Clergy: Rev. Ronald B. Foshage, M.S., Episcopal Vicar, Administrator
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Gospel Meditation

On the cusp of fame, power, or influence, would you turn it down? Today's Gospel again features John the Baptist. Controversial but popular, John has gathered quite a group of followers. He has disciples. People come from near and far to be baptized by him. Pharisees and government leaders are drawn to his preaching. If John was another man, a lesser man, he would have claimed his own greatness. Instead, John the Baptist is a witness to humility.

"The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Behold the Lamb of God … he is the one of whom I said, "A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me."… the reason why I came baptizing with water was that he might be made known.'" Rather than point to himself, John points to Christ. John could have grasped at what he had accumulated. He could have seen Jesus as a Messianic competitor. Instead, John knows who he is. He knows his place as forerunner. Because John knows who Jesus is. "I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God."

A life of humility, a life for others, can be challenging to live. So much of our culture is built around achievement and individualism. We can justify it, too, in pursuit of "greater goods" and higher ideals. In the process, however, we might miss our own participation in the kingdom of God. John, for all of his humility, was not an afterthought. In another Gospel passage, Jesus calls him "the greatest prophet," even the greatest of men. Why? Because he fulfills the mission given to him by God: to announce the coming of the Messiah. We too are prophets and forerunners. Our witness to the Gospel is meant to point people to Jesus. Consider your own mission this week. To whom are you called to announce the good news of the Son of God?

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Prayer Support for Our Pastor and Parish

Let's join together during this time by praying the Rosary and the Memorare daily at 4:00 pm. God's grace always remains with us.

Jan 19 – Jan 26, 2020
Readings and Mass Intentions

Sunday, January 19 **9:00am-Mass**
Is 49:3, 5-6/Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10 [8a, 9a]/1 Cor 1:1-3/Jn 1:29-34
Mass intention for the People of the Parish

Monday, January 20 **4:30pm-Communion Service**
1 Sm 15:16-23/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23 [23b]/Mk 2:18-22

Tuesday, January 21 **10:00am-Mass**
1 Sm 16:1-13/Ps 89:20, 21-22, 27-28 [21a]/Mk 2:23-28

Wednesday, January 22 **4:30pm-Communion Service**
1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51/Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10 [1]/Mk 3:1-6

Thursday, January 23 **4:30pm-Communion Service**
1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7/Ps 56:2-3, 9-10a, 10b-11, 12-13 [5b]/Mk 3:7-12

Friday, January 24 **9:30am-Communion Service**
1 Sm 24:3-21/Ps 57:2, 3-4, 6 and 11 [2a]/Mk 3:13-19

Saturday, January 25 **4:30pm-Mass**
6:30pm-Spanish Mass
Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22/Ps 117:1bc, 2 [Mk 16:15]/Mk 16:15-18
Mass Intention for Cezila Zinnante

Sunday, January 26 **9:00am-Mass**
Is 8:23—9:3/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [1a]/1 Cor 1:10-13, 17/Mt 4:12-23 or Mt 4:12-17
Mass intention for the People of the Parish

Play That One Again

How many times have you sung the church song, "Here I Am, Lord"? If you grew up Catholic and are around my age (still 50!), the answer is more than you can count. The song that quotes various verses of Scripture is sung using guitar, piano, or organ, by cantors and choirs, in traditional and modern churches. It is truly a Catholic greatest hit of the modern Church. The question is how many times when singing the refrain have you really taken to heart what you were singing.

"Here I am, Lord; is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night." Like the biblical figure Samuel, we are responding to the call of God by asking for clarification that we are indeed the one being called. We then follow up the question with a profound statement: "I will go if You lead me." It is profound because we are pledging to our God that we are willing to go wherever He wants. We are accepting the challenge put forth in the U.S. Bishops' pastoral letter, "Stewardship: A Disciple's Response," to become mature disciples who respond to the call of Jesus Christ regardless of the cost. We have sung this pledge repeatedly for many years.

We never have any idea what God will call us to do and where to go. Sometimes the request can ask us for quite a lot. Hopefully, we respond like a mature disciple. If not, maybe we should reflect more the next time this song is played. The melody will not allow for the words, "I will see if I am busy and then decide to go if you lead me." Then again, I don't want to sing that to God, the source of all life anyway. Do you?

