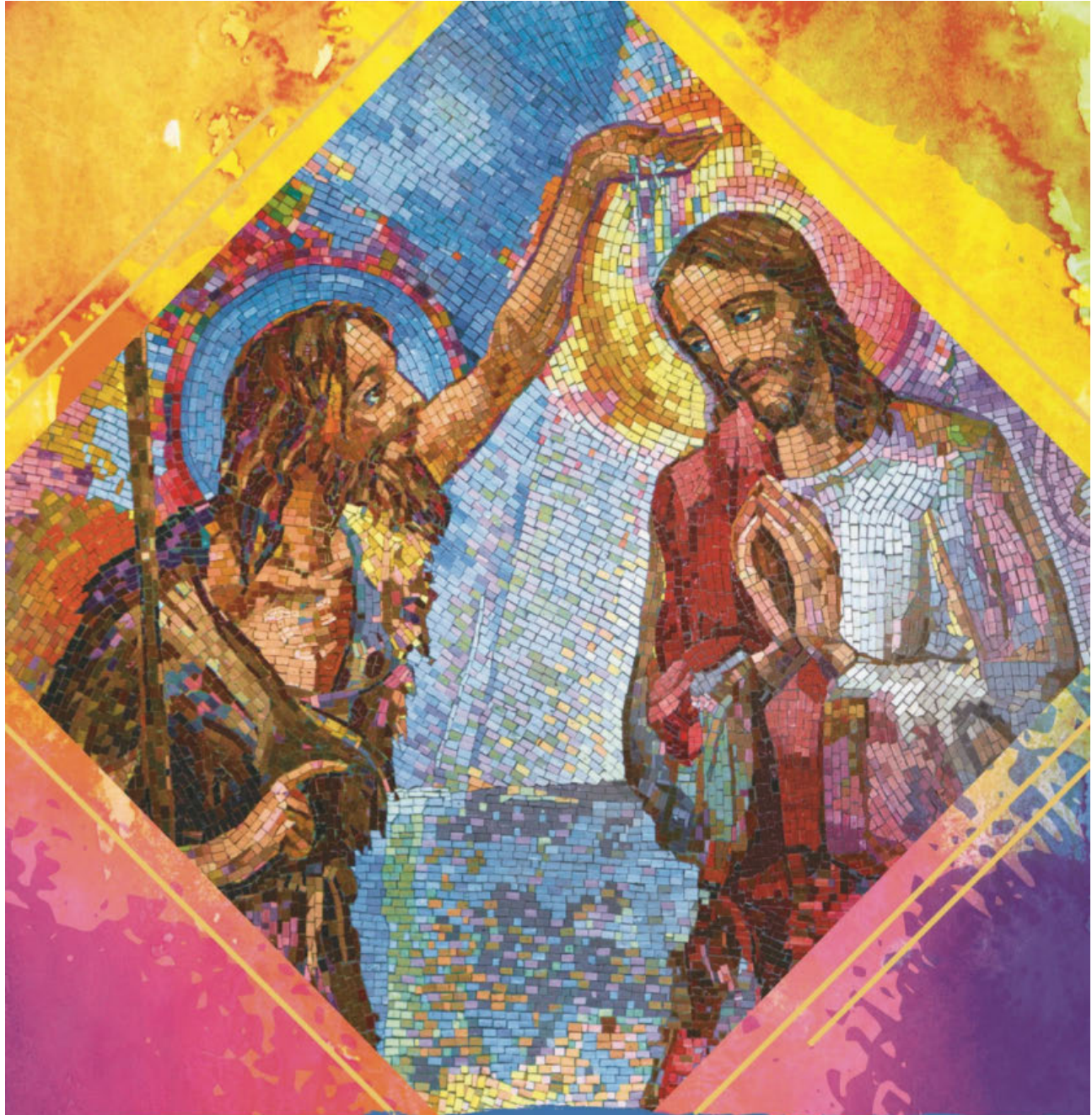




ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Catholic Church

JANUARY 15, 2023



2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away
the sin of the world.” - Jn 1:29

Sacraments

Weekend Mass Times

Saturday Vigil	5:00 pm
Sunday	7:30 am
	9:00 am
	11:30 am
	6:00 pm

1st Sunday Spanish 1:30 pm

Daily Mass Times

Mon. - Fri.	6:30 am
	8:15 am

Holy Day Mass Times

6:30 am
8:15 am
12:00 pm
7:00 pm

Reconciliation / Confession

Saturday 3 - 4:30 pm
& by appointment

All Other Sacraments

Please call the office for information.

