

# Dear Padre,

*I thought only priests and bishops should distribute Holy Communion at Mass. In my parish, the priest allows laypeople to help him, and I thought laypeople couldn't because our hands are not consecrated.*

You're not the only person with this concern, so thank you for taking the time to write. The distribution of holy Communion has nothing to do with "consecrated hands." Ordinary ministers of Communion include bishops and priests, as you rightly identify, but also deacons and installed acolytes. Of the four ordinary ministers, only the hands of bishops and priests are consecrated. Laypeople are extraordinary ministers and are installed to help the priest so that everyone can receive holy Communion without long lines or wearying the (sometimes elderly) priest. Most extraordinary ministers of Communion approach this ministry very prayerfully.

Your question brings up the subject of the full participation of the laity in the Mass, which is part of a highly contentious theological discussion on social media. There is an unfortunate conflict between so-called "traditional Catholics" and "Vatican II Catholics" or, as they are often misrepresented, "Novus Ordo" Catholics. Some Catholics are led to believe that the "new Mass" is not authentic, even though it has been the ordinary form of the Mass for well over fifty years—that is, since the authoritative Second Vatican Council. Many good and faithful people suffer with doubt and anxiety as a result of this confusion. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
January 19	January 20	January 21	January 22	January 23	January 24	January 25
Weekday	Weekday	St. Agnes, Virgin	Day of Prayer	Weekday	St. Francis de	Third Sunday in
1 Sm 15:16-23	1 Sm 16:1-13	and Martyr	and the Legal	1 Sm 24:3-21	Sales, Bishop	Ordinary Time
Mk 2:18-22	Mk 2:23-28	1 Sm 17:32-33,	Protection of	Mk 3:13-19	and Doctor of	Is 8:23-9:3
		37, 40-51	Unborn Children		the Church	1 Cor 1:10-13,
		Mk 3:1-6	Mk 3:1-6	1 Sm 18:6-9;	2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-	17
				19:1-7	12, 19, 23-27	Mt 4:12-23
				Mk 3:7-12	Mk 3:20-21	or 4:12-17



## A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

*Ours is a time marked by a growing search for spirituality, particularly evident in young people, who are longing for authentic relationships and guides in life. Hence, it is important that the Christian community be farsighted in discerning the challenges of today's world and in nurturing the desire for faith present in the heart of every man and woman.*

MESSAGE TO SEMINAR PARTICIPANTS, ROME, MAY 28, 2025



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# Our Parish COMMUNITY

January 18, 2026

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Isaiah 49:3, 5-6 / 1 Corinthians 1:1-3 / John 1:29-34



## Behold the Lamb of God!

ANN M. GARRIDO

**O**f the many names Scripture provides to help us ponder the mystery of Jesus, one of the most intriguing is the name that John the Baptist offers at the opening of today's gospel: "Behold the Lamb of God!" (John 1:29).

Scripture scholars debate what John means here. Is he alluding to the Passover lamb—that unblemished lamb whose blood the enslaved Israelites were to post over their doorways? The angel of death knew to "pass over" these homes. Perhaps John was saying that by Jesus' blood, the people would be freed from death.

Or was John thinking about the guilt offerings mentioned in the Hebrew Scriptures when priests offered animal sacrifices to God as a way of seeking the removal of their sins? Leviticus mentions use of a scapegoat who would carry the sins of the people away into the desert. (See Leviticus 20-28.) Could John have understood that Jesus would bear the sins of the world?

Or did John have in mind the great constellation Aries, the ram, considered the prince of the stars of the sky, the center from whom all the other constellations were mapped in ancient times? Perhaps John was pointing out that Jesus was the center around whom heaven and earth revolve, like the ruling lamb mentioned in the Book of Revelation.

