

## ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

SERVING ST. MARY'S/ MALTA, SACRED HEART/ DODSON, ST. FRANCIS /SACO

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2026

### Contact Us

#### Fr. Felix Nayak, Pastor

Cell 406.946.2195 or Rectory 406.654.1446

Deacon Tom DePuydt

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Administrative Assistant (Macie Hould) office hours are Tuesday and Thursday, 10am to 2pm at RE Center

[office@saintmarysmalta.org](mailto:office@saintmarysmalta.org) or (406) 654-1311

Please check our website for additional information.

Weekly bulletins are posted in full color with several additions – check them out here: <https://www.saintmarysmalta.org/bulletins>

**Confession** – Friday's 9-10am, Saturday's 11-noon or contact Fr. Felix directly for an appointment.

**Adoration** – every Friday 9:00-10:00am immediately following daily Mass.

#### **MASS SCHEDULE:**

Saturday vigil – Malta 5:00pm    Sunday – Saco 8:30am, Malta 10:30am, Dodson 12:30pm

Daily Mass (Monday thru Friday) – Malta 8:30am

## **Homily by Fr. Felix:**

*II Sunday in Ordinary Time (A): Is 49:3, 5–6, 1 Cor 1:1–3, Jn 1:29–34*

Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ,

The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time invites us to recognize Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world and reveals God's saving love. Through our baptism, we are called not only to believe in Christ but to bear witness to Him in our daily lives. As disciples, we are sent to point others to Jesus, so that the light of God's salvation may reach all people.

The first reading from the prophet Isaiah presents the beautiful image of the Servant of the Lord, chosen and formed by God even before birth. God says, "You are my servant... in you I show my glory." This calling is not accidental; it is intentional, loving, and purposeful. God does not merely create; He calls.

The Servant's mission initially seems limited to restoring Israel, but God expands it: "I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth." This reveals an important theological truth: God's saving plan is universal. Salvation is meant for all.

For us today, this reading reminds us that every Christian is called and sent. Through baptism, we share in Christ's mission to be light in a world often overshadowed by darkness, through our faith, integrity, compassion, and witness. We may feel small or inadequate, but God assures us that our mission has eternal value when lived in fidelity to Him.

In the second reading, Saint Paul identifies himself as "called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God." He then addresses

the community as those who are called to be holy. Holiness, therefore, is not reserved for a few chosen individuals; it is the vocation of every baptized person.

Paul reminds us that holiness is not self-made. It flows from our union with Christ: sanctified in Christ Jesus. God takes the initiative; grace precedes effort. Our task is to cooperate with that grace through faith, prayer, and daily conversion.

Paul's greeting of grace and peace is deeply theological. Grace is God's free gift; peace is its fruit. A community rooted in Christ becomes a sign of God's peace to the world. In a time marked by division and restlessness, this reading challenges us to live our Christian identity authentically grounded in Christ and united as one body.

In the Gospel, John the Baptist points away from himself and toward Jesus, proclaiming: "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." This is a profound declaration. Jesus is revealed as the Paschal Lamb, the one who will offer His life for the salvation of humanity. John recognizes Jesus as the one upon whom the Spirit descends and remains. This moment reveals Jesus' identity: the Son of God, filled with the Spirit, the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.

The mission of John the Baptist becomes our mission as well, to point others to Christ. Each time we celebrate the Eucharist, we echo John's words before Communion: "Behold the Lamb of God." When we truly encounter Christ, we cannot keep Him to ourselves, we are sent to proclaim Him.

Today our mission is to live as people of light who point the world to Jesus, the Lamb of God. May we recognize our calling, embrace our holiness, and faithfully proclaim Christ through our lives. Amen.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Thank you to our High School Religious Education teachers and students for their diligent work taking down the Christmas decorations in the church. Your hard work did not go unnoticed, and it is truly appreciated.