Clergy

Fr. Renier Siva

Pastor

Fr. Cleetus Karakkat

Parochial Vicar

William Goeke

Jim McFadden

Deacons

Fr. Ignatius Haran

Pastor Emeritus

Parish Office

Mon.- Fri. 8:30 am- 4:30 pm
307 Montrose Drive, Folsom
Phone: 916-985-2065

Website:

FolsomCatholic.org

Social Media:

@FolsomCatholic

Bulletin

FolsomCatholic.org/bulletin

Bulletin Date	Ads Due by 5pm
Jan 22	Jan 12
Jan 29	Jan 19
Feb 5	Jan 26
Feb 12	Feb 2

Welcome to

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

We are a community where we welcome all as members of the Body of Christ.

We are welcoming, faithful, passionate, joyful, authentic,
sacramental, loving and charitable.

Today's Readings

Is 49:3, 5-6 / Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10 / 1 Cor 1:1-3 / Jn 1:29-34

*"Here am I, Lord; come to do your will."
(Ps 40)*

Gospel Meditation

By Father John Muir

When I was a kid, I remember the priest at Mass announcing, "The Lamb of God!" Frankly, it struck me as nonsense. I thought: Why in the world does God have a lamb? And where is this lamb?

John the Baptist sees Jesus coming toward him and announces, "Behold the lamb of God."

His Jewish listeners knew what he meant. God's lamb is the thing that is sacrificed at the Jewish Passover and consumed by the participants. For almost a thousand years, lambs were ritually slaughtered and eaten in Jerusalem at Passover. The lamb meant sacrifice, freedom from sin, and communion with God. The Baptist is saying in effect, "This man will be ritually sacrificed and consumed so that God's people may be free from sin and united to God."

It's crucial to relate to Jesus as a friend, brother, teacher, and Lord of our lives. But we should also learn to interact with Him as our lamb of God. That means we intentionally place on him our sins, sadnesses, and hopes, and offer him to God. Then we consume him to make us free. This is what we do at every Mass. That's why he is the Lamb of God.

Scripture Reflections

First Reading

The prophet Isaiah spoke of how God, through Israel, would show his "glory" to all people and have his "salvation reach to the ends of the earth." What do you imagine the world will look like when this happens?

Second Reading

Today's reading is the opening greeting of Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians. Paul tells the believers in Corinth that they (and all believers) are "sanctified" (blessed) and "called to be holy." What do you think it takes to be blessed and holy?

Gospel

In today's Gospel reading we hear John the Baptist testify that Jesus is the Son of God. If you had the chance, what would you tell people about Jesus?



At St. John the Baptist Parish,
we welcome all
as members of
the Body of Christ.

Knights of Columbus

Join The Knights of Columbus Today

Contact: SK Percy Park

916-936-6145 or dbk576@aol.com

Since 1882, membership in the Knights of Columbus has been open to men 18 years of age or older who are "practical" (that is, practicing) Catholics in union with the Holy See. Since that time, the Knights of Columbus has understood "practical Catholic" to mean a Catholic who accepts the teaching authority of the Catholic Church on matters of faith and morals, aspires to live in accord with the precepts of the Catholic Church, and is in good standing in the Catholic Church.

What It Means To Be A Knight of Columbus

We are catholic men to lead, serve, protect and defend. We share a desire to be better husbands, fathers, sons, neighbors and role models to put charity, Parish and community first.

Our Mission & Our Faith

Together we are empowering men to live their faith at home, in their parish, at work and in their community. Our goal is to help men, their families, and their parishes grow closer to Christ. Through our programs and resources, we provide opportunities to live and spread the Catholic faith.

Responding To Need Since Our Founding

Service and Charity are the heart of the Knights. Founded to meet the needs of immigrants, refugees and families suffering from the death of a breadwinner, the Knights began a small service organization and has grown into a worldwide financial and charitable organization.

Knights of Columbus Charities

Charity is the heart of our work and our faith---and it always has been. For the Knights of Columbus Charity means supporting a virtually boundless variety of projects.

