

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.



THANAS ORRICO / CATHOPIC

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



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

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?

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

JOHN 1:29



SACRED HEART CHURCH OF MANLY, IOWA

OUR MISSION IS TO BE A EUCHARISTIC COMMUNITY THAT WILL LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD, BE FAITHFUL TO HIS TEACHINGS AND KNOWING, LOVING AND SERVING GOD.

PASTOR: Fr. Dave O'Connor

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ASSOCIATE PASTOR: Fr. Ben Valentine

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Phone: 641-425-1615

YOUTH MINISTER: Fr. Ben Valentine

Phone: 641-423-5001

EMERGENCY PRIEST LINE: 641-251-1483

WEEKEND MASS: Saturday - 5:30 pm

WEEKDAY MASS: Wednesday - 8:00 am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: First Saturday of the Month, prior to Mass

www.sacredheartmanly.org

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time January 18, 2026

MASS INTENTIONS AT MANLY FOR

Saturday January 17th-----Loretta Halfman

Wednesday January 21st-----For the home bound

Saturday January 24th-----Julius Hayek

OTHER AREA MASS TIMES:

SATURDAY 4:00 PM, HOLY FAMILY

SUNDAY 7:30 & 9:00AM, St. JOSEPH

SUNDAY 10:30AM, HOLY FAMILY

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

LECTORS

January 17th Steve Halfman

January 24th & 31st Betty Krones

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

January 17th JoAnn Andera Peggy Matous

January 24th & 31st Lennis Krones, Heather Gile

USHERS

January 17th Dennis Johnson Steve Matous

January 24th & 31st Eli Gile, Dean Brcka

OFFERTORY GIFTS

Mike & Wilma Romig

Dave Barnes Family

FINANCIAL GIVING:

COLLECTION RECEIVED ON THE WEEKEND: January 10, 2026; Tithe \$1255.00 Offertory \$29.00; Renovation \$10.00; Flowers \$20.00; Total \$1314.00 Thank you!

There will be 8:00AM Mass Wednesday, January 21, 2026

Finance Council will meet Tuesday February 3, 2026 6:30 PM

Pastoral Council will meet Tuesday February 3, 2026 7:15 PM

Parish Life will meet Monday February 2, 2026, 6:30 PM

Middle School Lock-in February 21st-22nd

Pastor's Pen by Fr. Dave O'Connor

(see Attached)

Moving Forward in Faith and Hope

The Archdiocese of Dubuque continues to move forward with its *Journey in Faith* pastoral planning process. The feedback and data collected from parishes are now being reviewed carefully. This process of discernment will continue through the coming months, with the final pastorate plan and clergy assignments to be announced this spring.

In July 2026, each new pastorate will begin an interim six-month Mass schedule as parishes discern how best to collaborate and flourish as joyful missionary disciples, centered in the Eucharist and united in faith.

Archbishop Thomas Zinkula expresses his gratitude for the ongoing participation and prayer of parishioners, clergy, and staff. He acknowledges that this time of change brings both hope and uncertainty, and he invites all to continue praying for one another and for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

As the Church enters a new year filled with promise, may it also be a time of renewal and deeper faith. For additional information and answers to questions, please visit dbqjourneyinfaith.org/faq.

Mass Intentions

We have many open dates for Mass Intentions. Please submit your requests with **name(s) and date(s)** for those you would like the mass said. We will try to schedule the requested dates as best we can. You may place your request in the weekly offertory or hand them to Mike or Wilma Romig. Please remember that mass requests are \$10.00. Thank You

Christmas Poinsettias

This weekend, our Christmas season ends. You are invited to take a Poinsettia home with you after Saturday's Mass. Please see Wilma Romig and she will assist you. Thank You!

*"When the Power of Love Overcomes the Love of Power
The World will Know Peace"*