



Behold the Lamb of God!

ANN M. GARRIDO

Of 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?

"Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world."

JOHN 1:29





St. Joseph’s Church

was consecrated on the 29th of January 1928.
It is the oldest standing Roman Catholic Church on the island.

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PASTOR: FR. JACOB SWAPAN GOMES
(441) 292-0607 Ext. 5 or (441) 704-1874 (cell)



Mass Schedule

Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m.

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Baptism | By appointment: one month in advance |
| Weddings | By date: one year in advance (approx.) |
| Sacrament of Reconciliation | Sunday morning: 8:30 a.m. |
| Filipino Mass – Saturday | 17th January 2026: 11:00 a.m. |
| Kids & Youth Ministry | 18th January 2026 |
| Children’s Mass | 22nd February 2026 |
| Pastoral & Finance Council | 9th March 2026 – 6:30 p.m. |
| Coffee Social | 22nd February 2026 |
| Second Collection | 8th February 2026 |

DIOCESE OF HAMILTON IN BERMUDA

Most Rev. Bishop, Wiesław (Wes) Śpiwak

www.romancatholicbermuda.bm

Parish Team Leaders

| | |
|--|--|
| Mrs. Elizabeth Card – Pastoral Council Chairperson | Mrs. Annette Barclay St. Vincent de Paul Society Representative |
| Walette Cross Stewardship Representative | Natalia Walker & Justin Tavares Religious Education - Kids & Youth Ministry |
| Mrs. Mary Harvey - Parish Administrator & Finance Committee Team Leader | Mrs. Jane Farge - Music Ministry |



Today’s Hymns

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| Entrance: | The Summons | P |
| Offertory: | Love Has Come | #711 |
| Communion: | Behold The Lamb | #785 |
| Recessional: | They’ll Know We Are Christians | #832 |

Leader of Song:



The St. Joseph’s Parish family takes this opportunity to thank you for coming to worship with us today. May the loving Lord always be with you, and with your families.



Sunday – 25th January 2026

Proclaimer of God’s Word
Opening/Closing of the Church
Eucharistic Minister
Collection Counters
Altar Server
Music

Marisa Stones
Annette Barclay
Joanne Smith
Simon & Mary Stones
Seamus Stones
Jane Farge

Prayers: Please keep our **sick and shut-ins** in your prayers, especially Ilene Bremar, Andrew Card, Eleanor Correia and Mary Maybury.

MASS INTENTIONS:

Sunday, 18th January

***David Tavares**

ATTENDANCE & COLLECTION

| MASS | Attendees | Collection |
|---|-----------|-----------------|
| Sunday 11th January - 9:00 a.m. (Reg) | 43 | \$311.00 |
| (Maint) | | \$215.00 |
| Holy See | | 52.00 |
| TOTAL: | | \$578.00 |

Thank you for your kindness and generosity, it is appreciated. Banking information: St. Joseph’s Parish – Account Number: 20006060757062100 – Bank NT Butterfield

Fr. Jacob will be going on vacation this week, returning to the island on the 17th of February. Please pray for his safe travels. During his absence, Fr. Joe and Fr. Dandy will celebrate Mass at St. Joseph’s. See the attached schedule.



SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR THE HOLY SEE: As a bond of unity and charity with churches throughout the world, Canon Law 1271 annually requires bishops in dioceses worldwide to financially help the apostolic works of the Holy See through a special collection. In Bermuda, this collection will take place on the weekend of 17th and 18th January. Please use the special envelopes provided for your donation or make an online contribution to **St. Joseph’s Parish – Account Number: 20006060757062100 – Bank NT Butterfield** and indicate it is for the **Holy See**. Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

At the Pastoral & Finance Council Meeting held last Monday evening the following events were discussed, and a few were scheduled: -

Friday, 13th February – Valentine’s Bingo – Soup, Sandwiches/rolls, with emphasis on desserts and chocolate (😊) – 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, 19th March – Feast of St. Joseph – (?)7:00 p.m.

Sunday, 14th June – Fun Afternoon of Music: 2:30 p.m. Students under Jane’s tutelage along with parishioners from St. Joseph’s.

Sunday, 21st & 29th June – Classical Music Concerts: 5:00 p.m. Like last year, the second one will be a repeat of the programme of the 21st of June.

Christmas Bingo – Friday, 4th December: 6:30 p.m.

Afternoon of Christmas – Sunday, 13th December: 2:30 p.m.

Please make a note of these events in your calendar and support us wherever you can.

