



# *Our Lady of Lourdes Parish*

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## WELCOME!

Thank you for celebrating with us today. We invite you to come and worship with us again. If you would like to be a member of our faith community, please take a moment to register. We would love to have you as our spiritual companion.

## MASS SCHEDULE

### SATURDAY

5:00 pm Vigil Mass (Vietnamese)

### TUESDAY - FRIDAY

6:00 pm (Vietnamese)

### SUNDAY

8:30 am Mass (English)

10:30 am Mass (Vietnamese)

Livestream (Facebook and Youtube)

12:30 pm (Vietnamese for Youth)

### ANOINTING OF THE SICK MASS

1st Friday of the Month - 5:30 pm Adoration  
6:00 pm Mass

### CONFESSIONS

Saturday 4:30 pm - 4:50 pm  
Sunday 8:00 am - 8:20 am  
Tuesday - Friday 5:30 pm - 5:50 pm

## Our Lady of Lourdes Parish

## FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP - JANUARY 6 & 7, 2024

Donation	\$4,716.00
Donation Online	\$2,260.00
Maintenance Fund	\$185.00
Debt Reduction	\$0
<b>Total Donation</b>	<b>\$7,161.00</b>

## PARISH STAFF

### PASTOR:

Father Joseph Vu, S.D.D., STL  
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### Parochial Vicar

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### Parish Secretary

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### PA Administration/Bookkeeper

Jadelyn Manuel  
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### Administration/Data Entry

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### Ministry Coordinator

Tang Nguyen (Volunteer Staff)  
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## PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Saturday, Sunday, Monday: Closed  
Tuesday - Friday: 9:00am - 3:00pm

Please Call for Appointment

**PARISH OFFICE 206-735-7598**

Sacrament of Anointing the Sick: Ext. 1  
Parish Staff: Ext. 2  
Administrative Support: Ext. 3

Please leave a message if no one answers and your call will be returned.

## 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi"—which translated means Teacher—"where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come, and you will see." - Jn 1:38-39a

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS  
By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

### Those Who Seek the Truth

In my work as a freelance writer, I have a regular column in the archdiocesan paper writing profiles of ordinary people in the local church. Laity, religious, and clergy alike—I hound them all to give me an interview, and when I do, the answer is almost always this: "You don't want to talk to me. There's nothing special about me."

I always try to convince them that there is something remarkable about everyone who is searching for the truth. It is easy to think we are not made for holiness because we are ordinary people with ordinary habits, ordinary abilities, and ordinary sins. It is easy (and very convenient) to designate holiness as something belonging to Better People. People like the saints. People like the Disciples.

The Bible gives us next to no personal information about the disciples. There is no archdiocesan newspaper profile on Andrew and Simon that can give us insight into who they were before they became St. Andrew, Inaugural Disciple and Announcer of the Messiah, and St. Peter, First Pope and the Rock-Up-on-Which-Christ-Built-His-Church.

Yet I find myself insatiably curious about it. What was their childhood like? What games did they play with each other as the sun set, before their mother called them into bed? What did they think of as they fell asleep at night? What secret jokes did they share to make each other laugh? What were they afraid of? What did they hope for? Who did they want to be?

Before they were towering figures of salvation history, Simon and Andrew were just two men searching for the truth. When they looked at Christ, there was something that made it click. Perhaps they themselves could not identify what it was, but their hearts whispered it nonetheless: *There it is. We finally found it.*

Isn't that the best we can all hope for?

"Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, 'What are you looking for?'" — John 1:38





## 2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME HOMILY BY FATHER JOSEPH VU

### **Jesus Is the Meaning of Life**

History's great philosophers and religious leaders have given various answers to humanity's central question: What is the meaning of life?

But only Jesus Christ has given us the complete answer.

And he gives it in today's Gospel passage.

He is about thirty years old, and the time has come for him to leave behind his simple life as a carpenter in Nazareth and take up his public ministry of preaching to the crowds and training his twelve apostles.

