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**NOW I HAVE
SEEN AND
TESTIFIED
THAT HE IS
THE SON OF
GOD** JOHN 1:34

**JANUARY
19, 2020
SECOND
SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY
TIME**

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Summary

When we say the words of the Agnus Dei, or Lamb of God, during Mass, we are directly quoting John the Baptist.

The scene is set on the banks of the Jordan River. John has been gathering disciples by powerfully calling for repentance in light of the coming kingdom of God. One day, as he sees Jesus, he cries out, "Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world!"

John was a great leader, but he recognized that he was not the center of the movement he had begun. He was the forerunner; the voice in the desert. John understood that his role was humbly to prepare others to follow Christ—to be a witness to the glory of God, the one who shows the way. It was not and never would be to draw attention to himself.

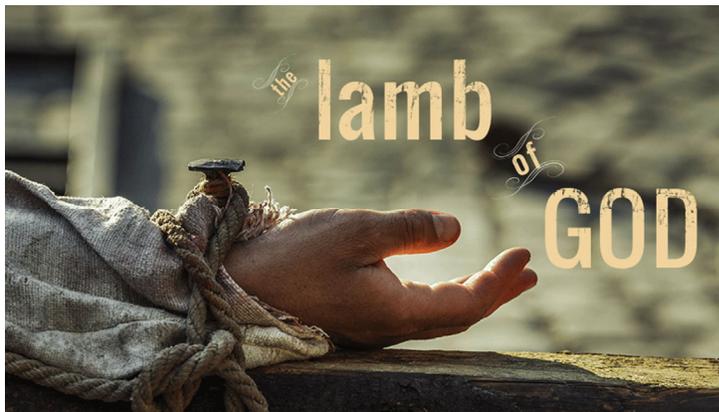
By calling Jesus the "Lamb of God," John sums up his entire mission: he is to prepare the way for the One who will come, to actually take away our sins, not just call us to repentance. John recognizes Jesus as the Savior and exhorts us to do the same.

John's words about Jesus would have had a powerful impact on those who heard them because they would have called to mind the sacrifices of the Old Testament, particularly the Sacrifice of Passover. In the Passover, the blood of a lamb protected the faithful Israelites

from the Angel of Death. Now John the Baptist calls Jesus the lamb of the New Passover, the one who will spare all of humanity from eternal separation from God. Jesus is the perfect, true sacrifice that all the old sacrifices had been pointing toward. He is truly the Lamb of God.

First Reading Reflection Isaiah 49:3, 5–6

This introduction to the season



of Ordinary Time from the Prophet Isaiah makes for a wonderful transition from the Advent season. The prophet who foretold the coming of Emmanuel has a word for us concerning the significance and aim of God's dwelling among us.

In this passage, God renews through Isaiah the promise of his universal salvific will. Throughout the history of God's people— whether that term is intended to refer to the kingdom of Israel or the new Israel, which is the Church—there's been a tendency to forget that God gives us what he gives us not merely to favor us, but to make us instruments in his universal plan. God created all and he intends to save all.

It's just as easy for us to think

that God's will stops at the church door as it was for the Israelites to think that his dominion was exercised solely within the boundaries of geographical Israel. But that wasn't the faith of Israel nor is it our faith. From the time of Adam, the time of Noah, and even from the time of Abraham when God began the process of forming a particular people to be "a light to the nations," he has always had his eye on "the nations."

Second Reading Reflection 1 Corinthians 1:1–3

Again, as was the case in the second reading for the Fourth Sunday of Advent, we have an opening greeting, a salutation from one of St. Paul's epistles or letters. That seems somehow appropriate to the beginning of Ordinary Time. And Paul's reminder of what he is, "an apostle of Jesus Christ," is a fit reminder of what we're called to be.

The word "apostle" in Greek means "one sent forth." The Greek term is used in John 17:3, where Jesus declares his mission from the Father. And the same term is used throughout the New Testament in reference to those sent by the ancient churches to spread the Gospel. Paul describes the Corinthians to whom he writes as those "who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be a holy." As we begin that part of the liturgical cycle that we call ordinary time, we do well to remember that part of our vocation as God's holy people is to be sent to all those who,

wherever they may be, fall within the ambit of God's loving, saving will. That, of course, includes the whole of the human family.