Knights of Columbus Insurance

The Knights of Columbus is a fraternal benefit society, which means we provide financial security to our members and their families, while turning premiums into charitable impact.

Faith in Action

Lead your parish and community in faith, family, service and life programs through your local Knights council.

Please see one of the ushers after Mass or Percy if you have any questions to join.

Parish Office Holiday Closure

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, January 16 in observance of the Martin Luther King holiday.

Security Ministry

Contact: Allan Starosciak

starosciak.allan@gmail.com

The Security Ministry is looking for Security Team Volunteers to join our Security Team, serving at your weekly Mass of choice. No experience is needed...we will orient and train all new volunteers. For more information or to sign-up, please contact Allan.

Family Fellowship Ministry

Parents Afternoon Off!

January 22, Sunday

Contact:

Rachel Marsh 916-945-6992

Kaylee Nyman 209-857-0318

Ready for a break, parents? Join us for Mass at 9am as a family, and then meet with your kids by 10:15 in the church courtyard to check your kids in and enjoy a few well deserved hours off! Pick up your children by 1:30pm!

Please RSVP to Rachel Marsh by text or phone call as space is limited. Include name and age of children.

If you are a teenager and interested in helping with Parents Afternoon Off please contact Kaylee Nyman by text or phone call for more information on how you can help.

St. John Notre Dame School

TK and Kindergarten Open House

January 29, Sunday

sjnds.org/openhouse

RSVP today by calling 916-985-4129 or visiting our website for more information.





PRAYER

At St. John the Baptist Parish,
time in conversation with our
Lord is at the center of
our lives.

Mass Intentions

Sunday, January 15th

7:30am Elena Farrell†

9:00am People of the Parish

11:30am Socorro Luz†

Sandy Sanches de Tagle (birthday)

6:00pm Anthony Quy Pham†

Monday, January 16th

6:30am Ann Wiessner†

8:15am In Thanksgiving

Greyson Rodnuez (1st birthday)

Tuesday, January 17th

6:30am

8:15am Sally Gomez (birthday)

Antonia De Leon†

Wednesday, January 18th

6:30am Martha Ritchie†

8:15am Ines Seoane (birthday)

Thursday, January 19th

6:30am

8:15am Todd Anderson (27th birthday)

Friday, January 20th

6:30am

8:15am Timothy Rupasinghe (birthday)

Saturday, January 21st

5:00pm Steve Neumann†

Observances

We Celebrate This Week

Monday

Martin Luther King Day

Tuesday

St. Anthony

Friday

St. Fabian

Saturday

St. Agnes

January is Dedicated to:

The Holy Name of Jesus

Pope Francis'

Monthly Intention for January

For educators

We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

Prayer Requests

Prayer requests for the sick, military or recently deceased may be made by calling our Parish Office. Names will appear for two months. Please visit the parish office for Mass Intentions.

Intercessory Prayers

Prayers for the Sick

We pray for our sick parishioners, family and friends, and those in need of healing of the body and soul.

Antonio Matos

Jim Reed

Bentley

Jody Park

Christina Martinez

Kimanh Davis

Danny Martinez

Lance Alameda

David Ryan

Mary Ann Heinen

Debbie Finnegan

Michael Ort

Denise Scanlan

Sergio Rico

Hermogenes Beltran

Tess Beltran

Jim Curry

Prayers for Our Troops

We pray for our military personnel abroad and at home, and for their families.

Michael Dalupan

Prayers for the Recently Deceased

We pray for the souls of all who have recently died, our family members, friends, and parishioners.

May they rest in peace.



Angeles Montemayor

Billie Foli

John P. Kurlinski

Bob Ely

Katherine McLaughlin

Dennis Brosterhaus

Oliver Morton

Irwan Harto Lie

Peter Van Derwood

Janice Crawford

Rita Swingle

Janine Martin

Tristan Williams

Respect Life Ministry

"365" Days for Life

Tues, Wed, Thurs, 8am-2pm

Planned Parenthood

201 29th St, Sacramento

Contact: Joanne Dudgeon

916-607-2228

This ministry is ongoing because 4,000 babies are aborted **each day** in our country. We go to pray for these innocent "voiceless" human beings, offering alternatives to moms and dads. Many women have no idea just how many resources are out there for them.

Join us on Wednesdays to pray as there is a carpool from St Johns leaving at 10:30am and staying from 11:00am-1:00pm
Contact Joanne.

