

# January 14, 2018 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

## MASS INTENTIONS

### Saturday, January 13

5:00 p.m. +**Jeffrey Vroom**  
By Mr. and Mrs. George Merlo

### Sunday, January 14

8:00 a.m. **Parishioners of Saint Theodore Church**  
10:30 a.m. +**Vincie Vallo**  
By Robert and Victoria Dicheck

### Monday, January 15

8:45 a.m. +**Samuel Acquavia and Ninna Herzog**  
By Barbara Mallon

### Tuesday, January 16

8:45 a.m. +**Carolyn Ranelli**  
By Theresa Cappello

### Wednesday, January 17

8:45 a.m. **Blessings of Healing for Mary Ellen Polachak**  
By The O'Malley's

### Thursday, January 18 NO MASS

### Friday, January 19

8:45 a.m. +**Jean Wolverton**  
By Theresa Cappello

### Saturday, January 20

5:00 p.m. +**Francis Blevins**  
By Family

### Sunday, January 21

8:00 a.m. **Altar Rosary Society**  
10:30 a.m. +**Donald J. Cook**  
By Rose and Lance Smith

John the Baptist.

We are familiar with the title that John the Baptist uses for Jesus—the Lamb of God. We hear it weekly at the fraction rite during Mass. For those who heard John the Baptist, however, this title recalled key themes from the Old Testament. It alludes to the paschal lamb offered as a sacrifice when God freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, the event that is commemorated by the Jewish Passover celebration. The designation also recalls the prophet Isaiah's description of the suffering servant of Israel. In using this name for Jesus, John the Baptist predicts Jesus' passion and death and the new interpretation of Passover that will begin with Jesus' Last Supper.

We learn in today's reading how Jesus' first followers were gathered. The first two, Andrew and another man, were followers of John the Baptist. After hearing John's testimony, they became followers of Jesus. During their time with Jesus, the details of which are not specified, Andrew and the other follower came to believe that Jesus was the Messiah. Andrew then brings his brother, Simon, to Jesus. Immediately, Jesus gave Simon a new name, calling him *Peter*, which means "rock" in Greek. The renaming of Simon to Peter is reported in all four of the Gospels.

In the exchange between Andrew, the other disciple, and Jesus, we see an example of the usual pattern for first-century Jewish rabbinical schools. Jews sought out rabbis and established themselves as disciples of a particular rabbi. Jesus appears to have been unique in that he sought out individuals, inviting them to be his followers. In the passage that follows, John's Gospel tells us how Jesus took the initiative in calling Philip and Nathanael.

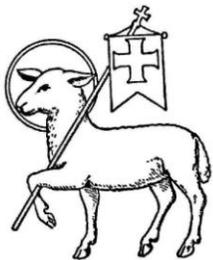
Jesus asks Andrew and the other disciple, "What are you looking for?" This is a telling question, and one that we might often ask of ourselves. John the Baptist testified to Jesus' identity, the Lamb of God, using the framework of the Old Testament. Andrew, Simon, and the other first disciples were looking for the Messiah, whom

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John 1:35–42

John the Baptist recognizes Jesus as the Lamb of God, and Jesus receives his first followers.

### Background on the Gospel Reading



Although the liturgical season of Ordinary Time begins this week, today's reading continues with the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord, which concludes the Christmas season.

Today's reading from the

Gospel according to John immediately follows John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus and his identification of Jesus as the Lamb of God.

Having been baptized by John, Jesus begins to gather followers. The first followers sought out Jesus because of the testimony and witness of

they also came to know as the Son of God. What do we look for and what do we find in Jesus?

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**The theme for the 2018 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, which is celebrated Jan. 18 through January 25, is “Your Right Hand, O Lord, Glorious in Power.”**

The theme, taken from Exodus 15:6, points to the glorious power of God to draw people together in the desire for Christian unity.

Throughout the Biblical narrative of salvation, an unmistakable motif is the unrelenting determination of the Lord to form a people whom He could call His own. The formation of such a people, united in a sacred covenant with God, is integral to the Lord’s plan of salvation and to the glorification of His name. The prophets repeatedly remind Israel that their covenant demanded that relationships among its various social groups should be characterized by justice, compassion and mercy. Reconciliation often demands repentance, reparation and healing of memories.

As Jesus prepared to seal the new covenant in His own blood, His earnest prayer to the Father was that those given to Him by the Father would be one, just as He and the Father were one. When Christians discover their unity in Jesus, they participate in Christ’s glorification in the presence of the Father, with the same glory that He had lived in the Father’s presence before the world existed. Therefore, God’s covenanted people must always strive to be a reconciled community that serves as an effective sign of how to live in justice and peace for all the people of the earth.

Today, the Bible continues to be a source of consolation and liberation, inspiring Christians to address the conditions that currently undermine the Body of Christ. The Church, like Israel, is called to be a sign and an active agent of reconciliation.

Artwork for this year’s poster is a modified version of a stained glass window “Hand of God” from Our Lady of the Lake Church in Pocono Pines, Pa.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity has a 100-year history, beginning as an eight-day period of prayer in 1908 called the “Church Unity Octave,” established by founders of the Society of the Atonement, Mother Lurana White

and Servant of God Father Paul Wattson of Graymoor. The octave begins with the feast of the Chair of St. Peter (Jan. 18) and ends on the feast of the Conversion of St. Paul (Jan. 25). Pope Pius X gave his blessing to the Church Unity Octave and in 1916, Pope Benedict XV extended its observance to the universal Church. — Graymoor Ecumenical and Interreligious Institute

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Stephen, Bridget M., Savannah Paine, Bobby Gross, Keira Hedges, Peter, Zachary, Logan Peter Saks, Anna Saks, Lauren Lane, Jay Mildrum, Philip Kinney,

Kerry Kraft, Peter S., Mary Supple, Mary Rupell, Susan Reynolds, Robert Dicheck, Christian, Tara, Zoe, Teagan, Eric Harding, Kathy & Bob Y., Irma Marquart, Dolores Staiano, Gerard Schnaars

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**Our Weekly Offering**

**Sunday collection needed to meet weekly expenses: \$3,637.**

Christmas: \$7,128.27 New Year: \$812  
Sunday 1/7/18: \$2,562 Fuel: \$914

**January Calendar**

Tuesdays @ 6:30 pm: Bible Study  
1/15: No Rel. Ed.; Parish & Rel. Ed. Offices closed for Martin Luther King Holiday  
1/17 and every Wednesday @ 6:30 pm: Confirmation prep for adults  
1/20 @ 9am: Floor Cleaning: Parish Center: Help Needed  
1/27 @ 10 am: 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Retreat at St. Mary’s Hackettstown  
1/29 @ 6:15pm: 7<sup>th</sup> Grade at church for confessions

The Knights of Columbus will be cleaning our Parish Center floor and needs help. If you are able to give them a hand in helping our church, please mark your calendar: **Saturday, January 20 at 9 a.m.**

I thank you in advance for your continued willingness to help.

--Father Damian