



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
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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. BARBARA PARISH

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St. Thomas More Site

302 Chestnut Street
Dalzell IL



Holy Trinity Site

Parish Office

212 S Main Street
PO BOX 159
Cherry IL

Adoration Room at STM Site

Open Daily from 9 am-6 pm

Confession Info

Saturday morning, alternating
between STM Site & HT Site
in the Confessional between
10:30 am-11:15am

Emergency Number: 779-248-2164

Email: Melissahtc@outlook.com

Church Office Info

Pastor: Father Thaddeus Tran

Pastoral Assistant: Melissa Pasillas

Office Hours at HT: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9am-1pm

Ongoing Parish Fundraising: STM Rav/Tort. Sale | call 815-252-2215 (leave name/phone #/order) \$9.00/bag



CCD Classes

Sunday, January 18th — 6th-8th Grade CCD Class

Sunday, January 25th — K- 5th Grade CCD Class

Fr. Thaddeus would like to remind all CCD Parents and students that attending Sunday Mass is a **MUST**, not an option. Parents, please do the best you can to support your children in this important matter.

St. Barbara Daily Mass Intentions for the Week of January 19, 2026

Monday	01/19			† No Mass
Tuesday	01/20	9:00 am	STM Site	† Marguerite Hanley
Wednesday	01/21	5:30 pm	HT Site	† Bob McCook
Thursday	01/22	9:00 am	HT Site	† Daisy Kopek
Friday	01/23	9:00 am	STM Site	† Joe Allen Kurtz

St. Barbara Mass Intentions for the weekend of January 24-25, 2026

Saturday	01/24	4:00 pm	St. Thomas More Site	† Doug Samolinski
Sunday	01/25	9:00 am	Holy Trinity Site	† For the Parishioners

HUMAN LIFE-GOD'S GREATEST GIFT TO HUMANITY



(January 22nd - Day of Prayer For The Legal Protection of Unborn Children)

Each year on January 22, all dioceses in the United States are called to observe a Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. January 22 is the anniversary of the 1973 Supreme Court decisions that legalized abortion throughout our nation.

Here, the state of Illinois has enacted significant pro-abortion legislation, notably the Reproductive Health Act of 2019, which codified abortion as a fundamental right and removed barriers like parental consent and waiting periods, including state shield laws to protect providers and patients from out-of-state legal action, expanded coverage requirements for insurance and Medicaid, and mandates for public colleges to offer contraception and medication abortion, solidifying Illinois as a strongly pro-abortion state. We as members of the Catholic Church completely disagree with all the above.

This coming Thursday we are encouraged to pray for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life. It is also a day of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion. We are each called to observe this day through the penitential practices of prayer, fasting and/or giving alms.

The act of abortion rejects God's gift of life. Abortion destroys the life of a child, lovingly knit together in his or her mother's womb, for people who have participated in abortion, the loss of a child can form a hole in their heart so deep that sometimes it seems nothing can fill the emptiness. As a human and Christian family, we grieve the loss of so many lives. And yet, even in our grief, we know there is hope. Christ came for the very purpose of redeeming our sins, offering us His forgiveness, and giving us His peace. Jesus comes to free us from the bonds of sin. And there is no sin that is beyond God's mercy. It is never too late to seek the Lord's mercy and healing through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. His greatest desire is to forgive us, pouring out His infinite mercy upon us so that we may be healed.

We are all sinners. But with the grace of God, we can become saints. We can be lights to the nations, sharing the truth about the irrevocable dignity of the human person. Where sin abounds, God's grace abounds all the more. Therefore, let us take courage and offer prayer and penance, that all human life would be welcomed in love and protected in law. (Excerpted from www.usccb.org)

Church Announcements

Martin Luther King Day

January 19th is Martin Luther King Jr. Day. We like to observe this national holiday with a quote from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. himself, "Make a career of humanity. Commit yourself to the noble struggle for equal rights. You will make a better person of yourself, a greater nation of your country, and finer world to live in."

Pick Three Winner

The winner for the "Pick Three" is Jack Rooney, and he has donated his winnings to the Church. Therefore, St. Barbara members and Fr. Thaddeus like to express their heartfelt appreciation for Jack's generosity.

Latest Offering's

January 11th Weekend

St. Barbara Parish

Total Collections:

\$2,334.00

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Next Confessions

Confessions on

Sat. January 24th

10:30am-11:15am

STM in the confessional

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. ●



THOMAS SANTA / CATHOLIC

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	2 Sm 1:1–4, 11–12, 19, 23–27 Mk 3:20–21	Is 8:23–9:3 1 Cor 1:10–13, 17 Mt 4:12–23 or 4:12–17



FRANCESCO XAVIER ESPINOSA / CATHOLIC

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