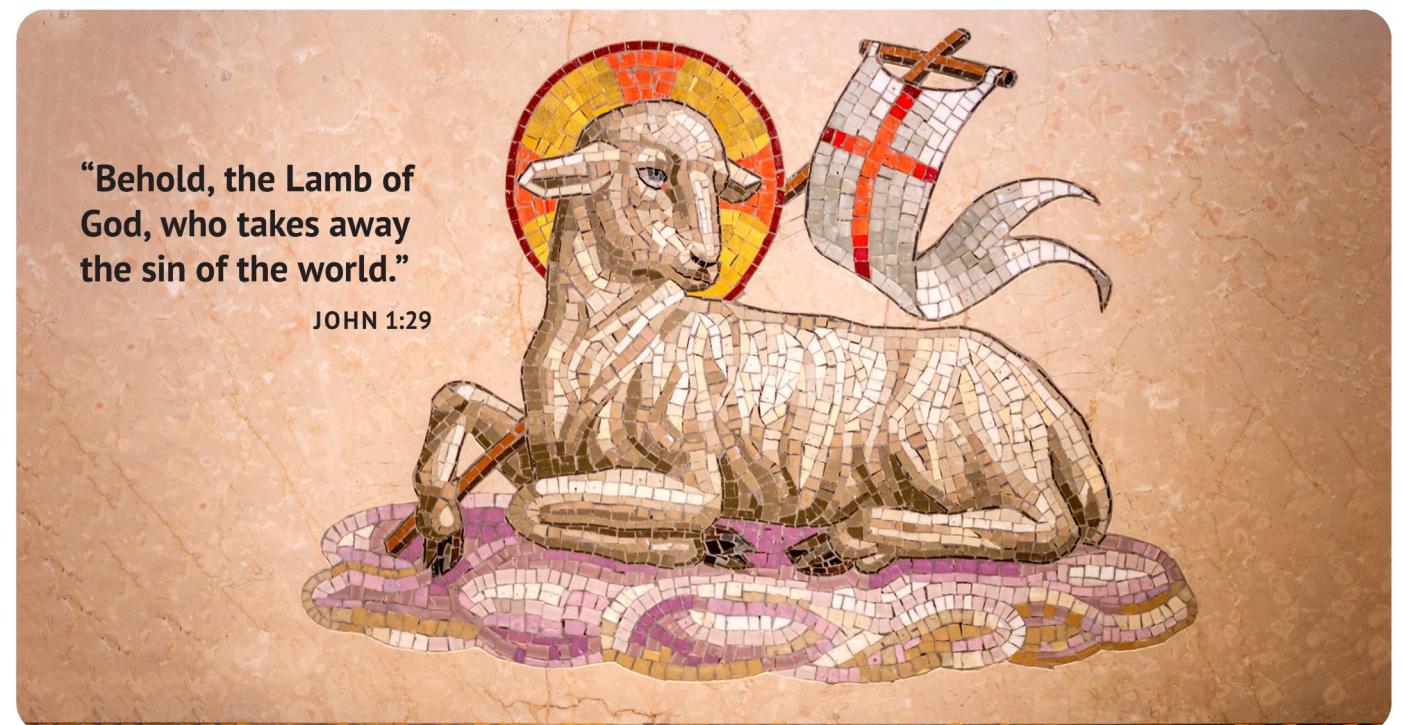
Today at Mass, when the host is elevated and you hear John's words again—"Behold the Lamb of God!"—take a moment to savor these words anew. ●



LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

## Reflect

Which understanding of the "Lamb of God" resonates with me?



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## WELCOME TO DIVINE MERCY PASTORAL UNIT SUNDAY, JANUARY 18TH, 2026

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF EDMUNDSTON Bishop Claude Champagne o.m.i.  
Father Gilbert Doddatto i.v.Dei: Moderator, 506-273-0065 Father Curtis Sappier: Asst. Moderator  
44 MARIAN DRIVE, PERTH-ANDOVER, N.B. E7H3A7 OFFICE: 506-273-2913  
FAX: 506-273-4177 EMAIL: stmary@nb.sympatico.ca WEBSITE: divinemercy-nb.ca  
OFFICE MANAGER: STILLMAN BAKER 506-273-0189. OFFICE OPEN TUESDAY  
AT ST. MARY OF THE ANGELS & WEDNESDAY AT ST. PATRICK'S. PLEASE CALL  
AHEAD OF TIME. FOR ALL SACRAMENTS: Please contact Father Gilbert at 506-273-0065.



**A HEALING PRAYER TO ST. THERESE OF THE CHILD JESUS (LITTLE FLOWER)**  
**Dearest St. Therese:** You are the Little Flower of Jesus. Pray this day that I may be  
made well in body, mind, and spirit. Help me to always, see, as you so clearly did, that my  
sufferings and trials are meant to cleanse and purify me that I may be more worthy to  
receive God's unending love. **AMEN.**



**St. Anne's: Tobique First Nation:**  
Every Wednesday at 7:00 P.M.



**Our Lady of Mercy:**  
**Memorial Wreath**  
Please contact:  
**Doreen Roach:**  
**506-273-3020.**



**St. Mary of the Angels:**  
Weekday Masses:  
will be announced in church on Sundays.  
**First Friday Mass:** February 6th, 2026 11:00a.m.



Please join us to study the Gospel of Matthew. It is never too late to join this group which is held at St. Mary of the Angels each Thursday of the month at 1:30 P.M. except for Thursday, January 15th but will continue on January 22nd. For more information, contact 506-273-2913.



### THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE:

For more information regarding St. Mary of the Angels Catholic Women's League, please contact Mrs. Doris Dickson at 506-273-2489. There is no meeting scheduled for January 2026.



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS: COUNCIL 6414**  
**GRAND KNIGHT:** WALTER MCDougall: CONTACT: 506-273-0499.  
RECRUITEMENT/INFORMATION CONTACT: JAMES FOURNIER: 506-273-2637  
**NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON: JANUARY 19TH, 2026**



**ST. THOMAS AQUINAS (PLASTER ROCK) AUCTION 45 CARD GAMES**  
Cards every Monday at 1:00 P.M. Cost: \$5.00. Refreshments.

