

PARISH CALENDAR

Second Sunday
in Ordinary Time

January 19, 2020

**How precious is the Chalice
that quenches my thirst!**

Saturday, Jan 18	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, Jan 19	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 10:45 a. m.	Religious Education Class
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Monday, Jan 20	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a. m.	Mass
	..... 9:00-11:00 a.m.	PARISH OFFICE CLOSED - MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HOLIDAY
	..... 7:45 a.m.	Food Pantry Closed
Tuesday, Jan 21	..... 8:00 a. m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 7:45 a.m.	Mass
Wednesday, Jan 22	..... 8:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 9:00-11:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 7:45 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, Jan 23	..... 8:00 a. m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 7:30 p. m.	Mass
	..... 7:45 a.m.	Prayer Meeting - Church
Friday, Jan 24	..... 8:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 9:00-11:00 a.m.	Mass
Saturday, Jan 25	..... 4:00-4:45 p.m.	Food Pantry Open
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Confession
		Mass



NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

Isaiah:8:23-9:3: The people in darkness will see a great light.

1 Corinthians:1:10-13, 17: Let there be no divisions among disciples.

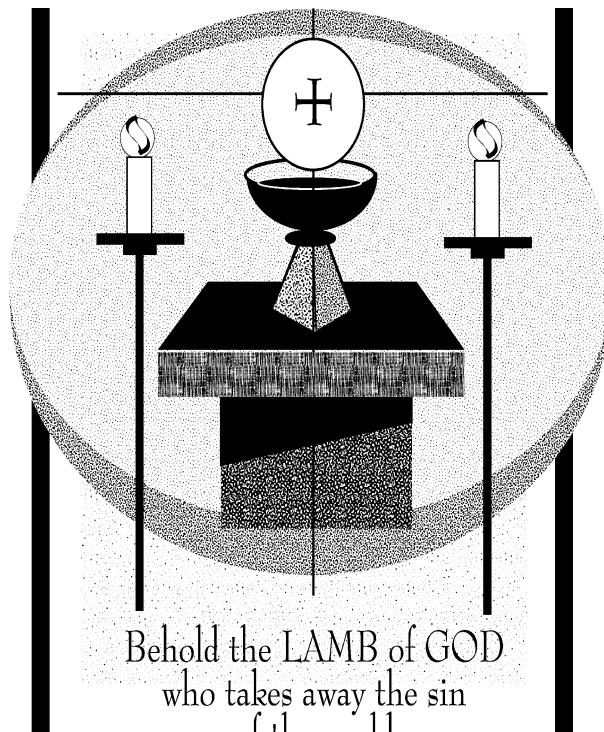
Matthew:4:12-23: Jesus calls the first disciples.

REFLECTIONS

We are among the many who know the story and have received the mercy of this servant of God. We are the most recent generations who live in this century at the undreamed-of ends of the earth. In the Isaian prophecy, we saw that God's dreams for Israel were larger than Israel's dreams for itself. God's dreams for us are larger than our dreams for ourselves, too. Little did Paul know that he would be numbered among the apostles to spread the news of the servant who is Lord. Little did he dream that when he sent greetings to the church at Corinth, we would be reading the letter as one addressed to us. Paul and his fellow-missionary, Sosthenes, greet the church at Corinth and all who have been called to be a holy people.

Grace and peace are given in the same abundance to us in our parishes on a Sunday morning in winter as they once were to the church at Corinth. The enlarged mission of Israel to be a light and salvation to the nations was made about six centuries before the birth of Jesus. Salvation is ours through Jesus, the Servant of God. Paul reminds us that the grace and peace of Christ are ours here, today, twenty centuries later.

Now, really, what human person would have had the boldness to see this far down the centuries? Copyright © 2004, World Library Publications. All rights reserved.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH IN LATIN AMERICA AND BLACK AND

INDIAN MISSIONS: Our second collection next week be for the Church in Latin America and the Black and Indian Missions. Your gift will go to help fund programs such as evangelization and catechesis for these missions. Envelopes are in the bulletin and your envelopes packets, please be generous.