There will be further discussion on the following suggested events upon Fr. Jacob’s return: -
Spring Supper (May?), St. Joseph’s Tea (October?)

A reminder from the Pastoral & Finance Council: If a parishioner has a matter that they feel needs to be brought to the attention of the Council’s, please know that you can put the matter in writing at least two weeks before the next scheduled meeting and give it to Liz Card (Chairperson), or one of the Council members: (Annette Barclay, Mary Harvey, Justin Tavares, Grace Smith, Margaret Faries, Kathie Ausenda or Dennis DeMelo), so that it can be included on the Agenda.

BISHOP’S CORNER

Dear Fellow-Catholics,

Last week, Pope Leo XIV held his first extraordinary consistory calling the cardinals to Rome to experience a time of spiritual discernment in unity and to warn against the temptation to place personal interests ahead of the common good. This extraordinary consistory, distinct from ordinary consistories, which are more limited and more frequent, was planned to take place immediately after the Jubilee of Hope in order to offer support and advice to the Pope in the exercise of his arduous responsibility of governing the Church.

“We gather not to promote personal or group ‘agendas’ but to entrust our plans and inspirations to a discernment that transcends us - ‘as the heavens are higher than the earth’ - and which comes only from the Lord,” he said in his homily during the Mass he celebrated in St. Peter’s Basilica with the cardinals, convened to help him make decisions about the future of the Catholic Church.

Pope Leo XIV urged the cardinals to experience the Eucharist as the place where this discernment is purified and transformed, asking them to place all their “hopes and ideas upon the altar. Only in this way will we truly know how to listen to his voice and to welcome it through the gift that we are to one another - which is the very reason we have gathered.”

I wish to recall once more Pope Leo’s words: “We gather not to promote personal or group ‘agendas’ but to entrust our plans and inspirations to a discernment that transcends us and which comes only from the Lord.” In my view, the promotion of personal or group ‘agendas’ is one of the main problems we face not only in the Church as a whole, but also within our Diocese

and our parishes. This often leads to inefficiency in our planning and in our actions.

Have a restful weekend and a blessed week!

Bishop Wes

THE 2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A CALLED BY NAME AND SENT

The 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A shows us how God calls people for a purpose. We hear about a servant in Isaiah, a faithful person who listens and obeys. We also hear how John the Baptist points to Jesus and calls Him the Lamb of God. Each person has a part in God’s plan.

In the Gospel, John the Baptist sees the Spirit come down on Jesus. He tells everyone that Jesus is the Son of God. This moment shows us who Jesus is and why he came. God chose him, and now he is ready to bring light and life to others.

Paul also reminds the people in Corinth that they are holy and called. This message is for us too. We belong to God. He calls us to live in peace and to follow Jesus.

The 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A invites us to listen to God’s voice and follow where he leads. Like the servant, like Paul, and like John, we are sent to share hope with others.

The 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A focuses on Jesus as the Lamb of God and the mission to spread God’s salvation. The readings show God’s call, the role of Jesus, and how people respond to him.

- **Jesus as the Lamb of God:** John the Baptist points to Jesus as the Lamb of God. This shows Jesus as the one who takes away sin and brings people back to God.
- **God’s Call to Serve:** God calls Israel to bring back the people and be a light to all nations. This reminds believers that God calls them to share his message with others.
- **Salvation for All:** God’s plan is not just for one group but for the whole world. Jesus brings salvation to everyone, not just to Israel.
- **The Role of the Holy Spirit:** John the Baptist sees the Spirit come down on Jesus. This confirms Jesus as the chosen one of God.
- **Grace and Peace from God:** Paul greets the church with a blessing of grace and peace. This reminds believers that God offers his help and peace to all who follow him.
- **Witnessing to Jesus:** John the Baptist tells others about Jesus. This shows the importance of sharing faith and pointing others to Jesus.

The 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A highlights Jesus’ mission and how people respond to him. The readings remind believers that they are called to follow Jesus and share his message with others.

Source: Young Catholics 2026

During Fr. Jacob's absence from the 19th January to 17th February, the following will be the schedule of celebrants for St. Anthony's and St. Joseph's (and Mass times for St. Joseph's). See page 2 for the complete Diocesan schedule.

