



Dear Friends in Christ,

Samuel is the first in a long line of prophets in biblical Israel. He lived in the 11th century B.C., at a time when the Ark of the Covenant was kept in a tabernacle at Shiloh. Dedicated to the Lord's service by his parents, the boy Samuel had been living at the shrine since he was a toddler, under the care and tutorship of Eli, the high priest at Shiloh.

In today's first reading, Samuel hears a voice calling to him in the night and thinks it is Eli, his mentor, calling. The voice, though, was not Eli's but God's. Eli tells Samuel to answer the Lord, so that God may give him whatever message he intends.

Samuel does as Eli instructs, and the Scriptures go on to say that *Samuel grew up, and the Lord was with him, not permitting any word of his to be without effect*. As a prophet, his role was not so much to predict the future but to speak God's word to the people and to offer advice to Israel's first two kings.

Saint Paul also spoke God's word to his people. Today we heard part of his message to the Corinthians, reminding them that *The body ... is not for immorality, but for the Lord*. The Church in Corinth was dealing with several cases of public immorality, and they wrote to the Apostle seeking advice. He reminds them, and us, that the *body is a temple of the Holy Spirit*. It is these very bodies that God will transform and raise on the Last Day. So we should treat them with the dignity they deserve.

In the Gospel today, two followers of John the Baptist, including Andrew, hear John refer to Jesus as *the Lamb of God*. And so they leave John and follow Jesus. As Samuel was led to God's voice by Eli's directions, so, too, are Andrew and the other disciple led to Jesus by John's words.

When he sees them, Jesus asks them, *What are you looking for?* Their response is simply to ask where he is staying and he invites them to come, and you will see. The evangelist tells us that *they stayed with him that day*. We don't know what happened during their time together, but it was enough to lead Andrew to go and tell his brother Simon, We have found the Messiah. He, too, goes to Jesus. When Jesus meets Simon he gives him the name Cephas, which is translated *Peter*.

As God called Samuel and as Jesus called his disciples, so have we been called. We are temples of the Holy Spirit, made for the Lord. At communion we take the Lord into our bodies, so that we might become more like him, and that we might ourselves be prophets of the Good

News of our Lord. May we carry out our prophetic role with humility yet with confidence in Christ's power at work within us.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Fr. Marco

NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE TO END ABORTION There will be a bus to the National March for Life in Washington DC on January 29th. The bus will leave from Immaculate Heart of Mary Church at 10 am and return between 4-6 pm. Due to Covid-19, social distancing, restrictions seating is limited, and there are only a few seats left. To reserve one of the remaining seats on the bus call, text or email Mark Baysinger ASAP. Email: nbay9@hotmail.com; Phone: 240-925 -2677. There is no charge to ride the bus, but we are asking for a \$15 donation per person if you are able. This can be given the day of the march.

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS Thank you for your generous contributions throughout the year! If you would like to view a statement of your contributions to our parish, you are able to do so online—from your computer, smartphone, or device of choice. Just log in to your account at myihm.ihmrcc.org, navigate to the My Offering tab, view your Giving History, and click the Download button. Save or print the PDF file of your statement for your records. If you have not yet created a myIHM login, doing so is easy! Visit Just visit myihm.ihmrcc.org, click on New User, and you'll be prompted to create an account. For those that use our Online Giving option, please note that for banking security, your log-in credentials may be different on Online Giving and myIHM. If you would like us to print a paper copy of your statement, please contact Cindy Thompson at cindy@ihmrcc.org or 301-863-8144 ext. 14.

