parish Council. We welcome our new council members; Mary Margaret Edney, Chris Rabalais, Terry Winschel, and Melissa Smithhart. Thank you to all for serving our parish.

**World Marriage Day 2026**

The Catholic Diocese of Jackson and the Office of Family Ministry would like to invite all couples who are celebrating their 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th (or longer) anniversaries in 2026, to the Diocesan World Marriage Day Celebration. Saturday, February 7, at 1 PM at St. Peter Cathedral in Jackson or Saturday, February 14, at 5 PM at St. James in Tupelo. There will be Mass followed by a reception. RSVP to [www.jacksondiocese.org/family-ministry](http://www.jacksondiocese.org/family-ministry). For any questions, contact the Office of Family Ministry at 601-960-8487

**Offertory Summary**

Weekly Budget.....\$7,700

**Online Giving**

Dec 29 - Jan 1 ..... \$1,760

**Weekend Offertory**

Dec 27 & 28 ..... \$6,987

Jan 3 & 4 ..... \$5,936

Jan 10 & 11 ..... \$4,017

Jan 17 & 18 ..... \$\_\_\_\_

Jan 24 & 25 ..... \$\_\_\_\_

**Special Collections**

January 11: Saltillo Mission .....



Sign up for automatic online giving at [www.osvhub.com/st-paulscatholic-church](http://www.osvhub.com/st-paulscatholic-church)

**Weekend Mass Schedule†**

**Saturday**

#Confession 3:15-3:45 PM

Mass 4:00 PM

**Sunday**

#Confession 9:45-10:15 AM

Mass 10:30 AM

**Daily Mass Schedule†**

Monday 7:00 AM

Tuesday 12:00 PM

Wednesday 7:00 AM

Thursday 12:00 PM

Friday 7:00 AM

† All schedule updates can be found in the Parish Calendar section of the bulletin.

‡ For Confessions during the week, please call the Parish Office.

**Mass Intentions**

JAN 19, MON Joan Koestler, Deceased

JAN 20, TUES Frances Serrano, Deceased

JAN 21, WED

JAN 22, THUR

JAN 23, FRI Special Intentions

JAN 24, SAT

To request a Mass Intention for a Daily Mass or the Saturday Vigil Mass, please call, email, or visit the parish office. Each Mass with no intention is offered for all St. Paul's parishioners.

**Knights of Columbus**

<https://facebook.com/kc898>

[www.ms-kofc.com/898](http://www.ms-kofc.com/898)

Become a KNIGHT. Scan this QR code to join the Knights today!



JAN 20 Rosary 6:30 PM followed by 4th Degree Meeting

JAN 21 K of C Bible Study after 5PM Mass @ St. Michael's

JAN 24 Midwinter Meeting, Grenada

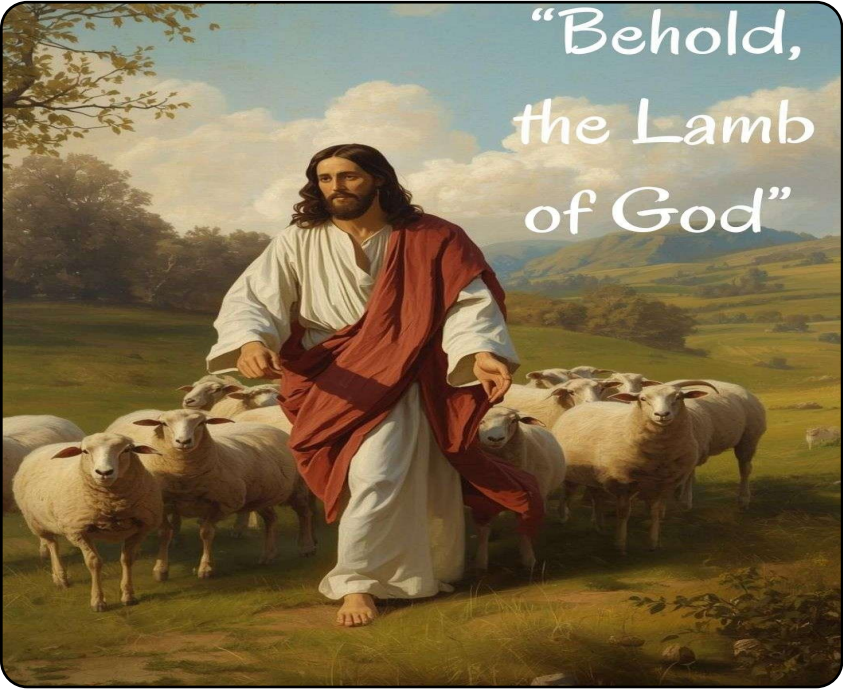
**Parish Calendar**

JAN 18, SUN Children's Church led by: Shannon Lyons

JAN 20, TUES Offertory Counters: Pam Melsheimer and Marie Renaud

JAN 21, WED Lunch & Scripture 12 PM @ Billy's. RCIA 6 PM in Glynn Hall

Feb 15, SUN Mardi Gras Potluck following 10:30 AM Mass.



**Today's Readings**

Visit [bible.usccb.org](http://bible.usccb.org) or scan this QR code to find the readings



**Check out our Social Media!**



St. Paul Catholic Church

**Sanctuary Flowers**

The flowers placed at the Ambo are in honor of those stricken with cancer both living & deceased.

**Pastoral Care**

If you or a loved one is hospitalized or in urgent need of anointing, please call the church office Emergency Ext 106

**St. Paul Parish Staff**

**Pastor**  
Fr. Rusty Vincent

**Office Manager**  
Ashley Roesch

**Office Assistant**  
Janis Koestler

**Bookkeeper**  
Beverly Connelly

**Maintenance**  
Charles Hahn

**Organist**  
Karen Harrison

**Leadership & Ministries**

**Parish Council President**  
Kevin Mahoney

**Finance Council Chair**  
Bill Fulcher

**Bereavement**  
Story Ebersole

**RCIA**  
Connie and David Hosemann, and Bruce Ebersole

**Meals On Wheels**  
Jan Jackson, Christy Guizerix, and Rae Perry

**Altar Flowers**  
Cynthia Montalbano

**Baptism Prep**  
Barbara Hill

**Homebound**  
Janis Koestler

**Children's Church**  
Ashley Lawrence

**Confirmation**  
Jordan Amborn