

FR RUDY'S REFLECTION  
The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2026



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MCCJ, pastor

My Brothers and Sisters in the Risen Lord,

In the opening chapter of the Gospel of John, we are invited into a vision that reaches back to the dawn of creation. John proclaims that the Word was with God and the Word was God, and through this revelation we begin to see the identity and mission of Jesus unfold. Almost immediately, the Gospel shifts our attention to John the Baptist, the prophet who prepared the way. Many artists depict him standing along the Jordan River, his arm extended as if pointing beyond himself toward the true light who was entering the world. Scripture tells us that he came as a witness to testify to the light so that all might believe through him. He was not the light yet his entire life was devoted to pointing others toward it.

On this Second Sunday of Ordinary Time, we listen as John the Baptist encounters Jesus in a moment filled with clarity and awe. As Jesus approaches, John recognizes him with a sudden and powerful certainty. John proclaims words we continue to echo at every Mass: Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. To those gathered that day, the title Lamb of God held deep meaning. Lambs had long been offered in sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins or in thanksgiving to God. In calling Jesus the Lamb of God, John announces that the fullness of salvation, promised throughout Israel's history, has arrived. Jesus will give himself completely for the redemption of the world, and no greater act of love will ever be offered.



John also gives witness to the moment when the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus and remained with him. This was the sign God had revealed to John in advance, the sign that would confirm the identity of the one who was to come. John tells the crowd that he did not know Jesus personally until this divine sign appeared. Only then did he understand that his own mission had been to prepare hearts and minds so that Jesus could be made known to Israel. John's task was to baptize with water and call people to repentance, but the one standing before him would baptize with the Holy Spirit. Through this testimony, John affirms that Jesus is not merely a preacher or prophet. He is the Son of God.

As we reflect on this passage, it may help to consider the qualities that shaped John's life. His faith gave him the courage to speak truth even when it was unpopular. His hope sustained him during long days in the wilderness. His love for God's people compelled him to stand knee deep in the Jordan River, urging them to turn away from sin and to prepare for the coming Messiah. His entire life was a living arrow pointing toward Christ.

We are invited to live with the same clarity of purpose. Each of us is called to direct others toward the light of Christ through our words, choices, and compassion. Faith, hope, and love remain the foundation of Christian discipleship, and when we cultivate these virtues, we reflect Christ's presence to the people we meet each day.

Yours in Christ,  
Fr. Rudy

OUR LADY  
OF GUADALUPE  
FAMILY OF PARISHES



HOLY FAMILY CHURCH  
ST. BONIFACE CHURCH  
ST. JOSEPH CHURCH  
ST. LEO THE GREAT  
CHURCH  
ST. THÉRÈSE LITTLE  
FLOWER CHURCH