**JOIN US ON MONDAY, JANUARY 26TH STARTING AT 12 NOON**  
**FOR A DELICIOUS PIPING HOT BOWL OF SOUP TO HELP WARM UP YOUR DAY**  
SERVED WITH ROLLS, DESSERTS AND TEA AND COFFEE. COST: ONLY \$10.00 AND IF YOU WISH YOU MAY STAY AFTER THE LUNCHEON & PLAY AUCTION 45 CARD GAMES. FOR MORE INFO: PLEASE CONTACT ANNE DICKSON AT 506-240-70

**ST. MARY OF THE ANGELS (PERTH-ANDOVER) AUCTION 45 CARD GAMES**  
Cards every Wednesday at 1:30 P.M. Cost \$5.00. Refreshments.



### ST. MARY OF THE ANGELS (PERTH-ANDOVER) 50/50 BINGO

**NEXT BINGO:** SUNDAY, JANUARY 25TH, 2026.  
CANTEEN OPEN AT 12 NOON. HOT DOGS, HAMBURGERS, POP ETC.  
BINGO STARTS AT 1:00 P.M.



### ASSUMPTION BLUE BELL (3710, ROUTE 108) FRIDAY NIGHT MUSIC

Every Friday evening from 7:00 P.M. until 10:00 P.M. With Keith and country friends.  
Cost: \$5.00. Canteen open.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.



**ST. PATRICK'S:** (2154, ROUTE 130 DSL OF GRAND FALLS, N.B. E3Z1N3)

Every Saturday in January 2026. SALES: 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. CONTACT: 506-273-0419.

**ASSUMPTION BLUE BELL:** (3710, ROUTE 108, BLUE BELL, N.B. E7G2S4)

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT FATHER GILBERT: 506-273-2913.

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 17TH-SUNDAY, JANUARY 18TH: SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**Our Lady of Mercy Mass**-3:30 PM-Sat., Jan. 17th Father Gilbert  
+For all the faithful departed.

**St. Patrick Mass** 9:00am-Sunday, January 18th Father Gilbert  
+For Monica Baker by The Baker Family.

**St. Theresa Mass** 9:00 am—Sunday, January 18th Father Curtis  
+For all the faithful departed.

**St. Thomas Aq. Mass** 10:00am Sunday, January 18th Father Curtis  
+For Danny Dickson by His Sister Anne.

**St. Mary's Mass**—10:30am—Sunday, January 18th Fr. Gilbert  
+For Willie Pirie by wife Maxine.

**St. Joseph LOTW**—10:30 am Sunday, January 18th P.A. Anita  
No Intentions.

**Assumption (BB) Mass**—11:00am- Sunday, Jan. 18th Father Curtis  
+For Narcisse Martin by Linda and Daniel Martin.

**St. Anne's LOTW**—12Noon—Sunday, January 18th P.A. Tim  
No Intentions.

## PRAAYER LIST: MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP: PRAY FOR US:



We Pray for all those  
who are in hospitals,  
manors, villas and  
special care homes.

We also pray for:  
Alvena Goodine  
Dan Dionne

Beatrice McLaughlin  
Brian Gagnon  
Rejeanne Fournier,  
Francis McCarthy,  
Erin-Beth Daneluk,

Corey St. Peter,  
Bonnie Campbell,  
John Paul Fournier,  
Derick Winzar,  
Marshall Fournier,  
Clinton Robinson,  
Jeffrey Nyman,  
Anne Marie Levesque,

Erik Parent,  
Robert Baker,  
Martina McQuade—Searles,  
Adena Robinson,  
Mac Paris,

Douglas Canam,  
Janet McIntosh,  
Eileen McLaughlin,  
Ella Deschenes,  
Helen McLaughlin,  
Rose Finnemore,  
Agathe & Cecil Morrissey,

Judy Doucette,  
Shirley Gamblin,  
Jean Beaulieu,  
Fern Dee, Eveleigh Watson,  
Dave & Sharon Eagan,  
Clovis "Sonny" Pelletier,  
David Brown,

Margaret Wells,  
Melodie Kinney  
Lawrence Allen,  
Braelyn Rossignol,  
John L. Fournier,  
Rose Jeppesen,

Hughette Morin, Don Luxton  
Kirk St. Peter  
Sr. Almyre Doucet &  
Sr. Evangeline Poirier, r.h.s.j.

## SAT. JAN. 31ST—SUN., FEB. 1ST: 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Our Lady of Mercy Mass**-3:30 PM-Sat., Jan. 31st Father Gilbert  
St. Patrick Mass 9:00am-Sunday, February 1st Father Gilbert

**St. Theresa Mass** 9:00 am—Sunday, February 1st Father Curtis  
**St. Thomas Aq. Mass** 10:00am Sunday, February 1st Father Curtis

**St. Mary's Mass**—10:30am—Sunday, February 1st Father Gilbert  
**St. Joseph -LOTW** 10:30 am Sunday, February 1st P.A. Anita

**Assumption (BB) Mass**—11:00am- Sun., Feb. 1st Father Curtis  
**St. Anne's LOTW**—Mass 12Noon—Sunday, Feb. 1st P.A. Tim

**INTENTIONS WILL BE ADDED IN NEXT WEEK'S BULLETIN**