9 Days for Life : January 19-27

www.respectlife.org/9-days-signup

9 Days for Life is an annual novena for the protection of human life. Each day's intention is accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life. Participants can download the novena or sign up to receive the daily prayers via email or text message.



The Adoration Chapel

Chapel hours are: Mon-Thu 9am - 8pm,
Sat 9am - 5pm and Sun 7am -11am
Friday Adoration is in the church: 9am to 7pm

The Adoration Ministry has immediate need for dedicated adorers for these hours listed.
To sign up please contact Veronica Thomas at thomas_vera@yahoo.com

Monday:	9 - 10 am	10-11 am	11-12pm	12 - 1 pm	4 - 5pm	5 - 6 pm	6 - 7 pm	7 - 8 pm
Tuesday:	10 - 11 am	11 - 12 pm	4 - 5 pm	5 - 6 pm				
Wednesday:	12 - 1 pm	4 - 5 pm	5 - 6 pm	6 - 7 pm	7 - 8 pm			
Thursday:	10 - 11 am	11 - 12 pm	3 - 4 pm	6 - 7 pm				
Friday:	6 - 7 pm							
Saturday:	10 - 11 am	11 - 12 pm	12 - 1 pm	1-2 pm	2 - 3 pm	3 - 4 pm	4 - 5 pm	



January 18 - January 25

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

"Do good; seek justice." Isaiah 1:17
www.usccb.org

The theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 2023 was selected by the Minnesota Council of Churches, USA in the aftermath of the extrajudicial killing of George Floyd and the trial of the police officer responsible for his death. These events brought anguish, but also time for the Christian communities to contemplate ways in which they may be complicit in racial injustice. Christian unity is needed as a source of reconciliation and unity. The theme, taken from the first chapter of the Book of Isaiah, reflects his concern for the oppressed who suffer from injustice and inequality fed by hypocrisy that leads to

disunity. He teaches that God requires righteousness and justice from all of us, to create the peace and unity that God desires. These virtues originate in God's love for all, and racism runs counter to this vision. Isaiah's challenge to do good and seek justice together applies equally to us today.

Day 1: Lord, you called your people from slavery into freedom, Give us strength and courage to seek out those who are standing in need of justice. allow us to see this need and provide help, and through your Holy Spirit gather us into the one fold of Jesus Christ, our Shepherd. Amen.

Day 2: God, you are the source of our wisdom. We pray for wisdom and courage to do justice, to respond to what is wrong in the world by acting to make it right; We pray for wisdom and courage to grow in the unity of your Son, Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit, reigns forever and ever. Amen

Day 3: Gracious and loving God, Expand our vision that we might see the mission we share with all of our Christian brothers and sisters, to show forth the justice and loving kindness of your kingdom. Help us to welcome our neighbors as your Son welcomed us. Help us to be more generous as we witness to the grace that you freely give us. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen

Day 4: God of justice and grace, remove the scales from our eyes so we can truly see the oppression around us. We pray in the name of Jesus who saw the crowds and had compassion for them. Amen.

Day 5: God of the oppressed, Open our eyes to the harm that continues to be inflicted on our sisters and brothers in Christ. May your Spirit give us the courage to sing in unison, and raise our voices with those whose suffering is unheard. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Day 6: God of love, We thank you for your unending care and love for us. Help us to sing redemption songs. Open wide our hearts to receive your love and to extend your compassion to the whole of the human family. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Day 7: God of Hope, Help us to remember that you are with us in our suffering. Help us to embody hope for one another when hopelessness is a frequent unwelcomed guest in our hearts. Grant us the gift of being grounded in your loving Spirit as we work together to eradicate all forms of oppression and injustice. Give us the courage to love what, whom an dhow you love, and to express this love in our actions. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Day 8: God, Creator and Redeemer of all things, teach us to look inward to be grounded in your loving Spirit, so that we may go outward in wisdom and courage to always choose the path of love and justice. This we pray in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



At St. John the Baptist Parish,
time in conversation with our
Lord is at the center of
our lives.



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At St. John the Baptist Parish,
we foster a
commitment to lifelong
spiritual growth.

The Alpha Marriage Course

Time and space to focus on
your relationship.

