



Sunday Church Bells

of the *St. Valentine's*
Polish National Catholic Church

127 King Street, Northampton, MA 01060



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**Second Sunday
in Ordinary Time**

January 19, 2014

**Druga Niedziela
w Okresie Zwykłym
19 Stycznia 2014**



Have you ever been driving blissfully along on auto-pilot when suddenly a deer appears on the side of the road or a pedestrian pops out between two cars? It always raises my heart bit and reminds me to pay attention to what I'm doing. The lectionary feels like that for me these days; over and over, saying: "*Look! Check out this Jesus!*"

A Buddhist monk living on the island starts off his teaching with a listing of all his teachers. It's his "stamp of approval", a confirmation that he is not speaking "off the top of his head" or for his own benefit. All the Evangelists have an account of John the Baptists' recognition of Jesus, and a "heavenly voice" that claims Jesus as God's Son. His credentials are presented as he begins to teach.

Only in the account in John's Gospel however, and the Book of Revelation, is Jesus called: "Lamb of God". I struggle with the image, as did the people translating the Bible for the Inuit people, who had no word or concept for "sheep". Being stumped on how to describe a lamb, they wrote: "*God's special thing that looks like a caribou calf.*" At least that's how the story goes according to a friend of mine!

When I think of a lamb, I think of a lack of violence, of aggression. I can't picture Jesus, the Lamb of God, singing "*Onward Christian Soldier, marching as to war*" as he walks along. Yet, both John the Baptist and Jesus of Nazareth were strong, robust men; strong enough to preach and practice the Beatitudes; strong enough to destroy evil through peace and non-violence; strong enough to be part of God's "special thing" ... a new earth where lambs can graze in peace.

Don

II Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A

9:15 a.m. - Sunday Morning Prayer.

9:30 a.m. - Holy Mass - Traditional Rite - Mass Book, page 13.

Mass intention: In memory of loved ones and friends who have passed away and are represented by the crosses on the "Memory Tree."

ENTRANCE HYMN (Isaiah 42:1)

Priest: Here is My Servant Whom I uphold, My chosen One with Whom I am pleased,

All: Upon Whom I have put My Spirit; He shall bring forth justice to the nations.

Priest: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

All: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 49:3, 5-6

GRADUAL (Isaiah 49:8-9a)

Priest: Thus says the Lord: In a time of favor I answer you, on the day of salvation I help you, to restore the land and allot the desolate heritages,

All: Saying to the prisoners: Come out! To those in darkness: Show yourselves!

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

ALLELUIA (Isaiah 61:1a)

Priest: Alleluia, alleluia.

All: Alleluia, alleluia.

Priest: The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me.

All: Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL: John 1:29-34

Priest: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John

All: Glory be to You, Lord!

John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin 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

heaven 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.”

Priest: This is the Gospel of the Lord.


All: Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.



Reflection Questions:



1. “Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.” After John pointed Jesus out to the crowds, they wanted to know where he lived and more about him. They developed personal relationships with him. Do you have a personal relationship with Jesus?
2. Why was John so certain about Jesus when he said, “Behold the Lamb of God”? Was John watching for the Spirit? Do you watch for the Spirit in your life? Can you find and trust the Spirit of God?



*“I did not know him,” John said.
So the Spirit told him who Jesus was,
and John replied:
“Behold, the Lamb of God,
who takes away the sin of the world.”
Holy Spirit, come, shine through our clouds.
Point out Jesus in our lives,
and let us tell everyone about the Lamb of God.*





Readings for next Sunday

First Reading: *Isaiah 8:23—9:6*

Second Reading: *1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17*

Gospel: *Matthew 14:12-23*





PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Polish Classes - every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall
- Parish Committee Meeting: Monday, January 20 at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall
- Saturday, January 25 - Conversion of St. Paul, Apostle (Week of Prayer for Christian Unity ends) - Holy Mass at 10:00 am
- Sunday, January 26 - Music Scholarship Sunday - Holy Mass at 9:30 a.m. (second Collection for Music Scholarships - basket in the vestibule)
- Society for the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament Meeting: Monday, January 27 at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall.



Potluck Brunch - January 26th

You are all cordially invited to join us at a Potluck Brunch on January 26th immediately following Holy Mass. Hopefully you will join us with your special dish or with something already prepared. If you are planning to come, please include your name and the food item/dish you will bring in the sign-up sheet, located in the vestibule of the church by January 19th or notify Fr. Adam.

Epiphany Visitations

I will make Epiphany Visits to our parishioners. A traditionally prepared home for the pastoral visit displays a white cloth on a table, upon which is placed crucifix, two candles, the Bible, holy water and chalk. If you would like to have your home blessed, please notify me at Church or call the Rectory Office. - Fr. Adam

New Storm Windows

Donations are still being accepted to help defray the cost of the storm windows which were recently purchased for the church. Any amount will be gratefully appreciated. Your donation will be acknowledged in our Church bulletin. Please notify us if you do not want to have your named mentioned in the bulletin. The amount received thus far \$575.00. Special thanks to Wallace Forman, Krysia and Eugene Newman who sponsored the purchase of storm windows for the south side of the Church in memory of Joan Forman.

Thank you. Bóg zapłać!

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:

Edward Antosz - 34 Hockanum Rd, Northampton, MA 01060

Helen Golec - 71 State Street, Apt. 130, Northampton, MA 01060

Shirley & Paul Krawczynski - 18 Dickinson Street, Northampton, MA 01060

John Lenkowski - 31 Denise Court, Northampton, MA 01060

Grace Mackiewicz - 9 Chestnut Street, #6, Amherst, MA 01002

Alice Modrzakowski - 130 University Dr. Unit 133, Amherst, MA 01002

Rt. Rev. Stanley Bilinski - 9201 West Higgins Rd, Chicago, IL 60631

Rt. Rev. Thomas Gnat - 104 Naphin Hill Road, Dunmore, PA 18512

Rt. Rev. John Mack - 6298 Broadway, Lancaster, NY 14086

Please say a prayer for peace, comfort and healing for our sick sisters and brothers; send a card to them; if you can, participate in the Holy Mass celebrated in their intention every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.

(except holidays when Holy Mass is celebrated at 7:00 p.m. - see bulletins)

PASTORAL CARE AT HOME AND HOSPITAL

If you have a family member or friend at hospital or home unable to take part in Holy Mass and Sacraments, please notify Fr. Adam at 584-0133.



Holy Mass Schedule:

Sunday - 9:30 a.m.

Solemnities & Feasts - see bulletins

Daily - 10:00 a.m.

For Holy Mass intentions contact Fr. Adam after Sunday Holy Mass or anytime by phone (413) 584-0133.