

Dear Padre,

Can the Eucharist be celebrated outside of a church—for example, inside my home?

What an interesting question. The earliest celebrations of the Eucharist were held in the homes of the early Christians. As centuries evolved and the Christian population grew, larger rooms were rented and later built to house the community gathering. The word *church* is what we now call a building in which people worship. If we were to be completely accurate, we would call the building the house or shelter for the Church because the Church is understood primarily as the baptized community living in faith and charity.

Unfortunately, because of changing demographics and priest shortages, many communities are consolidating and church buildings are being shut down and even destroyed. As a result, communities and places for liturgy grow larger. Large communities can easily become impersonal and pastoral leadership increasingly difficult.

Recently, some large parishes have developed neighborhood communities in an attempt to subdivide into smaller faith-sharing units—not unlike the original house churches. These smaller communities gather for regular prayer and catechesis. The parish priest occasionally attends their meetings and celebrates the Eucharist with them. This is one example of celebrating the Eucharist outside of a church building.

So, although there can be exceptions for pastoral necessity, canon law indicates that celebrating Mass in a sacred place is the norm. The bishop may clarify this law for his own diocese to best meet the needs of his people while respecting the dignity of the Eucharist.

*From The Eucharist: 50 Questions from the Pews, © 2009 Liguori Publications
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org*



CNS PHOTO/BOB ROLLER

A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

Jesus does not want disciples who are merely able to repeat memorized formulas. He wants witnesses: people who spread hope, with their way of welcoming, smiling, and loving; above all loving because the power of the resurrection makes Christians capable of loving even when love seems to have lost its motivation.

GENERAL AUDIENCE, OCTOBER 4, 2017



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Calendar

Monday
JANUARY 18
Weekday
Heb 5:1-10
Mk 2:18-22

Tuesday
JANUARY 19
Weekday
Heb 6:10-20
Mk 2:23-28

Wednesday
JANUARY 20
Weekday
Heb 7:1-3, 15-17
Mk 3:1-6

Thursday
JANUARY 21
St. Agnes,
Virgin and Martyr
Heb 7:25—8:6
Mk 3:7-12

Friday
JANUARY 22
Day of Prayer for the
Legal Protection of
Unborn Children
Heb 8:6-13
Mk 3:13-19

Saturday
JANUARY 23
Weekday
Heb 9:2-3, 11-14
Mk 3:20-21

Sunday
JANUARY 24
Third Sunday
in Ordinary Time
Jon 3:1-5, 10
1 Cor 7:29-31
Mk 1:14-20

Our Parish COMMUNITY

January 17, 2021
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)
1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19
1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20
Jn 1:35-42



So [Eli] said to Samuel,
"Go to sleep, and if
you are called, reply,
'Speak, LORD, for your
servant is listening.'"
1 SAMUEL 3:9

You Called?

Today we focus on our call from God. Both Samuel and Jesus' disciples were called. Unfortunately, not everyone realizes he or she has been called to be a disciple. Pope Francis insists that by virtue of baptism we are all missionary disciples. What does this mean? What does it ask of us?

Today's readings set the stage for our consideration of discipleship. They tell us several things. As with Samuel, the invitation from God can be unexpected, for it can occur in the very ordinary events of life. Perhaps, like Samuel, we don't hear the call because the event is so ordinary. Maybe we need someone to open our eyes to God's presence in the ordinariness of life. But what do we expect a call from God to be? A thunderclap? A blinding light? Actually, when we realize we have been called by God, it is like a crash of thunder or a blinding light.

Intrigued by Jesus, the disciples wanted to hear more, and so they followed him. Frequently God speaks to us through the lives of other people. When we see goodness in them we too want to be good, to do good. This might prompt us to share what we have, to comfort those who suffer, to forgive those who have offended us. We may not yet know how to do it, but such goodness can touch us deeply. Do we listen, like Samuel? Are we open, like the disciples?

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

- ★ *In the ordinariness of your life, what might actually be God's voice?*
- ★ *What kind of goodness attracts you?*





St. Mary's Church
Dalton, NE 69131



All Souls' Church
Bridgeport, NE 69336



Sacred Heart Church
Bayard, NE 69334

Pastor: Rev. Dr. C.P. Varghese

Address: 701 P Street, Bridgeport, NE 69336

Parish Office & Fax: (308)262-0709. Rectory: (308)262-1332 Email: allsoulsbridgeport@gmail.com Website: www.smassh Catholics.org

Dear Sisters, Brothers and Children in Jesus Christ,

The main theme of today's Scripture readings is Divine vocation – that everyone is called by God to be a witness for Christ by doing something for others with his or her life, using his or her unique gifts and blessings. Hence, today's readings remind us of our personal and corporate call to become witnesses for Jesus, the *Lamb of God*, by leading lives of holiness and purity.