WORD OF LIFE: "If someone shared with you she was pregnant and hadn't ruled out having a difficult pregnancy, the reaction of the first person she tells tends to set the tone for her decision-making. How do we respond to our friend in a loving way that is life-affirming for both her and her baby?" Consider the four steps of the L. O. V. E. Approach™: Listen and Learn, Open Options, Vision and Value, and Extend and Empower. "Read more at www.respectlife.org/l-o-v-e. USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "What to Do When a Friend is Considering Abortion" (www.respectlife.org/l-o-v-e)

WEEKLY READINGS

Jan 19 Sun: 2nd in Ordinary Time

Isa:49:3, 5-6; Ps:40; 1 Cor:1:1-3; Jn:1:29-34

Jan 20 Mon: Ordinary Weekday

1 Sam:15:16-23; Ps:50:8-9, 16bc-17, 2 & 23; Mk:2:18-22

Jan 21 Tue: Saint Agnes, Virgin and Martyr

1 Sam:16:1-13; Ps:89:20, 21-22, 27-28; Mk:2:23-28

Jan 22 Wed: Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of the Unborn Children

1 Sam:17:32-33, 37, 40-51; Ps:144:1b, 2, 9-10; Mk:3:1-6

Jan 23 Thur: Saint Marianne Cope, Virgin

Rm:5:1-8; Ps: 33:1-2, 6-7, 8-9, 20-21; Jn:10:11-18b

Jan 24 Fri: Saint Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

1 Sam:24:3-21; Ps: 57: 2, 3-4, 6 & 11; Mk:3:3-21

Jan 25 Sat: The Conversion of Saint Paul the Apostle

Acts:22:3-16; Ps:117:1bc, 2; Mk:16:15-18

Beginnings

We surround beginnings with ceremony and observance. We break ground for the new building. We cut ribbons and step over thresholds. We bear gifts welcoming the new neighbor, the new infant. Beginnings hold such promise for us. No matter how difficult the past, we are filled with hope. The aphorism is true: hope springs eternal. We are ready to begin anew. Today, Jesus is introduced to us, not as the babe of Bethlehem, but as God's chosen and beloved Son. Copyright © 2004, World Library Publications. All rights reserved.



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NOTE ON STEWARDSHIP

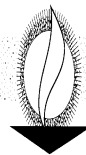
In today's Gospel, John the Baptist shows us how what we do and say reveals to others what we really believe. He has a clear sense of who he is and who he is not, and by his life's work he gives testimony to God's active presence in people's lives. He challenges us to examine how our actions reveal our attitudes, testify to our beliefs and show how those beliefs reveal our true selves to others. Good stewards of their faith are aware of the sort of god they reveal to the world be their words and actions. Do our acts witness to a God who takes away that which alienates people from God and each other? Do our actions truly reveal God's presence in the world today? (International Catholic Stewardship Council)

The first reading from the book of Isaiah was written by a second writer, called deuterio- or second-Isaiah. At that time, Israel had returned from the Babylonian exile and was having trouble reestablishing itself as a unified people of God. The people struggled to get on their feet, to rebuild their temple, to secure their homes and their city. One can feel the discouragement, as if they sensed deeply that something huge had ended and the future was not at all clear. The exile and destruction of Israel's homeland signaled a clear end. The question was how to begin again. This was no small task. The Lord reminded the people through the prophet that their idea about restoring Israel was too little. The Lord meant to make of Israel's dilemma a new beginning. The Lord saw Israel rebuilding a nation, but more than a nation. A new Israel had to come to life, and it would assume a new, pivotal role. Israel was to be a light to all nations. Through Israel, God's salvation would reach to the ends of the earth. How this would come about remained a mystery for centuries. But the people could live by this vision; they could be led by something bigger than themselves.

This prophecy is fulfilled on the banks of the River Jordan. John the Baptizer is the last of the Old Testament prophets. His mission is clear, and he carries it forward without hesitation. His life work was to announce the coming of God's chosen one and to prepare others to receive him. In the Gospel reading today, John the Baptizer is speaking of the events that occurred the day before, when he baptized Jesus in the River Jordan.

John admits that when Jesus came forward, John did not recognize him. That is to say, he didn't immediately recognize him as the one promised by God. John had undergone a long apprenticeship; he was prepared for the revelation of God, wherever it took him. So when the Spirit descended upon Jesus, John the Baptizer understood and spoke the truth that the heavens had proclaimed the day before: "This is God's chosen One."

The day after this theophany, as people mill about along the Jordan, Jesus returns, and John exclaims, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" John's faith identifies his cousin and fellow countryman from Galilee as the Lamb of God. John the Evangelist's use of the term lamb interprets Jesus as a servant who is compared to a lamb bearing the sins of the many (See Isaiah 53:7-12.). The designation is only used in the fourth Gospel, but it is used twenty-nine times in the book of Revelation to identify Jesus as risen Lord whose reign is finally established. Copyright © 2004, World Library Publications. All rights reserved.



*I will make you
a light to the nations*

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