

**St. Monica
Catholic Church
(Est. 1858)**

January 14, 2018

Second Sunday of Ordinary Times



Here I Am Lord!

A Disciple's Response

In this Second Week of Ordinary Time, our gospel passage is from the first chapter of John the Evangelist. John the

Baptist points Jesus out to us, "*Behold, the Lamb of God.*" This requires an active response if we wish to go deeper than the Christmas wrappings. It calls us to simply follow Jesus and then answer his question,

"What are you looking for?"

Just before we come to Communion, we hear the priest cry out, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb." When we say "Amen" to the "Body of Christ", that is a commitment. Have you ever heard Jesus ask you,

"What are you looking for?"

Sure, we say, "Lord, I am not worthy for you to enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul will be healed." But,

"What are you looking for?"

Basically, I suggest we are looking for the Christ even if we don't fully understand what that means. Andrew and John answer with a question, "Where are you staying?" Jesus invites us to answer our questions. "*Come, and you will see.*"

Jesus is asking for a commitment of our time to stay and listen. How willing are you to commit to stay with and listen to Jesus? This will require much more time than the Sunday Mass obligation. Eventually, our commitment to Jesus will be strong as a husband and wife who truly commit to love each other until death do they part. It is a lifelong covenant of love and commitment.

Covenant Commitment Sunday is the weekend of January 27/28. Are you willing to respond to God's calling like little Samuel?

"Here I am. You called me."

"Speak Lord, for your servant is listening."

Father Ron, Peace, Love & Joy +

THE LAMB OF GOD

"Behold the Lamb of God!" We hear this phrase every Sunday at Mass, but there's a good chance that many Roman Catholics do not know who in the Bible originally spoke it. The phrase appears only in the Gospel of John, on the lips of John the Baptist, who utters it twice. In today's Gospel reading, John proclaims Jesus as the Lamb of God, and two of John's own disciples then follow Christ. A little bit later Andrew, who heard John and then followed Jesus, brings his brother Simon to be re-named Cephas, or Peter. A careful look at these Bible verses shows us the mission of everyone baptized into the Body of Christ: we must always proclaim our faith in Christ, so that others will follow him. We may not know how the will of God might work through those we bring to Christ; that is not the point. The point is that our ongoing mission as a church is to bring others to Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

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MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil 4:30 p.m.
Sunday 9:00 a.m.

Weekday Masses - 8:30 a.m.

First Friday Adoration/Sacred Heart Devotion
and Other Fridays Holy Hour - 9:00 a.m.

First Saturday Mass with the Anointing of the Sick 10:00 a.m.
Holy Day Masses

8 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Confessions - Saturday: 3:30 p.m. to 4:15 - Or by Appointment

Those needing "Anointing of the Sick" or in need of a Priest, please call these telephone numbers only:
During Business Hours: Parish Office - 325-9777
After Business Hours : 561-827-1132
Please call the Parish Office to let us know if a parishioner is hospitalized, seriously ill or homebound so that a Priest can visit and anoint them.

Next Week's Mass Intentions

Sat.	01/13	4:30 p.m.	+ Isabelle Daniell
Sun.	01/14	9:00 a.m.	Parishioners
Mon.	01/15	8:30 a.m.	+ June Crouch
Tue.	01/16	8:30 a.m.	+ Mark Murphy
Wed.	01/17	8:30 a.m.	+ Miguel Dejuk Yunis
Thur.	01/18	8:30 a.m.	+ Frances Graff
Fri.	01/19	8:30 a.m.	+ Franklin Lininger
Sat.	01/20	4:30 p.m.	+ Yuki Roberts

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Speak, for your servant is listening (1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19).

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

Second Reading — Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you? (1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20).

