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"Jesus Wept." John 11:35

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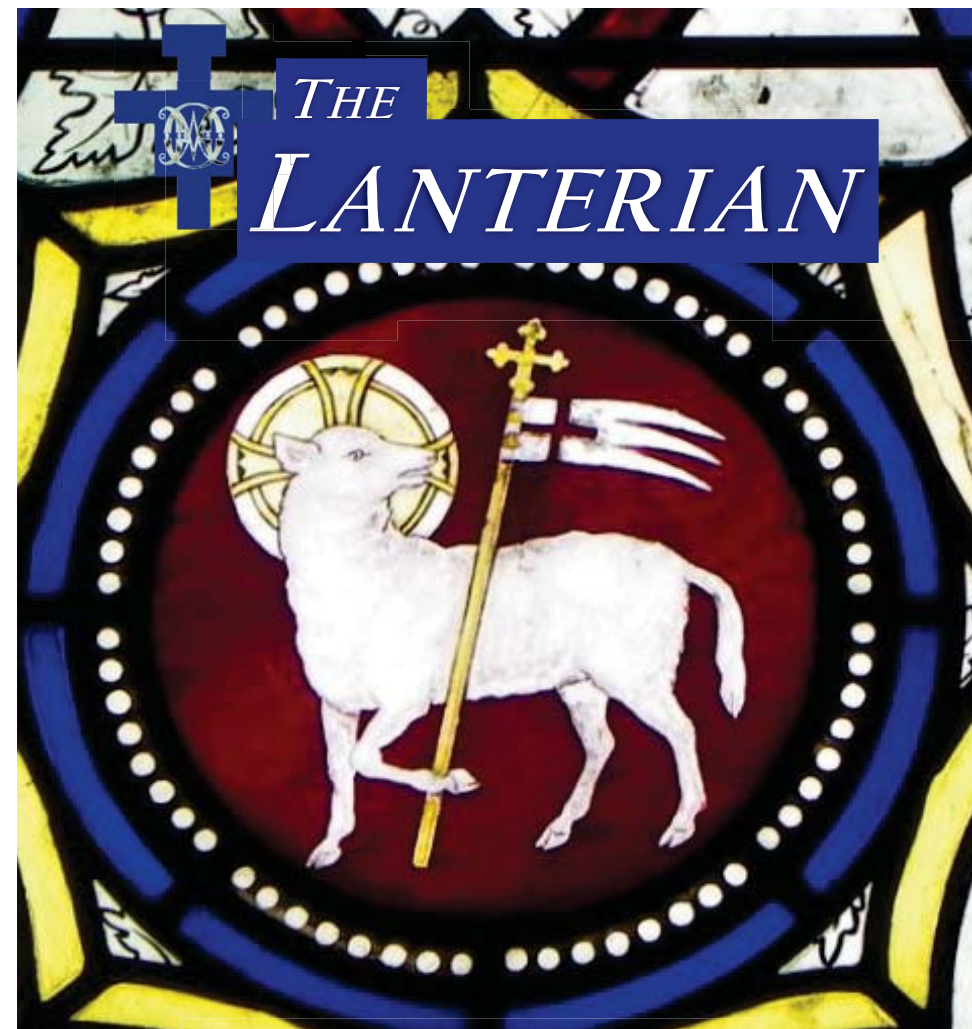
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THE
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SAINT FRANCIS CHAPEL
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ENCOUNTER THE HEART OF CHRIST IN THE HEART OF BOSTON

JANUARY 14, 2024
Second Sunday Ordinary Time



CHAPEL STAFF:

Fr. Isaac Abu, OMV
Fr. Victor Nwabueze, OMV
Fr. Michael Warren, OMV
Fr. John Wykes, OMV

Sundays:

Fr. James Walther, OMV
Fr. Sean Morris, OMV

Music: Saul Garcia, Cesar Garcia, Stacey Ngozi, Celine Wynn

Cleaning of Chapel

Environment: Nubia Viasus

The Pope's Prayer Intention for January

Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.



Cover Art:

The Agnus Dei from the east window. St. Paul's Church, North Yorkshire, England. Image by SE 1880, geograph.