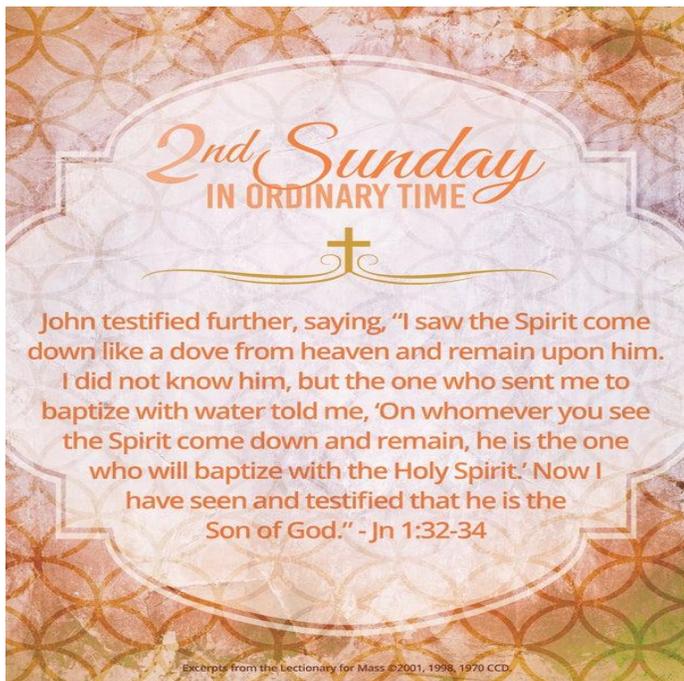
We are currently accepting recipients for a **Carroll College Scholarship**, given in memory of the deceased priests of the Diocese of Helena and the Diocese of Great Falls- Billings. To be considered for the scholarship recipients must be planning to attend Carroll for the first time in the fall of 2026.

Please email or call the office @ [office@saintmarysmalta.org](mailto:office@saintmarysmalta.org) or (406) 654-1311, with a recipient's name to be considered for the scholarship. There is no application to fill out. The deadline to get names to the office for consideration of the scholarship is **March 1<sup>st</sup>**. After all names are gathered the councils and Father Felix will choose the recipient for our parish and send that information to Carroll College.

The **2026 SEARCH** date has been set: **March 20th, 21st, and 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
 For more information, please contact *Dianne Salsbery, Becky Bruce, or Alora Jesson*

**If you would like to have another Priest perform a service (funeral, wedding, baptism, ect.) in our Parish, please contact Fr. Felix so he may grant his permission.**

**Week of January 11th, 2026 Donations: Malta \$1826, Saco \$350, Dodson -no count this week**



## Prayer Requests

*If you have a prayer request, please contact **Dianne Salsbery at 406-654-4675**. Names will be listed in the bulletin for a minimum of 30 days.*

**Please pray for** –Kylie Starkey, Chuck Nurville, David Cochran, Dawn Goodheart Jones, the family of Skyla Sisco, Leona Kienenberger, the families of Staci French, Carletta Benson, Joe Simanton, Judy Henry, Adalyn McCollom, Gloria Combs, Corky LaBrie, Dianne Salsbery, Bob Kaluza, Tammy Peterson and those from our area serving in the military.

**For the repose of the souls of** – Skyla Sisco, Staci French, Shirley Eklund, Alvina Doucette, Derek Davis, KJ Wilke, Jim Robinson, David Williamson, Lee Stevens and all souls in need and pray also for their families

## Next weeks Ministry Volunteers: January 24 & 25

	Sacristan	Lector	Hospitality	Money Counter
<b>Saturday, 5:00 PM</b>	Stacy French	Mike Ereaux Clay Jesson	Alora Jesson	
<b>Sunday, 10:30 AM</b>	Lana Fortin	Margaret Hanson Dianne Salsbery	Macie Hould	Alanna Mahan - Money Counter Reene Wasson - Money Counter

**Mass Intentions** - to schedule an intention,  
please fill out an envelope at the back of the church.  
Each intention is \$10.

