



Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

18 January 2024 | Sunday



Behold the Lamb of God

This Sunday we break from our reading of Matthew's Gospel (the primary Gospel for our current liturgical cycle, Cycle A) to read from John's Gospel. We heard Matthew's account of Jesus' baptism last Sunday, on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Today, we hear John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus as found in John's Gospel. John's Gospel differs from the other Gospels because John does not describe Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist. Instead, John the Baptist announces that he knows that Jesus is the Son of God.

In today's reading, John the Baptist sees Jesus approaching and cries out, giving witness about who Jesus is. In John's testimony he says that he saw the Spirit descend upon Jesus. By this sign, John the Baptist knew that Jesus was the one who is to come after him.

John the Baptist uses two titles for Jesus that are familiar to us. John calls Jesus the "Lamb of God" and the "Son of God." By using these titles, John the Baptist identifies Jesus' ultimate purpose: to redeem sinful humanity.

John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus clearly distinguishes John's baptism from the Baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John baptizes with water; Jesus will baptize with the Holy Spirit. John also puts his practice of baptism in the context of Jesus' ministry. The purpose of John's baptism was to make Jesus known to Israel.

John the Baptist's sense of purpose is clearly identified in this reading: he baptized in order to prepare for and make known the ministry of the One who was to follow. John's witness is an excellent example of what it means to be a disciple. By our Baptism, we are called to make Jesus known to all the world by our words and by the witness of our lives.



Behold the Lamb of God

As we gather, let us remember and pray for . . .

Monday, January 19

(8:25 a.m. rosary)

9:00 a.m. †Rosina Leotta Cirillo

Tuesday, January 20

(8:25 a.m. rosary)

St. Fabian & St. Sebastian

9:00 a.m. †Giuseppe Vergalitlo

Wednesday, January 21

(8:25 a.m. rosary)

St. Agnes

9:00 a.m. †Michael Rotundo

Thursday, January 22

St. Vincent

(8:25 a.m. rosary)

9:00 a.m. †Vera Kudlac

Friday, January 23

St. Marianne Cope

(8:25 a.m. rosary)

9:00 a.m. †Maria Caiocco

Saturday, January 24

St. Francis de Sales

4:30 p.m. †Glenn Maxwell

3rd Sunday in
Ordinary Time

Sunday, January 25

9:00 a.m. ♦ People of the parish
11:00 a.m. ♦ In Thanksgiving for family Anna Sirri Fuh
5:00 p.m. †Maria Luce Sebastianiano



MAY GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR
FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP!

Sunday Collection January 11 - \$5,396



LEGION OF MARY

The Legion of Mary is an international Catholic Lay Organisation founded in 1921. We meet weekly for prayer, religious instruction and to carry out good works on behalf of the Parish. The Legion is open to Catholic men and women and meets every Wednesday in the Church at 5:00pm. If you want more information you are welcome to come to a weekly meeting or contact Sinead Graham at sineadg065@gmail.com

Prayer Intention for the Month of January:

For prayer with the word of God

Let us pray that praying with the word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed for Delta Bingo nights on Wednesday evenings, once or twice a month, for approximately 2 hours.

If you enjoy bingo and like meeting new people, this is a fun and easy way to earn money for our church. Our participation provides a simple and effective source of revenue for St. Thomas More Church. Please email the office.



THE DIOCESAN SEPARATED AND DIVORCED HEALING MINISTRY SUPPORT GROUP

meets every second and fourth Monday of the month (except holidays) from 7:00pm to 9:00pm at Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre (7020 Stanley Avenue, Niagara Falls ON) and virtually via Zoom. To participate via Zoom, pre-registration is required. For more information, and to participate virtually, please call 905-356-4113 or 905-684-0154, or email separatedanddivorced@saintcd.com. A program schedule for January to June 2026 is included with this Update and is available on the diocesan website at: <http://saintcd.com/marriage/marriage-help/separated-divorced-healing-ministry>. Please make this information available to your parishioners on a regular basis.



WORLD DAY OF MARRIAGE

Sunday, February 8, 2026 3:00pm

Annual Mass of Thanksgiving with Bishop Gerard Bergie
Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria Corner of Church and
Lyman Streets, St. Catharines, ON Celebrating All Married
Couples especially those with significant 2026 Anniversaries
Reception to Follow No registration needed. All are welcome.



VALENTINE'S DINNER/DANCE AND CONCERT

On Saturday, February 21, 2026 at 6:00pm
St. Thomas More Church Hall. Tickets are: \$30.00 per person
Contact: Romeo and Minda Panday 289 668 3379



CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Please note that there will be no **CWL** meeting in January, but look forward to resuming our meetings in February. Also, a reminder that the 2026 memberships (\$40) are now due. They can be placed in the offertory basket, dropped off to the office or contact Dina for e-transfer. 905.380.0522 | dina.marchionda@gmail.com



ROSARY: The Rosary is prayed during the week before Mass and every Tuesday following the 9:00 a.m. Mass. All are welcome to join us whenever possible as we come together in faith, lifting our prayers and intentions to our Blessed Mother.



CATHOLIC ENGAGED ENCOUNTER

A Wedding is a Day....A Marriage is a Lifetime

CEE Niagara Community in the

Diocese of St. Catharines ON

In-Person Weekends for 2026:

May 1-2-3 and October 3-4-5

Visit ceecanada.ca for more information and to register for your marriage preparation weekend.

Community Coordinators:

Celine de Grosbois 289-247-4390 and

Jennifer Stoop 289-228-0140 for more information.



Registration form for Congratulatory Certificate For couples celebrating a special wedding anniversary

Last name _____

First name _____

(husband)

(wife)

Street _____ Apt _____ City _____

Postal Code _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Date of marriage _____ Day _____ Month _____ Year _____

Please Circle _____ Celebrating 1st 25th 40th 50th 60th 60th + anniversary

Current parish _____ City _____

Completed forms may be returned to the parish office or The Catholic Centre 3400 Merrittville Highway, Thorold or by fax (905-684-2185) or email (chancery@saintcd.com)