Gospel Reading Reflection John 1:29–34

In this passage, we're told that John identified Jesus as the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."

Commentators suggest that this might be an allusion to the Passover lamb consumed by the Jews as a commemoration of the Exodus event, to the prophetic witness in regard to the "suffering servant of Yahweh," to the symbolic representation of a horned lamb that's made for some of the heroes of Israel, or to the twice daily sacrifice of a lamb in the temple of Jerusalem. John the Baptist unites all of these symbolically when he recognizes Jesus as the "Lamb of God." The Jews considered the offering of Isaac by Abraham to be a pivotal event in salvation history. Rather than requiring the sacrifice of Isaac, God sent an angel to Abraham to point out a ram (an adult male sheep caught

by his horns in a thicket to offer instead.

This would be consistent with the Christian notion, prominent in the Liturgy of the Triduum, that Isaac is a symbolic foreshadowing of Jesus who is the beloved Son of God, just as Isaac was the beloved son of Abraham. At the end of our passage from John's Gospel, John the Baptist, after calling Jesus the Lamb of God, also identifies him as "the Son of God."

Reflect & Discuss

We are now in Ordinary Time, those Sundays of the year when we aren't preparing for or celebrating some major feast. Please watch the short Opening the Word video. Edward Sri gives us some insight into a phrase we hear every time we attend Mass. Then reflect and discuss these questions with a friend:

What would the phrase "Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world" have meant to John the Baptist's Jewish followers, according to Dr. Sri?

What role does John the Baptist play with regard to Jesus and our salvation?

Digging Deeper: Baptism and the "Door Of Faith"

Agnus Dei, which means "Lamb of God," is said during the Mass when the Host is broken. It comes from a Syrian custom and was first used in the Roman Rite Mass by Pope Sergius I (687–701).

The Latin text is:
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis. Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis. Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.

Translation:
Lamb of God, you who take away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Lamb of God, you who take away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Lamb of God, you who take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

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PICK OF THE WEEK

January 22 is the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. In an age when life itself seems disposable, how can we follow God's call to protect and promote the dignity of the human person in all places and circumstances?

Symbolon: Living the Faith Protecting the Dignity of the Human Person

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Pray Throughout the Week

Mass Intentions

Saturday 1/18

8:30am Robert Lindquist †
5:00pm George E. Elliott †
7:00pm Cora Erfe †

Sunday 1/19

6:45am Nick Alice †
Tomas Sanchez †
8:00am Rob Lindquist †
9:30am Rose Adams †
11:00am Kathleen Lawson & family
12:30pm Camerino Gonzales †
Gloria Gonzales †
6:00pm David Salazar †

Monday 1/20

8:30am Dinice Ross †

Tuesday 1/21

8:30am Jack Arena †

Wednesday 1/22

8:30am Terry Miranda †
7:00pm Mass for Our Parish

Thursday 1/23

8:30am Danny Ramos †

Friday 1/24

8:30am Christopher Ogaz

To request a Mass Intention, please visit the parish office. It is customary to offer a \$10 donation per intention for the priest celebrating the Mass.



Prayer

Imagine you are standing on the banks of the Jordan River, watching John baptize the crowds. All of a sudden, you see him looking at a man who is approaching. John cries out, "Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world!" What do you think when you hear those words? Now move forward in time and imagine that John asks you to follow this man, Jesus, no matter where he goes or what he asks of you. Are you ready to make that commitment? Are you ready to follow the Lamb?

Resolution

Do you truly believe that Jesus has come to take your sins away? If there is something in your past for which you are ashamed, confess it now, in the silence of your heart, and ask the Lamb to remove it from you. As soon as you are able, go to Confession. If nothing immediately comes to mind, spend time in prayer asking the Lamb to help protect you from all temptation.

Special Intentions

For our guests at Alpha whom we will meet on February 10, that they experience a powerful encounter with Jesus, supported and loved by our entire parish.