Saturday 1.17.26	For my family r/b Lana Fortin
Sunday 1.18.26 10:30 Malta 8:30am Saco 12:30 Dodson	- For the faithful in our Parish - For Clayton Mears & family r/b Mears Family - For souls in purgatory r/b Lana Fortin
Monday 1.19.26	For repose of Derek Davis & family r/b Lana Fortin
Tuesday 1.20.26	For Lana Fortin & family r/b Cummings
Wednesday 1.21.26	For special intentions r/b Lana Fortin
Thursday 1.22.26	For Sue Webb & family r/b Cummings
Friday 1.23.26	For my family r/b Lana Fortin
Saturday 1.24.26	For poor souls r/b Mears Family
Sunday 1.25.26	For the faithful in our Parish

**Daily Readings for the Week of  
January 18th:**

<b>Sunday:</b>	Is 49:3, 5-6/Ps 40:2 and 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10/1 Cor 1:1-3/Jn 1:29-34
<b>Monday:</b>	1 Sm 15:16-23/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23/Mk 2:18-22
<b>Tuesday:</b>	1 Sm 16:1-13/Ps 89:20, 21-22, 27-28/Mk 2:23-28
<b>Wednesday:</b>	1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51/Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10/Mk 3:1-6
<b>Thursday:</b>	1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7/Ps 56:2-3, 9-10a, 10b-11, 12-13/Mk 3:7-12
<b>Friday:</b>	1 Sm 24:3-21/Ps 57:2, 3-4, 6 and 11/Mk 3:13-19
<b>Saturday:</b>	2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27/Ps 80:2-3, 5-7/Mk 3:20-21
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	Is 8:23-9:3/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/1 Cor 1:10-13, 17/Mt 4:12-23 or 4:12-17

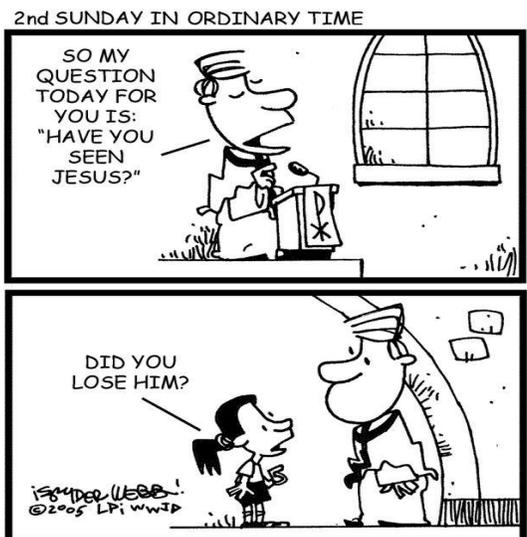
**Finance Council members include:**

- Mike Ereaux** 406-658-2613 (H), 406-654-7803 (C),  
[7mfe7195@itstriangle.com](mailto:7mfe7195@itstriangle.com)  
**Deb Sjostrom** 406-654-1451, [sjostrom@itstriangle.com](mailto:sjostrom@itstriangle.com).  
**Lance Hould** 406-539-5772, [lanceh\\_99@hotmail.com](mailto:lanceh_99@hotmail.com)  
**Scott King** 406-654-7302, [sbking1959@gmail.com](mailto:sbking1959@gmail.com)  
**Heathyr Knowles** 805-264-7350, [hjknowles@msn.com](mailto:hjknowles@msn.com)  
**Shyla Sunford** 406-399-1484, [shylasunford@gmail.com](mailto:shylasunford@gmail.com)  
(Saco)  
**Bonnie Lankford** 406-390-2276, [Bonnie4339@hotmail.com](mailto:Bonnie4339@hotmail.com)  
(Dodson)

*Meetings are generally the 3rd Thursday of the month. If interested in serving please contact a member of the finance council.*

**Parish Council members include:**

- Alora Snider**— 406-399-1675, [alora\\_lynn\\_09@hotmail.com](mailto:alora_lynn_09@hotmail.com)  
**Shawn Bleth**— 406-654-7303, [shawn.bleth@gmail.com](mailto:shawn.bleth@gmail.com)  
**Nancy Ereaux**—406-658-2613  
**Jeff Van Heel**—406-266-1133  
**Joy DePuydt**—406-674-5560, [joyful@itstriangle.com](mailto:joyful@itstriangle.com) (Saco)  
**Leona Kienenberger**—406-383-4459,  
[leona\\_kienenberger@yahoo.com](mailto:leona_kienenberger@yahoo.com) (Dodson)





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# SEASON of HOPE

## A Future of Faith

Dear Friends in Christ,

Growing up in Belt, Montana, I learned early on that both strength and faith define the people of our great state — especially those who work the land, care for their neighbors, and persevere through the ups and downs of every season with hope. Whether in farming, ranching, or everyday life, we know what it means to plant, nurture, and trust that God will bring the harvest in His time.