HELP OUR MARRIAGE Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue, or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. This program has helped many couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. For confidential information or to register for the upcoming program beginning with a weekend on January 29th - January 31st, 2021, please visit: www.HelpOurMarriage.org, call (443) 400-7017, or email: 3015@HelpOurMarriage.org

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



January 18 — January 24

Monday	Heb 5:1-10/Ps 110:1-4/ Mk 2:18-22
9:00 am	Marcelle Bailey (L)
Tuesday	Heb 6:10-20/Ps 111:1-2, 4-5, 9-10/ Mk 2:23-28
5:30 pm	Clay Sonford (D)
Wednesday	Heb 7:1-3, 15-17/Ps 110:1-4/ Mk 3:1-6
9:00 am	Gerard Mumfrey (D)
Thursday	Heb 7:25--8:6/Ps 40:7-10, 17/ Mk 3:7-12
5:30 pm	Msgr. Francis G. Kazista (D)
Friday	Heb 8:6-13/Ps 85:8, 10-14/ Mk 3:13-19
9:00 am	Rev. Michal Sajnog (L)
Saturday	Heb 9:2-3, 11-14/Ps 47:2-3, 6-9/ Mk 3:20-21
9:00 am	Rev. William F. Goude, Jr. (D)
4:00 pm	Bob Waters (D)
Sunday	Jonah 3:1-5, 10/Ps 25:4-9/ 1 Cor 7:29-31/Mk 1:14-20
8:30 am	Vilma D. Umengan (D)
11:15 am	All IHM Parishioners
1:00 pm	Salcador Umengan (D)

ALTAR FLOWERS/SANCTUARY CANDLES If you would like to donate the Altar Flowers or Sanctuary Candles in memory or for special intentions of a loved one, please call the Parish Office or email at cindy@ihmrcc.org.

9 DAYS FOR LIFE You're invited to join thousands of Catholics nationwide in prayer for the respect of human life during a special novena called 9 Days for Life. Visit 9daysforlife.com to sign up to receive daily intentions and brief reflections from January 21st through the 29th.

SING ALONG DURING MASS For those attending Mass in church, online, or in the parking lot, please join us in song at songs.ihmrcc.org.

LIVESTREAM MASS Join us for our livestream Masses: the 4 pm Mass on Saturdays in English, and 1 pm on Sundays in Spanish at mass.ihmrcc.org.

APOLOGETICS CLASS The next class is on January 25th from 7 pm to 8:30 pm at St. John's in Hollywood, in the St. Jude Room, of the Msgr. Harris Center. The next class will be "Defending the Right to Life." Class is also available via Zoom: see the St. John's parish website.

COVID-19 VACCINES Throughout the past few weeks, we have heard a lot of information about the testing and development of safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines. There have been continuous conversations within the Catholic community about the safety and morality of these vaccines, so we are glad to say that both Moderna and Pfizer have developed vaccines using mRNA, and without the use of controversial fetal cell lines. Similarly, both vaccines have been tested in an ethical way that is in line with previous moral statements made by Pope Benedict XVI and the Pontifical Academy for Life. Receiving either vaccine would be morally permissible in the Catholic Church and would also be an important pro-life decision that would help to defend the most vulnerable. Through our own personal actions and decisions, we can help to protect our neighbors from the coronavirus pandemic.

For more information on the vaccines and their development, you can review a *Catholic Standard* interview with Dr. David Diemert, a medical doctor and scientist who is part of a team researching a potential COVID-19 vaccine. The US Conference of Catholic Bishops has also published a memo on this issue, and you can find more information on this topic at their website usccb.org. Finally, the Archdiocesan Office of Life Issues recently published an article with more information in the Catholic Standard at <https://cathstan.org/>.

BULLETIN DEADLINE Please email your submission to bulletin@ihmrcc.org by Wednesday at 10:00 am prior to the Sunday of publication. All entries are subject to editing.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

THE SICK

THAT THEY MAY BE RESTORED TO FULL HEALTH

Audrey Somers, Anthony Thomas, Louise Shafer, Helen Daye, Kathleen Floyd, Mary Oliver, Judith Ann Allgood, Vince Guerin, Regan Corliss, Jack Makin, Belle Riddell, Corrine Geraty, Jane Keyon, Sarah Crecelius, Linda F. Gieser, Patricia V. Rose, Jim Brown, Ralph Gough Sr., Betty LePore

Please note: names will remain on these lists for two months, unless otherwise notified. To keep a name on the list, please resubmit by contacting bulletin@ihmrcc.org, or call the Parish Office.

PAPAL PRAYER INTENTION FOR JANUARY

May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.

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