Please pray for all the intentions sent to the **Parish Prayer Team at Prayers@StMichaelLivermore.com** and the prayers written in the book of intentions in the Adoration Chapel.

Fr Carl's Message

Evangelization is Required

if there is to be a St Michael's in the future

Evangelization has been in the Christian vocabulary since the very beginnings. If you have time to study and read prayerfully the Holy Bible, one of Jesus' core messages is evangelization, a word which was derived from Greek word "euangelion" which means "the good news". In the Christian context, the Good News is that Jesus is the Savior of the world!

Looking deeper into the life and mission of Jesus, His teachings and preach-ings are all about the Good News. When He spoke in the synagogue of Nazareth and read the Holy Scripture from the book of the prophet Isaiah, He proclaimed, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord." (Luke 4:18-19). He was proclaiming that He was and is the answer to our world gone bad, all that he said and did was to make His mighty presence felt in this world. Eventually, in Matthew 28, Jesus commissioned His Apostles to teach and make disciples and baptize people in the name of the Holy Trinity.

Hence, evangelization is an

intrinsically connected to and inseparable from our baptismal calling.

Anyone who is baptized as a Christian has a duty and task to spread the Good News. This is our call, our mission and our very



**Comment
out loud.**

[#TryAlpha](#)



life. A Christian or a follower must and should be witnesses of Jesus' Paschal Mystery which is His Life, Death and Resurrection. A Christian must always be an embodiment of the Good News. Therefore, in order for St Michael parish to continue to exist and to be relevant for the salvation of souls, we must not waver in witnessing and proclaiming the Good News, the core message of Jesus. Bluntly speaking, a parish without evangelization efforts is a dying parish.

This is why Alpha is vital in the

work of evangelization at St Michael's. Alpha is a series of get togethers centered around a meal, a video talk and a discussion. It is informal and fun, but not trivial. It's an easy entry place for people to explore their own thoughts and feelings about the Christian faith.

My invitation to each one of you is to bring a friend or a member of your family to our Alpha Dinner set for February 10 at 6:30 pm. Let us build a culture of hospitality and inviting community so that people may feel and experience the awesome presence of Jesus.

Our parish was built in 1872 and if we want to see her existing, thriving and vibrant, please do support our ministries, programs, sacramental

preparations and keep on welcoming everyone with a smile, enthusiasm and great conviction empowered and inspired by the life and teachings of Christ.

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28: 19-20)

Fr. Carl

WE MUST **invite** TO HAVE A CHURCH



Jesus' final command before ascending to heaven, is to "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..." (Matthew 28:19). It's known as the Great Commission, not "the really good suggestion". Why? Because Jesus entrusted his disciples with a partnership in the salvation of the world. The transmission of the Gospel message depends on US. Jesus is counting on us to reach a particular person or persons with the message of His love and redemption. But how do we go about this?

Just invite.

Inviting someone to come to Mass might be a little too intimidating for someone who is unfamiliar with liturgy. But inviting them to dinner? That's easy. Non-threatening. At Alpha you can bring your friend, coworker, colleague, hairstylist, daughter's boyfriend, UPS driver for a meal. You'll be greeted by really friendly people and have a great (free!) dinner. You'll watch a video on the very basics of the Christian faith, then have a chance to discuss it with your tablemates. And any and all questions and comments are allowed! Seriously. At Alpha, everyone gets a chance to voice their thoughts and be heard, without correction or judgment. Alpha is a place to have a meaningful conversation, to explore the biggest questions of faith. It's a welcoming place to begin a journey that will change a life forever.

Who will you invite?

save the date

Mondays at 6:30 pm
Starting February 10, 2020
St Michael Parish Hall, 326 Maple Street
Livermore, CA
Register: StMichaelLivermore.com/Alpha

who will you invite?

OPEN HOUSE



COMMUNITY † SERVICE † STUDY † PRAYER



Sunday, January 26, 2020

You're invited to join us...