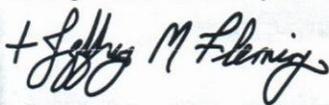
This year's **Annual Catholic Appeal**, "*A Season of Hope, A Future of Faith*," is about that same spirit — the belief that what we give and build today will sustain the faith of tomorrow. Even if you already support your parish, your participation in the diocesan appeal strengthens our shared mission across all of Eastern Montana. Together, we ensure that our faith continues to grow strong in every part of our diocese.

Your participation and generosity make a direct impact by:

- **Supporting Our Priests:** Providing care, formation, and support for those who serve and have served our communities with dedication and faith.
- **Sustaining the Bishop's Ministry and Mission:** Helping the Church reach and serve even the most rural parts of Eastern Montana.
- **Investing in Catholic Formation and Ministries:** Nurturing not only the current generation, but also the next generation of believers through our schools, youth programs, and parish ministries.

Each gift — no matter the amount — is a seed of hope that grows into a future full of faith. I invite you to prayerfully consider taking part in this year's Appeal, joining your fellow parishioners and friends across Eastern Montana in strengthening the Church we all share.

With gratitude and every blessing,



**+Jeffrey Fleming**  
 Bishop of the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings



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**Caring for those who  
 serve our parishes.**



**Supporting the Bishop's ministry  
 through unity, leadership and service.**



**Inspiring the next  
 generation of faith.**

# Weekly Prayer

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## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

I will make you a light to the nations,  
that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.  
(Is 49:6)

### Psalm:

Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will. (Ps 40)

### Second Reading:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Cor 1:3)

### Gospel:

John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said,  
"Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the  
world." (Jn 1:29)

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## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Do we recognize Christ when we see him? Do we have the courage to point him out, to show others who he is? John cried out so the whole world could hear: "He is the Son of God." Always and everywhere, let us do the same.

## Observances for the week of January 18, 2026

- Sunday:** 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Monday:** Martin Luther King Day
- Tuesday:** St. Fabian, Pope and Martyr;  
St. Sebastian, Martyr
- Wednesday:** St. Agnes, Virgin and Martyr
- Thursday:** Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of  
Unborn Children
- Friday:** St. Vincent, Deacon and Martyr;  
St. Marianne Cope, Virgin
- Saturday:** St. Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the  
Church
- Next Sunday:** 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time;  
Celebrate Catholic Schools Week



## Virtues, Explained!

Our modern Catholic understanding of peace is derived from the Hebrew concept of *shalom*, or wholeness, and refers not just to an absence of violence but to a personal reconciliation with one's Creator.

## Blessing of the Beloved

Dear God,  
Bless and anoint us today. You are our Father and guide.  
Remind us of our identity in You: loved, called, and equipped for mission.  
Bless us as we journey, giving us strength for each day and grace in each step.  
Amen.

# Worship & Meditation

## Readings for the week of January 18, 2026

### Sunday:

Is 49:3, 5-6/Ps 40:2 and 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10/  
1 Cor 1:1-3/Jn 1:29-34

### Monday:

1 Sm 15:16-23/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and  
23/Mk 2:18-22

### Tuesday:

1 Sm 16:1-13/Ps 89:20, 21-22, 27-28/  
Mk 2:23-28

### Wednesday:

1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51/Ps 144:1b, 2,  
9-10/Mk 3:1-6

### Thursday:

1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7/Ps 56:2-3, 9-10a, 10b-  
11, 12-13/Mk 3:7-12

