

Gospel Reflection

A lamb was a familiar image for Jewish people in Jesus' day. It was part of the Jewish tradition that lambs be slaughtered for sacrifice, as a way for the people to return to God after they had separated themselves through sinfulness. Of course, Jesus reminded his disciples of this sacrifice at the Last Supper. His actions at that meal would forever bind his followers to the sacrifice he made for each of us. Jesus had become the new Passover Lamb.

John the Baptist recognized Jesus as this sacrifice. Upon his approach, John proclaimed Jesus the "Lamb of God." Having already seen the Spirit come down on Jesus, John knew that was the sign by which God had promised to indicate the chosen One. While it would remain unclear exactly what it meant to be the Lamb of God until after the Passion and Resurrection, John knew that this was the most fitting title for the one who approached him on that day at the Jordan River.

We will grow only in service to one another. We may each be individuals feeling at times that we work alone, but in reality, as Paul explained to the Corinthians, we are united. We are united in God by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ, the Son of God. In our humanity, we may not be able to give as completely as Jesus did, but we strive nevertheless to carry one another in humble service. Through our obedience to God's will, we proclaim to the world Jesus' message of love for even the least by our words and actions as we lift up our brothers and sisters. As we find strength in the Gospel message and in the many exemplary lives of those who have gone before us, the service that we offer to others is truly that of Jesus himself, the Lamb of God.

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KEEPING FAITH FIRST FAMILY FUN

John 1:29-34

T T P S Y O L P U V P D T
N I K I S U U D F Z C O E
K Y R P E I R R O O S G S
C E X I S T E D G V E F T
D K D R P T B D Q U E O I
I Q A K A S O A U J N B F
S E B W N G Y Q P W Y M Y
L S H N F E N L M T H A N
A L U O Z X W W O K I L G
D F N S K I O X D H E Z R
F O R H E C N R A N K S E
S T W S J J K O N M W Y Y
V M P N I A M E R C J U X

Find these words from the Gospel passage.

BAPTIZE	DOVE	EXISTED
HOLY SPIRIT	ISRAEL	JESUS
KNOWN	LAMB OF GOD	RANKS
REMAIN	SEEN	SKY
SON OF GOD	TESTIFY	WATER

Disciple's Reflection & Questions of the Week

*The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
1/20/08*

*John 1:29-34
Faith-Sharing
Questions of the Week*



Our Lady of the Assumption

435 Berkeley Ave.
Claremont, CA
www.olaclaremont.org

Call to Prayer

We begin by calling upon God:

**In the Name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the
Holy Spirit, Amen.**

*We then pause for a moment to listen with
our hearts to this week's Gospel passage...*

The Word of God: *John 1:29-34*

The Gospel according to John

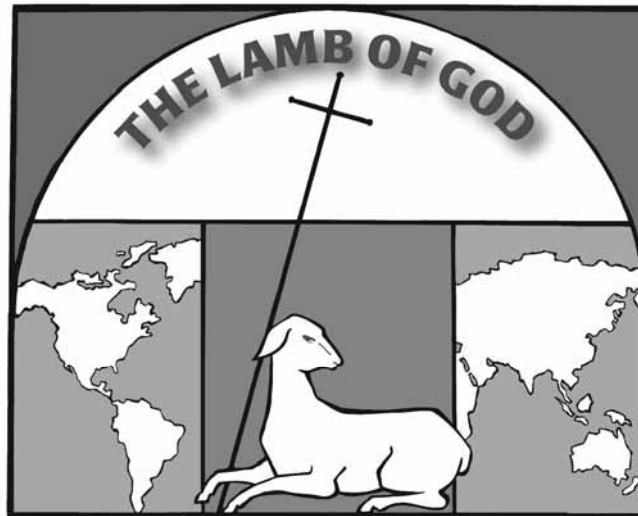
John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold, the **Lamb of God**, who takes away the sins of the world. He is the one of whom I said, 'A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.' I did not know him but the reason why I came baptizing with water was that he might be made known to Israel."

John **testified** further, saying, "I saw the Spirit come down like a

dove from the sky and remain upon him.

"I did not know him, but **the one who sent me** to baptize with water told me, 'On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain, he is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God."

The Gospel of the Lord



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Gospel Glossary

Lamb of God: a title for Jesus in the New Testament; refers to the sacrificial lamb whose death would lead to salvation for the people of Israel

Testified: affirmed or gave witness to a religious or spiritual experience

"the one who sent me": refers to God the Father

Faith Sharing

Questions of the Week

- John identifies Jesus as "Lamb of God" and "Son of Man." Which of those titles means the most to me? Why?
- How has my understanding of Jesus grown or changed this last year?
- Do I testify to Jesus' identity in my daily life? How?

Closing Prayer

*Father of heaven and earth,
Hear our prayers, and show
us the way to peace in the
world. Grant this through our
Lord Jesus Christ your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God,
for ever and ever.*

Amen.

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time