January 28 & February 11, two Saturdays:

8am – 4:00pm

Holy Trinity Parish Social Center

Contact:

Paul.Stephanie.Francois@comcast.net

The Marriage Course is a series of seven video sessions, designed to help couples invest in their relationship and build a strong marriage. There is time for private couple reflection throughout the series. The focus is on those aspects of marriage that couples tend to need help with the most:

- Communicate more effectively
- Understand each other's needs
- Resolve conflict
- Recognize how upbringing affects your relationship
- Develop greater intimacy

Register online:

www.holytrinityparish.org/alpha

Each couple will receive two study guides to keep. There is no cost to attend.

Breakfast & Lunch are provided.

Questions: contact Paul or Stephanie.

Respect Life Mass

Friday January 20, 2023

12:05 pm – 1:00 pm

Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament

1019 11th St

Sacramento, CA 95814

Walk for Life Youth Buses

Sacramento to San Francisco

January 21, Saturday

8am - 5pm

San Francisco

Contact: Angelica Vega

916-752-8881

Every year, speakers are invited to inform and inspire us as we stand up for the lives of unborn children and their families.

Bus Pick up location:

St. Lawrence Parish

4325 Don Julio Blvd. North Highlands

Cost: Youth (under 18)-FREE

Young Adult/Adult- \$25

For more information or to register visit:

www.scd.org/wflwestcoast

Father & Son Program 2023

Friday, February 3, 2023

6:00pm (Dinner will be received at 5:30pm)

Our Divine Savior Parish Social Hall

566 E. Lassen Avenue, Chico, CA 95973

Contact: Moises De Leon

916.733.0133, MDeleon@scd.org

The Father-Son Program explores God's special gift of human sexuality and fertility as well as the goodness and wonder of his plan for growing up and becoming a man of integrity. It is designed for fathers and their 12-16-year-old sons. All content is pure, light-hearted, and affirming. Cost \$20 per family encouraged \$25 if received after January 27, 2023. If the father is not available, the son can be accompanied by another supportive adult. For more information contact Moises.

Mother & Daughter Program 2023

February 4, 2023, Saturday,

Tweens (Ages 10*-12): 9am - Noon

Teens (Ages 13-16): 1pm - 5pm

Our Divine Savior Parish Social Hall

566 E. Lassen Avenue, Chico, CA 95973

Contact: Moises De Leon

916.733.0133, MDeleon@scd.org

The Mother-Daughter Programs explore God's special gift of human fertility and the beauty and wonder of God's plan for growing up and becoming a woman. The Teen and Tween Programs cover similar subject matter while differing in depth and scope. All presentations are pure, light-hearted, and affirming! Girls younger than 10 who are already developing and showing signs of puberty are welcome to attend. Cost: \$20 per family encouraged. \$25 if received after January 27, 2023. For more information, contact Moises.

Live the Liturgy

Inspiration For the Week

John the Baptist had been told that he would see the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. He listened, he believed, and he kept his eyes open. He was ready when God revealed the truth. Let's ask ourselves: are our eyes open? Are we ready?



At St. John the Baptist Parish, we bring Christ's light to all through service to others.

Divine Mercy Ministry

Loaves and Fishes Breakfast Feeding

January 25, Wednesday

Contact:

Catherine Scott, 831-402-4681

Greta Tecson, 916-337-2014

The Divine Mercy Ministry continues to be grateful for the generous response received. The collection cart remains in the church vestibule for dropping off your donations.

Items most requested:

- cup-of-soups, raisins, peanuts
- peanut butter and cheese crackers
- hot chocolate packets, fruit juices
- oatmeal packets, bottled water
- nutritious granola bars, fruit cups
- creamy peanut butter, disposable bowls

Fresh fruits should be dropped off the day before during church open hours.. **We are in need of creamy peanut butter and disposable bowls.** Bibles, holy cards, rosaries and religious reading materials are also appreciated. All donations will personally be handed out at Friendship Park with smiles of caring and encouragement. We are still collecting: hats, scarfs, sweatshirts and blankets for the homeless. Thanking you in advance for your generous sharing this month. There is always joy in giving Start your new year practicing a corporal work of mercy. If you would like to drive or hand out food please contact Greta or Catherine.