Mass (9:30 am)

> at St. Michael Church in Livermore

Open House (10:30 am - 12:30 pm)

- > Check-in at the welcome booth (corner of 4th & Maple)
- > Check-out the Science and Book Fairs
- > Take a tour of the school
- > Meet the teachers, staff and current families

Visit us online at smsliv.org

- > Discover Admission details and apply online
- > Add your child to the Interest List
- > Sign-up for TK, K and 1st Grade 2020/21 testing
- Saturday, Feb 22nd
- > Sign-up for a Shadow Visit (1st through 7th grades)
- Wednesdays 8am to noon.

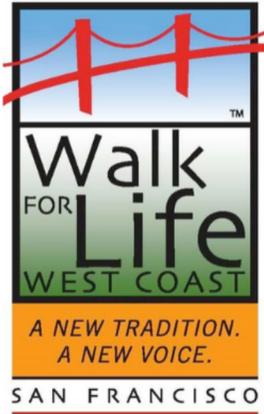
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- † Before and After School Care (including Homework Club and Children's Choir)



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FOR MORE INFO: Call: 925-447-1888 www.smsliv.org



Unite with Thousands for LIFE

Saturday, January 25

8:30 am: Mass at St Michael's
 9:30 am: Rosary in the Courtyard
 10:00 am: Hospitality
 11:00 am: Travel to San Francisco
 12:30 pm: Rally at Civic Center Plaza
 1:15 pm: Meet up on Grove St, btwn Larkin and Polk
 1:30 pm: Walk begins

Alpha Host & Helper Training

Is God calling you to be part of Alpha? We are training Hosts and Helpers on **Saturday, January 25 at 9:30 am in the Convent.**

Hosts are the friendly, life of the party kind of people who make everyone at the table feel welcome and at ease. During the discussion, Hosts keep the conversation going, but actually say very little. Hosts do not teach or present or preach.

Helpers are the quiet observant types who will silently pray for each table member during the session. They watch for the group dynamics and gently alert the Host if they notice a guest might not be doing okay.

Vietnamese Masses

No Mass on January 25 due to Vietnamese Tết.

We will have two Masses in February:

- Tết celebration Mass on Sunday, February 9 at 3:30 in the Large Hall.
- The regularly scheduled Mass on the fourth Sunday will be held on February 23 at 3:30 pm in the Church.

Memorial of St Francis De Sales

Friday, January 24 is the Memorial of St Francis De Sales, Secondary Patron of the Diocese of Oakland. St Francis, pray for us!



EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER TRAINING

February 4 at 6:30 pm OR
 February 8 at 9:30 am
 in the Church



Register at
StMichaelLivermore.com/EM

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Es el programa dinámico de estudio de Biblia de St. Paul Center diseñado para ayudar Católicos ordinarios a crecer en su conocimiento de las Escrituras al mismo tiempo que profundizan su entendimiento de las riquezas de nuestra fe. Tiene su raíz en la historia, aunque de una manera activa utiliza temas que enfrentan los Católicos hoy en día.

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Niños: La Trilogía Testimonial - Dios con nosotros

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Mass | Misa

Mon-Sat | Lu-Sa 8:30 am
Wed | Mi 7:00 pm (español)
First Friday | Primer viernes
12:00 pm

Sat Vigil | Vigilia del Sábado
5:00 pm (English), 7:00 pm (español)

Sunday | Domingo
6:45 am, 8:00 am, 9:30 am, 11:00
am, 12:30 pm (español), 6:00 pm

Sign Language | Lenguaje por Señas
1st Sun, 11:00 am
Primer domingo a las 11:00 am

Traditional Latin Mass
2nd Sun, 8:00 am

Tagalog
3rd Sun, 3:30 pm

Vietnamese | Vietnamita
4th Sun, 3:30 pm
Cuarto domingo a las 3:30 pm

Confession | Confesión

Saturday, in the Church |
Sábado en la iglesia
9:00 am & 3:45 pm in English
6:15 pm en español

Monday & Friday in the church |
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7:30 am in English & español

Wednesdays in the Convent Chapel
2:30 pm

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Rev. David Staal, Associate
Rev. Deacon Rob Federle
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