

January 15, 2023

**Ordinary Time**

Second Sunday



**“Behold the Lamb of God”**

**There is no break between Christmas and Ordinary Time – one flows almost seamlessly into the other through the Baptism of Jesus.**

**Today, as we return to the beginning of Our Lord’s public ministry we stand in the country of the river Jordan, and recognize Jesus of Nazareth as the Chosen One of God. John the Baptist is baptizing people. Jesus is baptized. John witnesses the descent of the Spirit on Him. Later John sees Jesus and calls him the “Lamb of God”, and then directs his disciples to follow Jesus.**

**MASS INTENTIONS**



Saturday, January 21  
4:30 p.m. Robert R. Schaefer  
Sunday, January 22  
8:00 a.m. Paul Vrazel

\* *There will be no Thursday evening Mass while Fr. Gabriel is away.*

**Individual Confessions in Moulton and Praha**

- Available anytime by appointment. Call the office.
- On Fridays in the Family Room after Mass in Moulton.
- On Thursdays after the 4:30 p.m. Mass in Praha.
- During Advent/Christmas season and in Lent.

**Full, Conscious and Active Participation in the Liturgy**

Next weekend is *The Third Sunday of Ordinary Time*. Prepare for the liturgy by reflecting on these passages from your Bible.

**First Reading: Isaiah 8:23—9:3**  
**Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 27**  
**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17**  
**Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23**

Rosary every Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. Come join a group of parishioners at the Zdravas Maria Plaza to pray.

**2022 DIOCESAN SERVICES APPEAL**

**2022 Assessment ..... \$ 9,725.00**  
**Contributions So Far ..... \$10,405.00**

We thank for following for their recent contributions:

*Melvin Hutzler*  
*Rosemary Klekar*  
*Gail & Dennis Stryk*

We thank all those who have contributed towards our D.S.A. assessment so far.

**The Challenge of Unity**

This week marks two observances that highlight the ongoing struggle for unity in society and in the church.



❖ Monday is a national holiday in the U.S. honoring Martin Luther King Jr., an annual reminder of the continuing racial and ethnic divisions in our society. Though Dr. King is remembered especially for his efforts to overcome the divisions between blacks and

whites, his vision was of unity among all peoples and peace in the world.

❖ The second observance that aims toward unity is the Annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. This week runs from January 18-25 each year.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

*Lavaca Catholic Men’s Gathering, January 23*, (Fourth Monday of each month) at Queen of Peace, Sweet Home. Bishop Brendan Cahill will be the featured speaker at the inaugural event. Mass 6:30 p.m., program to follow. *Become a better disciple and enjoy fellowship and food with friends.* Contact Steve Blahuta from St. Joseph’s Church (361-798-6968) for more information.

*The Gabriel Project of the Crossroads.* Interested in volunteering? Attend our *Volunteer Introduction, January 21*, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Sacred Heart, Hallettsville. Overview of our programs to women in crisis pregnancies and the roles of our volunteers. RSVP: [VictoriaGabrielProject.org](http://VictoriaGabrielProject.org).

**Poinsettias**

The manger scene in the Church has been disassembled and the poinsettias have been placed at the back of church. Parishioners who contributed towards the Poinsettia Fund are welcome to take a poinsettia home after Mass. Please use care in removing the plants – pick up leaves that drop.



**The Sanctuary Light**  
**will be lit this week**  
**in memory of Leo Janak.**

**St. Joseph’s Pancake Sunday – Today**

*Come, enjoy good food and good fellowship.*

## REFLECTION



**Isaiah 49:3, 5-6 Psalm 40**  
**1 Corinthians 1:1-3 John 1:29-34**

### *Jesus - The Lamb of God*

When we meet John the Baptist in today's gospel reading, he has already proclaimed that he was not the Messiah but the one preparing the way. John simply appears as the forerunner of the one to come. At the same time, he describes his own faith experience regarding Jesus: "I saw the Spirit come down like a dove ... and remain upon him." Because John recognized the Spirit's presence in Jesus, he called Jesus the Lamb of God. The unique feature of John the Baptist's phrase is that Jesus is the Lamb of God. As this Gospel describes it, John the Baptist's relationship to Jesus was always, "He must increase, I must decrease," and John's proclamation that Jesus came from God acknowledged that clearly. John recognized that his vocation was different from Jesus'. John was simply the one sent to open the way to more than he could imagine.

This week's readings lead us into the season of Ordinary Time with a reflection on who we are called to be as Christians. They remind us that being a Christian is never a solo performance. We are called together, formed by the word of God to become a light to the nations. Like John the Baptist, we are called not for ourselves, but to be able to point out the Lamb of God to others.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



January 16 – Mary Lynn Brehm  
January 17 – Elizabeth Janak  
January 21 – Marcus Jasek, Earline Okruhlik

**On-line Giving:** We thank the Praha parishioners and friends of the parish who have been supporting us with their on-line donations. To make an on-line donation to the church visit us on:

<https://www.victoriadiocese.org/donate-assumption-praha>

## SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND

### CHURCH IN LATIN AMERICA

Your contribution educates priests, religious and lay pastoral leaders; assists missionaries and pastoral workers; trains catechists and youth ministers; supports the Church's work with the poor. *Please be generous.*

## TODAY'S LITURGICAL READINGS

### First Reading: Isaiah 49:3, 5-6

*The Lord said, "You are my servant, Israel, through whom I show my glory ... I will make you a light to the nations, that may salvation may reach to the ends of the earth."*

### Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 40

*Response: Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.*

### Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

*"Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus," greeted The holy people of the Corinthian church with God's grace and peace. He addressed them as "sanctified in Christ Jesus."*

### Gospel: John 1:29-34

*John exclaimed, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." He continued, "I saw the Spirit come down like a dove ... I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God."*

## ORDINARY TIME - WINTER

### 2<sup>nd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> Sundays of Ordinary Time

Each year of the three-year Liturgical Cycle, (A, B, C) is dedicated to one of the synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke). This year, Cycle A, is always associated with Matthew's Gospel. It has been called the first Gospel, as well as the Gospel of the Church. Exposure to the mind and message of Matthew's Gospel is a fitting way to begin our new year of Grace.

## THE WEEK OF PRAYER

### FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY – JANUARY 18-25



The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins on January 18, and concludes on January 25, the feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul. This year's theme is *Do good; seek justice* (cf Isaiah 1:17). The entire scriptural passage for the theme is Isaiah 1:12-18, lamenting a lack of justice among the People of God. Yet, it also

promises redemption by encouraging acts of justice.

### Prayer

*We give thanks, O God, for you bless the Church with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Help us support one another, to be respectful of our differences and to work for the unity of all those throughout the world who call upon Jesus as Lord. Help us by your grace to continue praying the prayer of your Son that we may be one, that we may draw even closer together and recognize our unity is that of Yours, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.*