Gospel — Andrew found his brother Simon and brought him to Jesus (John 1:35-42).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

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

Tuesday: 1 Sm 16:1-13; Ps 89:20-22, 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, 9-13; Mk 3:7-12

Friday: 1 Sm 24:3-21; Ps 57:2-4, 6, 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

Sunday: Jon 3:1-5, 10; Ps 25:4-9; 1 Cor 7:29-31; Mk 1:14-20

Office Hours
PARISH OFFICE

Phone: 386-325-9777 • Fax: 386-329-1960

Mon., Wed., Thur., and Fri. 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
 Tuesday 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
 114 South 4th Street
 Palatka, Florida 32177

Nancy Tatum, Pastoral Administrator
 Cheryl Carr, Receptionist
 Diane Mutchie, Stewardship Pastoral Associate
 Lorenzo Delacruz, Church Sexton

Attention—The Diocese of Saint Augustine treats all allegations of sexual misconduct seriously and deals with all allegations in a prompt, confidential and thorough manner. To Report Abuse, call: Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator 904-262-3200, ext. 129, or the Department of Children and Families at 1-800-96-Abuse (800-962-2873).



Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Holy Spirit, and the doorway to the other sacraments. The Council of Florence called Baptism, "the sacrament of regeneration through water and in the word." (CCC#1213)

FORMED.ORG



Session One
Where are you?

Password: R87GP3

Have you ever felt lost and alone, isolated in guilt? Like the Prodigal Son among the pigs, we know that we have sinned. But God won't leave us there—He searches for us and runs to welcome us home in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

As you prepare for Lent, please check out this on FORMED.org.

The first session is "Where are you", a video located under the tab Faith Formation, A Lent to Remember.

There are four Sessions, with an additional video for Children on how to make a good Confession.

St. Johns the Evangelist Interlachen

All are Welcome

Mass Schedule

Wednesday 6:00 p.m.

Friday 6:00 p.m.

Sunday 11:30 a.m.

Social after Sunday Mass

Confessions

Sunday 11:00 a.m.

Bible Study

Wednesday 4:30 p.m.

Here's What's Happening!

If you donated a poinsettia for Christmas, you can pick up your plant after January 9th.

January 13, 2018 - Day of Reflection, Gratitude is the theme, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. in the Parish Enrichment Center.

January 15, 2018 - The Parish office is closed in observance of Martin Luther King.

January 16, 2018 - Into the Deep, Bible Study with Father Ron, 6:00 p.m.

This Tuesday @ 6 pm St Monica & this Wednesday @ 4:30 pm St John's . Please bring your new American Bible as we take a remarkable journey through the Gospel we will be reading all through this liturgical year. *If you thirst for a deeper relationship with God and Jesus, this is for you.*

February 13th Save the date for Mardi Gras, Fat Tuesday, Pre-sold only, tickets will be going on sale soon. No Tickets sold at the door!

If you need a tax letter, please contact the office. We have a list we use every year, so if you have already requested a letter, you will be on the list to receive it.

The Food Pantry needs your help. Please call the office if you are interested.



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TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

"Ordinary Time" began for us this week. On the old calendar, the feast of the Presentation, still more than two weeks away, was the last day of the Christmas season. Sadly, Bethlehem is hardly a place of peace on earth these days. The ancient Christian community has been largely uprooted by political strife. The Church of the Nativity stands (barely) in remarkable disrepair and disorder in Manger Square. The roof is crumbling, the major doorways are blocked, the wiring is faulty, and the worship life is disrupted by quarrels among Eastern Christians.

The church was founded by the Emperor Constantine in 325, destroyed in a Samaritan revolt in 539, and rebuilt by the Emperor Justinian. When the area came under Muslim control in 638, the holiness of the church was respected, and in return Christians allowed Muslims to pray in the south aisle, a right still upheld. Earlier in that century, invading Persians were ordered to destroy all churches, but when they saw the magi carved over the doorway of the Church of the Nativity, they spared it out of respect for their ancestors who bore gold, frankincense, and myrrh to the same city. The Crusaders restored and redecored the church by the twelfth century, and it is their plan that survives. Down a few stone steps is a stone grotto with a silver star marking the place of Christ's birth: when the star was stolen in 1847 it triggered an international crisis that exploded into the Crimean War.

Since 1852, the church has been shared by the Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox, and Armenian Churches. The Greeks are in charge of the grotto, but don't enjoy the best of friendships with the Armenians. Catholics have the care of the Chapel of the Manger, and avoid the squabbles by a separate entrance to the Franciscan monastery church of St. Catherine. Pray for peace in Bethlehem!

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

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