

# 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



### PARISH STAFF

#### PASTOR:

Father Joseph Vu, S.D.D., STL  
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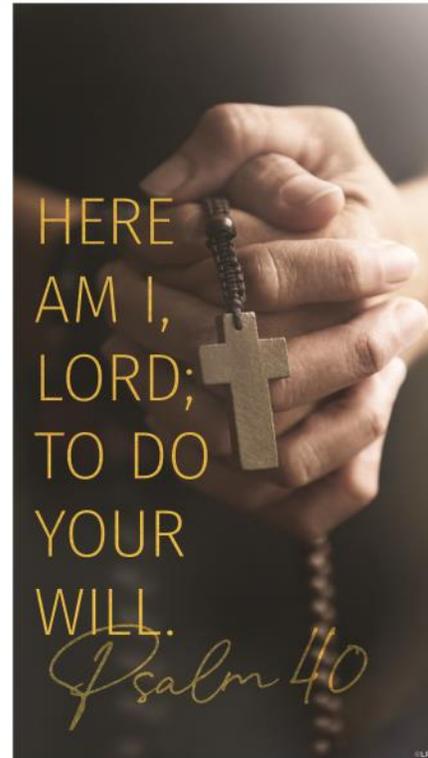
### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday: Closed  
Tuesday & Friday: Please Call for Appointment  
Wednesday: 9:30am - 3:00pm  
Thursday: 9:30am - 3:00pm  
Please leave a message if no one answers and your call will be returned.

*Let every nation adore you, LORD*  
Psalm 72

### FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP (JANUARY 7 - 8, 2023)

Donation	\$4,581.00
Donation Online	\$2,375.00
Maintenance Fund	\$5.00
Debt Reduction	\$0
Total Donation	\$6,961.00



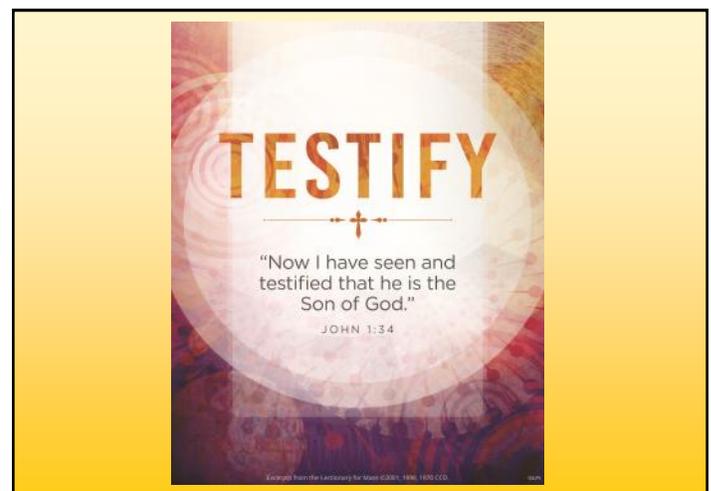
*John testified further, saying, "I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from heaven and remain upon him. I did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain, he is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God."*

- Jn 1:32-34

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2023 | 2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



**THURSDAY, JANUARY 19th at 7:00 pm**

**Pray the Rosary at St. Thomas in the Daily Chapel**

**Hosted by Knights of Columbus**



# Jesus Is the Lamb of God

Homily by Fr. Josepy Vu

John the Baptist's favorite title for Jesus is "the Lamb of God."

It also became one of John the Evangelist's favorite titles. He uses it here in his Gospel, and then he used it again, twenty-nine times, in the Book of Revelation.

It brings together three images that would have been familiar to the Jews of those times.

And so, by calling Christ the "Lamb of God," St John is telling us that those ancient images are fulfilled in Jesus.

The first image:

- In the Old Covenant, God required the Jews to sacrifice a lamb twice a day to expiate the sins of the people (cf. Exodus 29:39).
- So the lamb symbolized the price to be paid for sin.

The second image:

- The primary holy day of the Jews was (and remains) the Passover.
- In the Passover ceremony each family sacrifices and eats a lamb to recall their liberation from Egypt in the days of Moses.
- On that night, God allowed the death of all the firstborn children and animals of the Egyptians, but spared those of the Hebrews.
- In order to indicate which households the angel of death was to skip over, God commanded the Hebrews to kill a lamb and mark their doorposts with its blood.
- Thus the Passover lamb signified God's merciful and saving love.

The third image:

Finally, a lamb going silently and docilely to be slaughtered is one of the images used to describe the coming Messiah.

He was going to take Israel's sins upon himself and wipe them away through his suffering obedience.

And so, by calling Jesus the "Lamb of God," John reminds us that all of these Old Testament symbols had been pointing towards Christ - the true Savior.

## Becoming Lambs of God

Jesus offered his very self for our redemption. In so doing, he showed us two things.

First, he showed beyond any doubt that absolutely nothing we do can ever extinguish his love for us.

- He died for us while we were yet sinners - and so, we can never doubt his love for us.
- The Lamb of God loves us just as we are, and will always love us.
- We must never doubt that. We must never let anything come between us and Jesus Christ.
- Whenever we find ourselves doubting his love or goodness, we can be sure that that thought is a temptation from the devil - it could never come from God.

Second, by giving himself up for our salvation, he showed us the path to happiness.

- We were created not to indulge ourselves, but to give ourselves - to love in the full, Christian sense of the word, laying down our lives for God and neighbor, just like Christ.
- Christ conquered sin and evil by loving, by giving himself to others.
- We conquer sin and evil in the same way - by loving, by giving without counting the cost, by forgiving without conditions.
- Christ is our King and our Leader. And so, to be his loyal subjects and followers, we too should bravely become Lambs of God - sacrificial offerings on the altar of our own crosses.

This self-sacrificial, self-forgetful love is so central to our faith that the Church reminds us of it in every Mass, when we pray, "Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us."

Today, let's pray those words from the very depths of our hearts, appreciating in a fresh way all their beauty and meaning.

# WORSHIP & MEDITATION

## FIRST READING

I will make you a light to the nations;  
that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth. (Is 49:6)



## PSALM

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



## SECOND READING

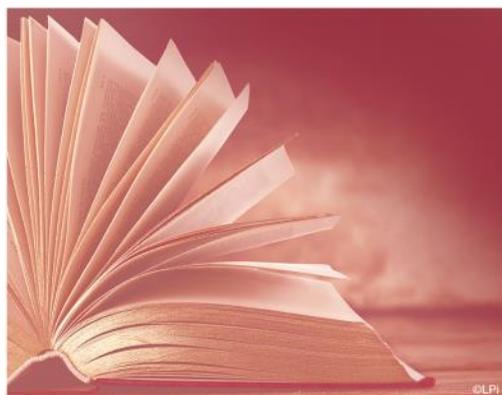
Grace to you and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ.  
(1 Cor 1:3)



## GOSPEL

John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said,  
“Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.” (Jn 1:29)

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## GOSPEL MEDITATION

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

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.

— Father John Muir