### Friday:

1 Sm 24:3-21/Ps 57:2, 3-4, 6 and 11/  
Mk 3:13-19

### Saturday:

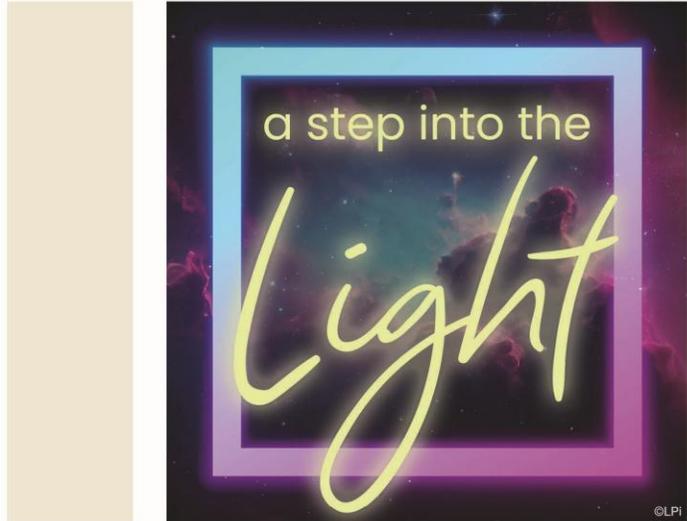
2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27/Ps 80:2-3, 5-7/  
Mk 3:20-21

### Next Sunday:

Is 8:23-9:3/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/1 Cor 1:10-13,  
17/Mt 4:12-23 or 4:12-17



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## Gospel Meditation

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

It's common to hear belief in Jesus and the Church mocked as blind faith and credulity. But in reality, it is deeply human and rational. Think about it: we rely on the testimony of others constantly. I trust chemists who certify the safety of toothpaste and cleaning products. I trust engineers when I use a microwave or drive over a bridge. Why? Because they have studied and seen what I have not, and their testimony proves itself in daily life. That kind of trust is not irrational; it is how human knowledge works.

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist declares: **"Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God" (John 1:34).** That is the language of an eyewitness. It invites us into a very human act: trusting someone who has directly encountered something — or Someone — we have not yet fully seen ourselves.

The Church's faith is built on this kind of reliable sight-based testimony. The Apostles did not make abstract claims. They saw, followed, suffered for, and proclaimed Jesus Christ. Over centuries, their witness — carried in Scripture, in the lives of the saints, and in the sacramental life of the Church — has proven dependable. We come to know its truth by assenting to it, by living and studying it, praying with it, trusting it.

Faith in Christ is not a childish leap into the dark. It is a step into the light of testimony that proves itself over time.

— *Father John Muir*

# Liturgical Life

## (PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

**Mini Reflection:** John the Baptist recognizes Jesus when he sees him, though there is nothing extraordinary-looking about him. This is how Jesus comes to us today: veiled in the ordinary. He is in the people who are easiest to miss, the easiest to ignore, the easiest from whom it is to turn away.

### Behold the Lamb

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

Be honest. When the priest or deacon read this line from the Gospel today, did your brain finish it with: “Blessed are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb”? (Mine did. And then I almost blurted out: “Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul will be healed.” Because it’s Sunday morning, and I’m tired.)

We hear the words of John the Baptist every Sunday in the *Agnus Dei*. If you have been Catholic since childhood, the words of this rite are probably ingrained in your memory, like a groove worn across a wooden floor by the scratching of an often-used chair. That’s the beautiful thing about our liturgy: it gets inside of you, and it doesn’t leave. I’ve never met a Catholic, however long-fallen-away, who did not recall the responses of the Mass.

When the priest says or chants the *Agnus Dei*, he is showing us the Host — the most ordinary-looking thing you ever did see. Nothing interesting about it whatsoever. Nothing that would make a person give it a second glance.

John the Baptist recognizes Jesus when he sees him, though there is nothing extraordinary-looking about him. There is nothing that would make a person give Jesus a second glance, if that person expected redemption to come in a loud, aggressive show of power.

And this is how Jesus comes to us today: veiled in the ordinary. He is in the people who are easiest to miss, the easiest to ignore, the easiest from whom it is to turn away.

Consider what the world could look like, if an instinct to love and reverence those people were as deeply ingrained in us as the beautiful words so easily on our lips: “Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul will be healed.”

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

## Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

### Question:

How many times a day can a person receive communion?

### Answer:

To find an answer to this question, we need to turn to the Church’s Code of Canon Law. Here we read, “One who has received the blessed Eucharist may receive it again on the same day only within a Eucharistic celebration in which that person participates ...” (no. 917). This tells us that the standard answer would be that we can receive communion twice in a day.