And where does he go to find those apostles? To John the Baptist, who had been preparing his own disciples to recognize and welcome the Messiah.

So, as Jesus walks along the bank of the River Jordan, John the Baptist points at him and tells his two disciples that he is the One, the Lamb of God, the Messiah.

John and Andrew can barely believe their ears; they decide to check out this new Rabbi.

Jesus hears them approaching, turns around, looks them in the eye, and asks: "What are you looking for?"

It's the key question.

In other words, where are you searching for meaning in your life?

Struck by the simplicity and warmth of Jesus' greeting, and maybe surprised by the question, they just say, "Teacher, where are you staying?"

Maybe without realizing it, they have given the perfect answer: "Jesus, we are looking for you; we want to stay with you."

A smile spreads over Jesus' face, and he says to them, "Come, and you will see."

He invites them to walk with him, to follow him, to be his companions - and that is Christ's answer to the question of life's meaning.

The meaning of life is not a thing to be possessed, or an abstract doctrine to be understood.

The meaning of life is a relationship to be lived out: it is a personal friendship with Jesus Christ.

### **Three Ways to Deepen Our Friendship with Christ**

If the meaning of life is to be found in friendship with Christ, then our highest priority in life should be to constantly deepen that friendship.

There are three essential ways to do this.

First, we have to gradually develop a mature life of prayer.

Prayer involves saying prayers and asking for good things from God.

But it also involves reading and meditating on the Bible, and filling our hearts with gratitude for God's many gifts.

Second, we have to build our lives around the sacraments.

When John the Baptist called Jesus the "Lamb of God," he was alluding to the Old Testament lamb sacrificed right before the Exodus from Egypt.

The blood of that lamb saved the Israelites from slavery.

In New Testament times, that prophetic image is fulfilled in the Eucharist - the body and blood of the real sacrificial lamb, Christ himself, who saves us from sin.

Adoring the Blessed Sacrament, receiving Holy Communion, and opening our hearts to God in confession, anointing of the sick, and the other sacraments draws us deeper into that mystery of salvation by linking our lives more intimately with Christ's.

Third, to deepen our friendship with Christ we have to make God's will our first concern.

One key aspect of friendship is wanting and liking the same things.

Friendship with Christ, then, means wanting and working for whatever Christ wants and works for.

Today's Psalm puts it beautifully: "Here I am, Lord, I come to do your will... To do your will, O my God, is my delight."

And what does God's will include? The Ten Commandments, first of all, and loving our neighbor as ourselves. Prayer, sacraments, and obedience to Christ's plan: these are the foundation stones of a meaningful life, a life anchored in heaven, where our friendship with Christ will reach its everlasting fulfillment.

# Weekly Prayer

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

The LORD came and revealed his presence, calling out as before, "Samuel, Samuel!" Samuel answered, "Speak, for your servant is listening." (1 Sm 3:10)

### Psalm:

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

### Second Reading:

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? But whoever is joined to the Lord becomes one Spirit with him. (1 Cor 6:15, 17)

### Gospel:

So they went and saw where Jesus was staying, and they stayed with him that day. (Jn 1:39)

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## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

"Come and see," Jesus said to the disciples who were curious to know about him. Today, he whispers this invitation into the deepest place of our heart. Have courage — go, and see what Christ has to show you.

## Observances for the week of January 14, 2024

- Sunday:** 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time  
**Monday:** Martin Luther King Day  
**Wednesday:** St. Anthony, Abbot  
**Thursday:** January 18-25 is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity  
**Saturday:** St. Fabian, Pope and Martyr; St. Sebastian, Martyr  
**Next Sunday:** 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time



## Saint of the week

St. Clare of Assisi, a devoted follower and friend of St. Francis, centered her life around poverty, prayer, and the Eucharist. As the founder of the Poor Clares, she promoted a ministry of simplicity, adoration, and service to the poor.

## Prayer of Discernment

Dear Lord,  
Here I am! Help me to know the path You would have me walk, to speak the words You would have me speak, to love and serve those You put in my path. Amen.