

FOR THE WEEKEND OF JAN. 17-18, 2026

Second Sunday of Ordinary Time

Gospel Reading

Jn 1:29-34

The next day he [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.’

I did not know him, but the reason why I came baptizing with water was that he might be made known to Israel.”

John testified further, saying, “I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from the sky and remain upon him.

I did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain, he is the one who will baptize with the holy Spirit.’

Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God.”

Intercession

As Jesus sacrificed himself for our sins, may we also make sacrifices to benefit others, including bringing Christ’s light to other by supporting the Catholic Ministry Appeal.

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Even though John is a well-known and popular preacher, he doesn’t pretend to have all the answers. In fact, he admits in today’s Gospel—twice—“I did not know him” in reference to Jesus. John knows he is part of God’s plan, but he doesn’t know what that plan is in its entirety. John comes to understand that Jesus is the Lamb of God when he sees “the Spirit come down like a dove from the sky and remain upon him”. Then, he recognizes that Jesus is the Chosen One, the one who baptizes in the Holy Spirit. With this understanding comes a love that compels John to share the Good News with others.

Calling Jesus the Lamb of God carries great meaning to those listening to John. It recalls the Jewish practice of sacrificing a lamb as expiation for sin, foreshadowing Christ’s ultimate sacrifice on the cross. It reminds listeners of what the prophets foretold: “Though harshly treated, he submitted and did not open his mouth; Like a lamb led to slaughter or a sheep silent before shearers, he did not open his mouth” (Isiah 53:7). And because John says that Jesus baptizes in the Holy Spirit, it emphasizes Christ’s divine nature, establishing him as the Messiah.

How do we, like John, come to know our Lord? And how do we share this understanding with others? One way is through the programs the Catholic Ministry Appeal supports. When we give



to the Catholic Ministry Appeal, we are bringing the mercy of the Lamb of God to others and sharing the Christ's message of love and redemption.

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If John begins today's Gospel in confusion, by its end he has a better understanding of who Jesus is. He is the Son of God whose mission is just beginning. The ultimate teacher, Jesus' ministry is one lesson after another. His disciples learn how to live and love from him. They listen to his parables and sermons. He instructs them how to pray with the "Our Father." The words they feed on help them know God the Father; eventually, these words will guide their efforts in carrying on Christ's mission after he is gone.

But Jesus also teaches through action. With his baptism, Jesus demonstrates that he has come for the sinner, the downtrodden, the outcast, the weak. In his ministry that follows, he keeps company with prostitutes and lepers. He dines with tax collectors. He heals the sick, returns vision to the sightless, cures the lame. He does all this to bring people to the Father. He comes to serve.

As modern-day disciples, there are numerous ways we can serve the Lord and spread his Good News, like supporting our Catholic Ministry Appeal. Let us prayerfully consider a gift to the Appeal so that the light of Christ continues to shine for those who in need.

Social Media Post/Content

Photo: Lamb

Header: "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" – John 1: 29

Copy: May we always find consolation in God's mercy. In all we meet, let us follow Jesus' example of mercy and love, including our support of the Catholic Ministry Appeal.