Known as the Snowshoe Priest, Venerable Bishop Frederic Baraga, was a lifelong missionary to the Native American people

of the upper Midwest. He loved the people he served, knew their languages, and even published the first Ojibwe-English dictionary! Over his lifetime he converted over 1000 people, natives and European settlers, to Christianity. He became the first bishop of Marquette, seated in the Upper Michigan Diocese in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Upon his death only a couple years after being ordained bishop, even a snow blizzard couldn't keep hundreds of friends and mourners from paying their respects in person.

Stewardship of Treasure the Lord Has Entrusted to Us

Weekly goal: \$25,529.00

Weekly Offerings:

December 24/25	\$ 51,403
December 31/January 1	\$ 23,272
2nd Collection: RE/SJND	\$ 1,744
January 7/8	\$ 14,523
2nd Collection: Bldg/Maint	\$ 2,169

(Practicing) Catholic

Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments

Showing Up

I broke my foot once, when my second child was only 12 weeks old, and I was about to move houses. For six weeks I was confined to a chair, a shrieking newborn in my arms, a toddler running circles around me, and my right foot rendered useless by a plaster cast. I couldn't do anything without assistance. I couldn't eat or get a drink or change my clothes or feed my children.

My family was in dire straits. A lot of people offered help, but there was a core group of friends and family members who really saved us.

These are the people who turned up in my driveway with empty vans and cooked meals. These are the people who blocked off their Saturdays to haul furniture, mow our lawn, and run after unruly kids. These are the people who said: "Here I am. Give me a job."

If you've ever really, really needed another person's help, you know that "showing up" means more than saying: "Let me know what you need." It means saying: "I'm already here. Tell me what to do."

So often, I pay lip service to the idea of submission. "What do you want, God?" I ask, and I secretly hope that what He wants isn't one of those things that I'm not willing to give.

What if I really strove to "show up" for God? What if I was ready to give what He asks of me, whatever it is?

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

Psalm 40

~ Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

 Read the Gospel and Color

Jn 1:29-34

Imagine how excited John the Baptist must have felt after he baptized Jesus. He knew without a doubt that Jesus was God's Son. The very next day John told the crowds that Jesus would take away the sins of the world. God's people had eaten a Passover lamb every year to remember how God saved them from death in Egypt. Jesus was the Lamb of God. He frees you from your old sins and offers you new life with God.



 Mission for the Week

Read the story about the very first Passover, when God saved the Hebrews from the Angel of Death (Exodus 12).

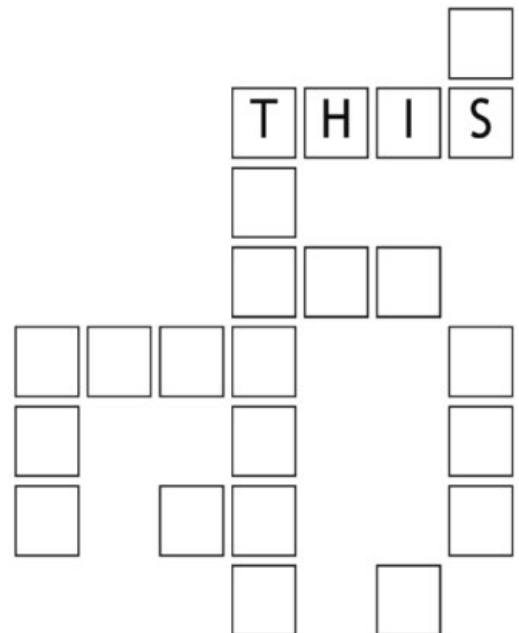
 Puzzle

Fit this Gospel message into the empty squares

I testify that this is the Son of God.

 Prayer

Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus to take away my sins.



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"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

Our parish is enriched with many ministries, please consider learning about and engaging in one or more of our ministries. Call the contact listed .