The first reading describes how Yahweh called Samuel to His service and how the boy Samuel responded to Him, saying, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening." Hence, God blessed him in the mission entrusted to him, and Samuel became an illustrious figure, ranking with Moses and David as a man of God. In the Responsorial Psalm (Ps 40), the psalmist sings, "Behold, I come to do Your will," indicating that his vocation is to obey, to do what God commands him to do. In the second reading, St. Paul explains to the Corinthians that their Divine call is a call to holiness. Hence, they need to keep their bodies pure and souls holy, because by Baptism they have become parts of Christ's Body and the temples of the Holy Spirit. In the Gospel, John the Baptist claims that his vocation is to introduce Jesus to two of his own disciples as the "Lamb of God," suggesting Jesus' vocation to become a sacrificial lamb to atone for our sins. The disciples followed Jesus to his residence, accepting his invitation to "come and see." They stayed with him that day. Then Andrew brought his brother Simon to Jesus, presenting him to Jesus as the *Messiah*. Thus, today's Gospel also describes the call or vocation of the first apostles and challenges us to invite others to Christ by our Christian witnessing.

Our Christian vocation is to live and die like the *Lamb of God*. (A) We live like the *Lamb of God*: 1) by leading pure, innocent, humble, selfless lives, obeying Christ's commandment of love; 2) by appreciating the loving providence and protecting care of the Good Shepherd for his Church; (B) We are called to die like the *Lamb of God*: 1) by sharing sacrificially our blessings of health, wealth, and talents with others in the family, parish, and community; 2) by bearing witness to Christ in our illness, pain, and suffering through our graceful acceptance of all of it; 3) by offering our sufferings for God's glory. Our call is to bear witness to the *Lamb of God*.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Fr. C. P. Varghese

Pastor

SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

Date	Day	Time	Place	Intention
01/18	Monday	No Mass Today		
01/19	Tuesday	6.00 PM	Bridgeport	Don Loxterkamp
01/20	Wednesday	In - person CCD Classes		
01/21	Thursday	6.00 PM	Dalton	Mike Troidl
01/22	Friday	12.00 PM	Bayard	Members of Williamson Family
01/23	Saturday	5.30 PM	Dalton	Ena Troidl
01/24	Sunday	8.00 AM	Bayard	Clair and Irma
01/24	Sunday	10.30 AM	Bridgeport	Don Loxterkamp

ALL SOULS
617 P STREET
BRIDGEPORT NE 69336

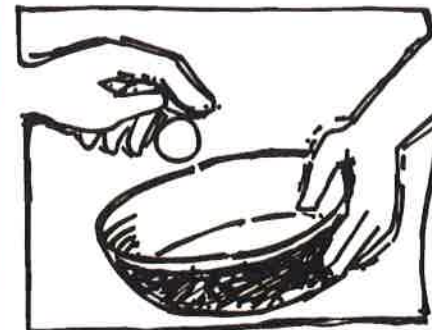
MASS TIME
Tuesday — 6:00 PM
Sunday — 10.30 AM

Online Evening Prayer:
January 19, Tuesday
at 8.00 PM

OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH

ADULTS	\$225.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	\$576.00
SUBTOTAL	\$ 801.00
MASS STIPEND	
CHRISTMAS	\$200.00
TOTAL	\$1,001.00
BUILDING FUND	\$310.00
HEAT/AC	\$600.00
DONATIONS	\$3,375.00
APPEAL GOAL	\$6,046.00
BALANCE	(\$2,671.00)

- Prayer line requests may be made to Carolyn-262-0453 or Teresa-262-0439.
- The rosary is prayed ½ hr before Mass, please come and pray.



SACRED HEART
1003 AVE B
BAYARD NE 69334

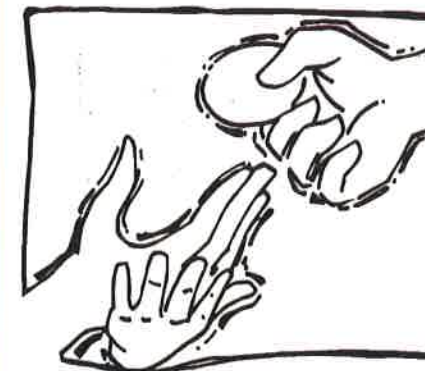
MASS TIME
Friday — 12:00 PM
Sunday — 8:00 AM

Online Evening Prayer:
January 19, Tuesday
at 8.00 PM

OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH

ADULTS	\$430.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	\$15.00
SUBTOTAL	\$ 445.00
MASS STIPEND	\$50.00
TOTAL	\$ 495.00
BUILDING FUND	
DONATIONS	\$2,915.00
APPEAL GOAL	\$4,907.00
BALANCE	(\$1,992.00)

- Prayer line requests may be made to Paula-586-2992.
- The rosary is prayed ½ hr before Mass, please come and pray.



SAINT MARY'S
718 FRANCIS ST
DALTON NE 69131

MASS TIME
Thursday — 6:00 PM
Saturday — 5:30 PM

Online Evening Prayer:
January 19, Tuesday
at 8.00 PM

OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH

ADULTS	\$335.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	\$20.00
SUBTOTAL	\$ 355.00
MASS STIPEND	
TOTAL	\$1,135.00
BUILDING FUND	
DONATIONS	\$3,511.00
APPEAL GOAL	\$6,136.00
BALANCE	(\$2,625.00)

- Prayer line requests may be made to DeAnn-249-1735.
- The rosary is prayed ½ hr before Mass, please come and pray.