Having said that, we also want to be sure that we pay attention to the entire instruction. The phrase “within a Eucharistic celebration in which that person participates” is important. It means a) that we always have to think of receiving communion as being within a celebration of the Mass and b) we have to be participants in that celebration — we can’t simply show up “in time” for communion.

So, when would this rule apply?

For example, if you attend Mass on a Saturday morning and then take part in the Sunday Vigil Mass on Saturday evening, you could licitly receive communion at both celebrations. Or, another example, if you receive communion at a wedding or funeral Mass, you could also receive communion at a daily Mass or Sunday Vigil celebrated on the same day. We always want to be sure that we observe the rules for fasting from food and drink before receiving the eucharist (see Code of Canon Law, no. 919).

We should also remember that the Code of Canon Law instructs that anyone who is in danger of death or seriously ill may also receive communion a second time (no. 91, §2).

John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. He is the one of whom I said, 'A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.'" - Jn 1:29-30

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

## Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

### First Reading:

Isaiah teaches that God chose Israel to reveal His glory and bring salvation to the world. Why do you think God uses people to do His will?

### Second Reading:

Paul opens his letter to the Corinthians with a plea for unity and holiness of all believers. Where do you see your faith community unified and holy?

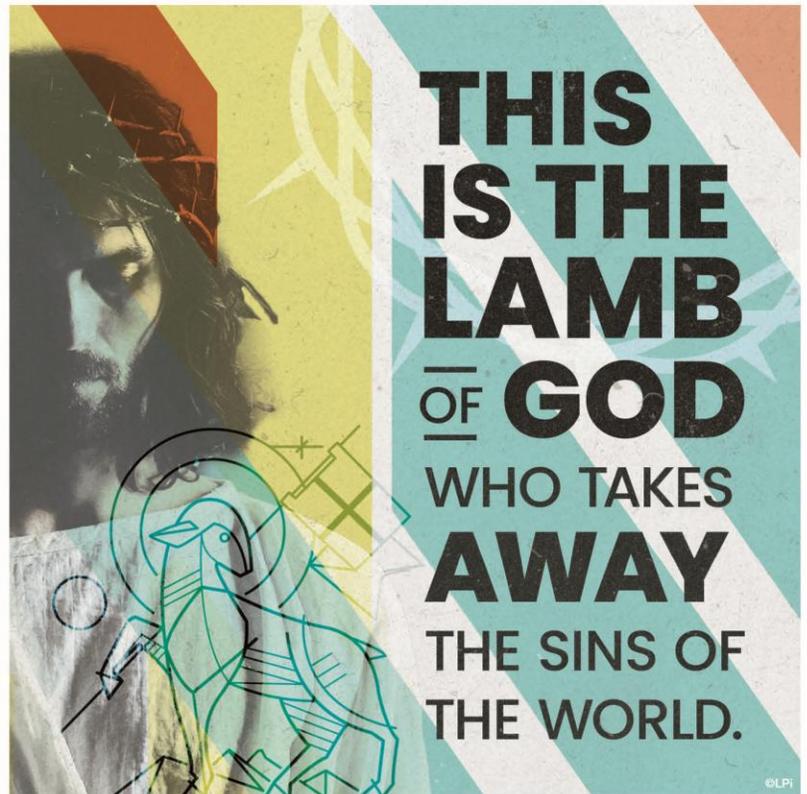
### Gospel:

John the Baptist testifies to others that Jesus is the Son of God who will baptize with the Holy Spirit. With whom do you talk about Jesus?



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## Prayer

Lord, I will be a good disciple by learning and sharing your words.

## Mission for the Week

I will ask someone to read the Bible to me every day.

## Sharing the Gospel

John the Baptist told everyone that Jesus was the Son of God. He told them the Holy Spirit came down on Jesus and remained on him as the Scriptures said. Jesus taught his disciples and others. He healed people to show his power as the Son of God. God wants you to be his disciple. He wants you to be a good example of a loving child of God.

Now color  
the picture!



Which ball of yarn leads to the Lamb of God?