24th/25th January

St. Anthony's
Saturday - 6:15 p.m. - Fr. Joe
Sunday - 11:30 a.m. - Fr. Joe

St. Joseph's
Sunday - 8:45 a.m. - Fr. Joe

31st January/1st February

St. Anthony's
Saturday - 6:15 p.m. - Fr. Dandy
Sunday - 11:30 a.m. - Fr. Dandy

St. Joseph's
Sunday - 9:00 a.m. - Fr. Dandy

7th/8th February

St. Anthony's
Saturday - 6:15 p.m. - Fr. Dandy
Sunday - 11:30 a.m. - Fr. Dandy

St. Joseph's
Sunday - 9:00 a.m. - Fr. Dandy

14th/15th February

St. Anthony's
Saturday - 6:15 p.m. - Fr. Joe
Sunday - 11:30 a.m. - Fr. Joe

St. Joseph's
Sunday - 8:45 a.m. - Fr. Joe

Dear Friends,

Greetings of peace!

Fr. Jacob will be going to Bangladesh from 19th January to 17th February. During his absence the following roster of the celebrants will be observed in order to provide the service to all our churches:

24th/25th January

St. Theresa's

Saturday - 6:30 p.m. - Bishop Wes

Sunday - 8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. - Bishop Wes;
6:00 p.m. - Fr. Dandy

Stella Maris

Saturday - 5:00 p.m. - Fr. Dandy

Sunday - 10:00 a.m. - Fr. Dandy

St. Patrick's

Saturday - 6:00 p.m. - Fr. Vivien

Sunday - 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. - Fr. Vivien

St. Michael's

Saturday - 5:00 p.m. - Fr. Joe

Sunday - 10:15 a.m. - Fr. Joe

St. Anthony's

Saturday - 6:15 p.m. - Fr. Joe

Sunday - 11:30 a.m. - Fr. Joe

St. Joseph's

Sunday - 8:45 a.m. - Fr. Joe

31st January/1st February

St. Theresa's

Saturday - 6:30 p.m. - Bishop Wes

Sunday - 8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. - Bishop Wes;
6:00 p.m. - Fr. Dandy

Stella Maris

Saturday - 5:00 p.m. - Deacon Andrew

Sunday - 10:00 a.m. - Deacon Andrew

St. Patrick's

Saturday - 6:00 p.m. - Fr. Vivien

Sunday - 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. - Fr. Vivien

St. Michael's

Saturday - 5:00 p.m. - Fr. Joe

Sunday - 10:15 a.m. - Fr. Joe

St. Anthony's

Saturday - 6:15 p.m. - Fr. Dandy

Sunday - 11:30 a.m. - Fr. Dandy

St. Joseph's

Sunday - 9:00 a.m. - Fr. Dandy

7th/8th February

St. Theresa's

Saturday - 6:30 p.m. - Fr. Hjalmar

Sunday - 8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. - Fr. Hjalmar;
6:00 p.m. - Fr. Dandy

Stella Maris

Saturday - 5:00 p.m. - Deacon David

Sunday - 10:00 a.m. - Deacon David

St. Patrick's

Saturday - 6:00 p.m. - Fr. Vivien

Sunday - 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. - Fr. Vivien

St. Michael's

Saturday - 5:00 p.m. - Fr. Joe

Sunday - 10:15 a.m. - Fr. Joe

St. Anthony's

Saturday - 6:15 p.m. - Fr. Dandy

Sunday - 11:30 a.m. - Fr. Dandy

St. Joseph's

Sunday - 9:00 a.m. - Fr. Dandy

14th/15th February

St. Theresa's

Saturday - 6:30 p.m. - Bishop Wes

Sunday - 8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. - Bishop
Wes; 6:00 p.m. - Fr. Dandy

Stella Maris

Saturday - 5:00 p.m. - Fr. Dandy

Sunday - 10:00 a.m. - Fr. Dandy

St. Patrick's

Saturday - 6:00 p.m. - Fr. Vivien

Sunday - 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. - Fr. Vivien

St. Michael's

Saturday - 5:00 p.m. - Fr. Joe

Sunday - 10:15 a.m. - Fr. Joe

St. Anthony's

Saturday - 6:15 p.m. - Fr. Joe

Sunday - 11:30 a.m. - Fr. Joe

St. Joseph's

Sunday - 8:45 a.m. - Fr. Joe

All the best,
Bishop Wes

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 and Martyr | Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children | Weekday | St. Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church | Third Sunday in Ordinary Time |
| 1 Sm 15:16–23 Mk 2:18–22 | 1 Sm 16:1–13 Mk 2:23–28 | 1 Sm 17:32–33, 37, 40–51 Mk 3:1–6 | 1 Sm 18:6–9; 19:1–7 Mk 3:7–12 | 1 Sm 24:3–21 Mk 3:13–19 | Is 8:23–9:3 1 Cor 1:10–13, 17 Mt 4:12–23 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