SCHEDULE

Sunday Masses:

Saturday Vigil 4:00PM,
5:30 PM, (en español)

Sun. 8 AM, 9:15AM, 10:30AM, 11:45AM,
1:15 PM (en español), 4:00PM, 5:30PM

Weekday Masses:

Mon.—Fri. 8:00AM, 12:05PM, 4:45PM
Saturday 9:00AM, 12PM

Confessions:

Mon.—Fri. 8:30 -11:50AM, 12:30-4:40PM
Saturday 9:30 - 11:45 AM, 12:30-3:30PM

Devotions:

Tuesday after Mass: Our Lady
Wednesday after Mass: St. Joseph
Thursday after Mass: St. Jude

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

Mon.—Fri. 8:30-11:50AM, 12:30-4:30PM;
Sat. 9:30-11:30AM, 12:30-3:30PM;
Sunday 2:30-3:30PM

Gift Shop Hours:

Monday—Friday 10:00AM - 4:30PM*;
Saturday 9:30AM - 6:00PM*;
Sunday 8:45AM - 6:00PM*
(*Closed during Masses)

CONTACT US

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Reflection

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Why did John call his cousin Jesus Lamb of God? John was the son of Zechariah who was a priest of the Temple. Every day one of the priests would beg God's pardon for his sins and the sins of the people by sacrificing a lamb and burning it up on the altar. John knew that Jesus would be sacrificed to take away our sins. Jesus is the Victim without defect. In the Roman Canon the Catholic priest prays to the Father: "we, Your servants and Your holy people, offer to Your glorious majesty from the gifts that You have given us, this Pure Victim, this Holy Victim, this spotless Victim, the Holy Bread of eternal Life and the Chalice of everlasting salvation".

In our hymn, Glory to God in the Highest, we pray, "Lord God, **Lamb of God** Son of the Father, You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us." This short Gospel tells us a lot about Jesus and John's knowledge of Jesus. John says, "He is the One of Whom I said, a man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because He existed before me." John was born six months before his cousin, but John knew Christ, as Son of God, existed before him.

John did not say that his baptism would change people or deliver them from sin but, "the reason why I came baptizing with water was **that He might be known** to Israel...I saw the Spirit come down like a Dove from Heaven and remain upon Him". John's work was to prepare sincere seekers for the long awaited Christ. John's baptism came to an end. Jesus took over. John knew it would happen. He had said I must decrease. He must increase. John says; "I saw the Spirit come down like a Dove from Heaven and remain on Him". The Holy Spirit had always been with the Son of God, but here the Dove Spirit came down on Jesus to indicate he was the Messiah.

Today's first reading from Isaiah was chosen to go with this Gospel because it describes God's servant Who is so ready and willing to serve. He is made glorious in the sight of the Lord. This Sunday we are following up on the Baptism of the Lord. "Now the Lord has spoken Who formed Me as His servant in the womb...and My Lord is now My strength. It is too little for You to be My servant ...I will make You a light to the nations." It reminds us of Simeon's canticle.

Psalm 40 responds to the reading; "Sacrifice or offering You wished not but ears open to obedience", Father, You don't want animal sacrifice, "Behold, I come. ..It is prescribed for Me, to do Your will O my God is My delight." Jesus does not offer animal sacrifices as the priests of old. He offers Himself! "This Pure Victim, this Holy Victim, this spotless Victim, the Holy Bread of eternal Life and the Chalice of everlasting salvation."

Remember the Hebrews in Egypt smeared lamb's blood on their doors to protect their first born from death. They were saved by the blood of lambs. That incident was a prefiguring of Christ, the true Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. St. Paul wrote, "Christ our Pascal Lamb has been sacrificed" (1Cor. 5:7).

For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

John the Evangelist wrote about his vision of Heaven. The Angels worshiped Jesus and sang; "**Worthy is the Lamb**, who was slain, to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"

*And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it."
(Isaiah 30:21)*

Day of Discernment for Young Men



January 20, 2024

St. Joseph's Retreat House
65 Father Carney Dr.
Milton, MA 02186

- Learn skills for Ignatian Discernment
- Learn How to Choose God's Will
- Hear from Layman, Priest and Brother about life in each vocation
- Time for Prayer
- No Cost and Lunch Provided

To Register: stfrancis@omvusa.org

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sunday, Jan. 14

8:00 AM +Miccia Wielgus
 9:15 AM +John Cunniffe
 10:30 AM +Virginia Wilson & +Pauline Clark
 11:45 AM Ernie Tollan
 1:15 PM +Maria Gomez
 4:00 PM Milka—Special Intention
 5:30 PM +Rick Ahern