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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Sun. Jan 19	Mon. Jan 20	Tues. Jan 21	Wed. Jan 22	Thurs. Jan 23	Fri. Jan 24	Sat. Jan 25
2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time **9:00am - Mass** BLOOD DRIVE following Mass Family Center	**4:30pm-Communion Service** *6:30pm-Pastoral Council*	**10:00am-Mass** *3:30pm-Choir Practice* *6:30pm-Exploring the Catholic Faith Speaker Bryan Reising "The Eucharist"*	*2:00pm-Bible Study* *4:00pm-Rosary* **4:30pm-Communion Service**	**4:30pm-Communion Service** *5:00pm-Divine Mercy Chaplet*	**9:30am-Communion Service**	*3:45-4:15pm-Confessions* **4:30pm-Mass** **6:30pm-Spanish Mass**
Sun. Jan 26	**Mon. Jan 27**	**Tues. Jan 28**	**Wed. Jan 29**	**Thurs. Jan 30**	**Fri. Jan 31**	**Sat. Feb 1**
3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time **9:00am - Mass** Adult Faith Formation following Mass	**4:30pm-Communion Service**	**10:00am-Mass** *3:30pm-Choir Practice* *6:30pm-Exploring the Catholic Faith*	*2:00pm-Bible Study* *4:00pm-Rosary* **4:30pm-Communion Service** *6:00pm-CCE*	**4:30pm-Communion Service** *5:00pm-Divine Mercy Chaplet*	**9:30am-Communion Service**	*3:45-4:15pm-Confessions* **4:30pm-Mass** **6:30pm-Spanish Mass**

BLOOD DRIVE ©LPi

Sunday, January 19, 2020
10:00 am—1:00 pm, Family Center
Sign up poster in the vestibule

Southeast Texas
Rally for Life
Sunday, January 19, 2020 ~ 2:00 pm
St. Anne Catholic Church, Beaumont

Bring newborn baby items for our 'Baby Shower.' These items will be distributed to Birthright of Beaumont and Hope Women's Resource Clinic.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for: John LeJune, Martin Nash, Claudia Nash, Jennifer Bowlin; Dan Salzer, Michael Grantham; Norton Leger, Cameron Watson, Steve Tompkins, Don Watt, Henry Rossi, Bennie Mahaffey, Linda Dipuccio, Shirley Anderson, Ted Koch, Fr. Frank Rossi, Cheyenne Courtney, Audrey Douzant

Repose of the soul: Joe Boykin; Velma Wilson

Names will remain on the prayer list for two weeks. Names written in the Prayer Book in the vestibule of the church will be offered as daily Mass intentions.

Weekly Stewardship

Jan 11 & Jan 12 Weekly Offering	**$ 3,246.35**
Average Weekly Cost	**$ 3,152.00**
Excess/Deficit	**$ 94.35**

Thank you for your generosity.

If you would like to give electronically, visit our website, *www.ourladyofthepinescatholicchurch.com* and click on **Donation**.

Exploring the Catholic Faith

Everyone is invited to come hear Bryan Reising Director of Evangelization and Catechesis Diocese of Beaumont

"The Eucharist: Source and Summit of the Christian Life"

Tuesday, January 21, 6:30 pm
Family Center

Sponsored by the RCIA Team

Collection for the Church in Latin America

Next week, we will take up the Collection for the Church in Latin America. For many in Latin America and the Caribbean, a rising secular culture, difficult rural terrain, and a shortage of ministers all present obstacles to practicing the faith. Your support for the collection provides lay leadership training, catechesis, priestly and religious formation, and other programs to share our Catholic faith with those who long to hear the Good News of Christ. To learn more about how your gifts make a difference, visit *www.usccb.org/latin-america.*

Upcoming Events

January 19: Blood Drive, Family Center, 10:00 am—1 pm
January 19: Southeast Texas Rally for Life, St. Anne Beaumont, 2:00pm
January 21: Speaker Bryan Reising - "*The Eucharist*" Family Center, 6:30 pm