Welcoming Ministries

New Parishioner Welcoming Ministry

Joyce Starosciak, 916-740-4628

Greeter Ministry

Lori Hopper, 916-337-0139

Ushers

Stanley Posis, 916-705-9192

Prayer Ministries

Companioned Prayer

Dcn. Bill Goeke, 916-673-7996

Divine Mercy Devotion/Cenacle

Leilani Badley, 703-855-6241

-*Chaplet/Rosary/Morning Prayer*

-*Divine Mercy Chaplet/Mass*

-*Cenacle* - Leilani Badley, 703-855-6241

-*Cenacle-Spanish* - Ana Haid, 916-956-1177

Eucharistic Adoration

Veronica Thomas, thomas_vera@yahoo.com

1st Friday of the Month - 9am - 7pm (church),

Sign Up for adorers is in the vestibule

Marian Cenacle (Marian Movement of Priests Cenacle)

-*English* – *1st Wednesday of the month, 10am*

Sally Gomez, 916-693-2411

-*Spanish* – *Every Saturday*

Ana Haid, 916-956-1177

Our Lady of Fatima

Henry Altamirano, 925-899-7769

Spiritual Growth Ministries

Adult Scripture Study

Lee & Teresa Weider, 916-983-8065

Couples for Christ

Myrah Empleo, 661-993-4721

Lay Mission Project

Laura Wicklman - 916-933-8471

Praise & Worship

David Brauer, dabrauer@hotmail.com

Religious Education

Shannon Langer, 916-985-7338

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)

Shannon Langer, 916-985-7338

Theology on Tap

Aaron Santos, 916-985-2065

WINGS (Women in Growth Spiritually)

Parish Office, 916-985-2065

Youth/Young Adults Ministries

Aaron Santos, asantos@folsomcatholic.org

Parish Committees/Councils

Finance Council

Joyce Starosciak, 916-740-4628

Liturgy Committee

Barbara Bowden, 916-984-9476

Pastoral Council

Shannon Frazier, 916-761-2912

Outreach/Charity Ministries

Bereavement Hospitality/Receptions

Parish Office, 916-985-2065

Catholics for Life

Kathy Baxter, 916-337-6824

Gabriel Project

Debbie Sultan, 916-337-5786

Grace Quilters Ministry

Catherine Scott, 831-402-4681

Grupo Pastoral Hispano

Rommel Hernández, 530-387-1009

Knights of Columbus

Hugo Schmidt, 916-817-4541

Pastoral Care Ministry

Dan Dunne, 916-817-1675; Sunday

Candice Ralston, 916-806-8090; Tuesday

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Catherine Scott, 831-402-4681

Prison/Restorative Justice Ministry

-Folsom Prison - Fr. H. Gomez, 916-985-2561 x 4206

-CSP Sacramento - Greg Mellor,

Catholic Chaplain, 916-985-8610 x6425

School Ministry (St. John Notre Dame)

Keith Martin, Principal, 916-985-4129

Senior Visitation

Charlene Agles, 916-984-9602

St. Vincent de Paul (311 Montrose Dr.)

Mercy Knight, 916-985-4630

Liturgical Ministries

Altar Servers

Hugo Schmidt, 916-817-4541

Children's Liturgy during Mass

Shannon Langer, 916-985-7338

Extraord. Ministers of Holy Communion

Steve & Maryanne Ashley, 916-479-2214

Lectors

Patti Midtlyng, 916-837-8322

Liturgical Environment

Arlette Peterson, 916-220-5968

Music - See choir director after Mass.

Additional Ministries

Children's Babysitting at Mass

Parish Office, 916-985-2065

Family Fellowship

Rachel Marsh, 916-945-6992

Gift Shop

Connie Aley, 916-984-9284

Women's Game Day

Every Wednesday, Garden Room, 11am - 4:30pm.

Roberta Puzio, 916-933-2561

MINISTRIES

"Here am I, Lord;
I come to do your will."



What is unique or different about the way Catholics read and are exposed to the Bible?

Catholics are exposed to Scripture primarily through the Sunday readings from a book known as the Lectionary. The Lectionary is a book of selected passages from the Bible set in the context of a liturgical season, such as Advent, Lent, or ordinary time. There are four readings assigned to any Sunday: the first reading (usually from the Old Testament), the responsorial psalm, the second reading (usually from a New Testament letter), and the Gospel reading.

These readings together give them a new context. The selected readings relate to one another in a unique manner that is not present in the Bible text itself. In close proximity to each other, these readings now have the opportunity to converse with each other in a way that would have not been possible before. A homilist pays attention to all four readings, preparing a reflection that speaks of this conversation among the readings, enabling us to zero in on what this unique combination of God's word has to say to us this particular Sunday.

Next time you attend Sunday liturgy, try reading the Scripture ahead of time and see how this new relationship among the readings addresses and challenges you to be a better Christian here and now.

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Stephen Ruch
Family Service Advisor

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