Monday, Dec. Jan. 15

8:00 AM +Terry Ippolito
 12:05 PM +Joan Busa
 4:45 PM Louise Ippolito—birthday

Tuesday, Jan. 16

8:00 AM +Doug Pfister
 12:05 PM +Dick Murray
 4:45 PM +Tim & +Ann Murphy Callahan

Wednesday, Jan. 17

8:00 AM Makayla Vaughan—healing
 12:05 PM +Mary Guadagno
 4:45 PM +Salvatore Villelo

Thursday, Jan. 18

8:00 AM Idalina Ferrera
 12:05 PM William Glassman
 4:45 PM +Paul Kern

Friday, Jan. 19

8:00 AM Rosa Villavueña
 12:05 PM +Lorraine Packwood
 4:45 PM +Colette J. Depres

Saturday, Jan. 20

9:00 AM +Mrs. Sepakis
 12:00 PM +Paul Florentine & +Marie Pearce
 4:00 PM +John McColgan
 5:30 PM Maria Faviola—accion de gracias

Prayer Before Mass



by Ven. Bruno Lanteri

My God, I offer you this holy sacrifice to proclaim, honor and glorify your infinite greatness, and in recognition of the supreme dominion which, as the first principle and last end, you have above all created things. I give you this homage for all those who still do not know you or do not want to recognize you.

I offer this too in thanksgiving for the benefits that I and all the world have received and will receive from your infinite goodness; in satisfaction for my sins and those of the whole world; to implore the graces that are necessary for my eternal salvation and for all mankind. Oh, my God, I offer to you the merits of Jesus Christ; grant me at this Holy Mass a profound adoration of him.

My God, my Creator, I implore you to grant me the grace of final perseverance. I know by faith that I do not deserve it, nor can I deserve it, but your Divine Son deserves it for me with all his virtues and with all the wounds he shows you in his Most Holy Body, on behalf of my wounded love. Amen.

A Short Catechesis on the Lamb of God

At every Mass after the sign of peace we cry out, “Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.” We echo the proclamation of John the Baptist from today’s Gospel. Jesus is the true Lamb of God who takes away all sin and grants peace. What does it mean for Jesus to be this lamb?

To most modern people the idea of a lamb is of something soft, cuddly, white and fluffy. To the ears of those who heard John the Baptist this was farthest from the truth. To the Jews of the first century lamb of God referred to sacrifice. It was a lamb that was sacrificed and eaten for the Passover. John does not simply refer to Jesus as a lamb but as the Lamb of God. This title means that Jesus is the one, true sacrificial lamb of the Passover. This is how Jesus will have mercy on us. He will be our paschal sacrifice and by following him and partaking of his sacrificial meal (the Eucharist) we shall pass over the curse of everlasting death. This is the perfection of the Passover of the Exodus at the time of Moses, which was a foreshadowing of Christ.

Participation in the sacrifice of the Lamb of God at the Mass is the means by which we may come to final and everlasting peace.

A Prayer of Thanks for the Blood of the Lamb

Father, I thank You for the spotless Lamb of God who is without blemish or defect. It is I who deserved to die for my sins were many, but Jesus, Your Son, died in my place. You have washed me with Your sinless blood and now I am whiter than snow, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which You prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. Keep us faithful and ever grateful for the blessing of having our sins forgiven. In Christ Jesus we pray. Amen.

The Holy Name of Jesus

The month of January is dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus. St. Paul tells us that eventually every knee shall bend at the name of Jesus.

Holy Name Societies used to flourish in the parishes of the United States. These pious societies of lay people were initiated to promote the devout utterance of the name of God and to combat blasphemy. At the beginning of the New Year of Grace now is a good time to renew a commitment to keep the Third Commandment, which forbids using the Holy Name in vain. The name of God, of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, the Virgin Mary and the saints should always be kept in reverence. The tradition was always to make a slight bow of the head whenever the name of Jesus was uttered.



O sweet Name of Jesus, holy above all names in heaven and on earth, and to which every knee, both of men and of angels in heaven, on earth and in hell bends. You are the way of the just, the glory of the saints, the hope of those in need, the balm of the sick, the love of the devout and the consolation of those that suffer.

O, Jesus be to me a help and a protector so that your Name may be blessed for all times...

by Thomas a Kempis