



Parish of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Palmotićeva 31, Zagreb

PARISH BULLETIN 517

Sunday, January 18, 2026.

Secod Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel: John 1:29–34.

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God."

Commentary by the Pastor:

After last Sunday's feast of the Baptism of the Lord, today we read the explicit testimony of John the Baptist that Jesus is the Son of God, the Anointed One, the long-awaited Messiah. He affirms that he saw the Holy Spirit descend upon Jesus and that Jesus will also baptize with the Holy Spirit. What does this mean?

To be baptized with the Holy Spirit means to be immersed in the life, action, and love of the Most Holy Trinity. This is a dimension that John's "baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins" (Lk 3:3) did not have. His baptism was a way of changing one's life by turning away from sinful actions within one's own life circumstances and state of life, as can be seen when he was asked by the crowds, tax collectors, soldiers, and others what they should change concretely.

Jesus himself also spoke about baptism in the Holy Spirit in his conversation with Nicodemus, when he emphasized that it is a new birth that comes from above, from God (Jn 3:1–12). It is therefore union with God, an experience of God from which a new person is born. Just as the natural human being is born of a woman, so the spiritual one is born of God. This birth flows from God's love, which was recognized as the "new righteousness" last Sunday, and it includes forgiveness, mercy, and the love of God that renews and transforms.

Therefore, baptism in the Holy Spirit is baptism in God's love—and that love is the Holy Spirit in the relationship between the Father and the Son. In this way, a person enters that "circle of love" and, together with it, becomes oriented like Jesus toward doing the will of the Father. That is why it is a new birth, in which the Holy Spirit leads the person to be completely turned toward God the Father. In this new life, the Holy Spirit takes the lead and gives new strength to bear witness as Christ bore witness, and to perform signs and wonders. Thus, a person passes from one state to another, as the apostles did when they received the Holy Spirit and began to preach boldly, without fear for their earthly lives, focused solely on proclaiming Jesus as the Messiah and carrying out what he commanded them. With such action, the gifts of the Holy Spirit are awakened and set free (CCC, 1831), and the manifestation of the fruits of the Holy Spirit begins (Gal 5:22–23).

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Holy Masses

MONDAY – FRIDAY (19.1. – 24.1.)

7:00 BILIĆ
8:00 KOČIŠ
9:00 KNEŽEVIĆ
12:00 PETRIČEVIĆ
19:00 VLAH

Confession

MONDAY – FRIDAY (19.1. – 24.1.)

06:30-09:30
11:00-12:30
18:30- 20:00

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monday, 19 January.	Memorial: St John Ogilvie; Stephen Pongrácz, Melchior Grodziecki (and Marko Križevčanin, canon of Esztergom); Blessed Ignatius de Azevedo and companions; James Salès and William Saultemouche, martyrs of the Society of Jesus.
Tuesday, 20 January	Weekday or: St Fabian, Pope, and St Sebastian, Martyr
Wednesday, 21 January	Memorial: St Agnes, Virgin and Martyr
Thursday, 22 January	Weekday or: St Vincent, Deacon and Martyr
Saturday, 24 January	Memorial: St Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Sunday, 25 January	Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) – Sunday of the Word of God

PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY: On Sunday began the "Week of Prayer for Christian Unity", which continues until next Sunday. We invite the faithful to personal prayer for this intention, our communal prayers during Holy Masses, and participation in prayer events in our city, which are listed on the notice boards.

MASS FOR THE BENEFACTORS OF THE RENOVATION: On Friday, 23 January, we will pray for the benefactors of the parish renovation and our Foundation during the Holy Mass at 7:00 p.m., on the occasion of the anniversary of the passing of our dear parishioner, Anamarija Carević.

NEXT SUNDAY: Along with the conclusion of the Week of Prayer, next Sunday is also the "Sunday of the Word of God", when we are called to celebrate, reflect on, and spread God's Word. During the Masses that day, the work of our "Ignacije Center" will be presented, and their materials will also be available for purchase.

BLESSING OF FAMILIES AND HOMES: This is our final announcement for those whom we have not yet visited but who wish to have their families and homes blessed, which we truly desire. Remember, you are welcome to request this blessing throughout the year – if You were away during the Advent-Christmas season, if you have renovated your home, or if you have newly moved into our parish. The chaplain and parish priest are at your disposal!

ROSARY AT KAMENITA VRATA: Mondays at 8:00 p.m.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Monday to Friday, 9:30–10:30 a.m. and 5:00–6:00 p.m.

The lights go out, the light remains

Christmas time is behind us. The nativity scenes are being put away, the lights are going out, and the festive tables are returning to their everyday use. We, too, return to the routine of work, deadlines, school assignments, worries, and fatigue. It may seem that the joyful and festive time has remained behind, along with happy family gatherings, songs, and the scent of cookies. Yet, in this Sunday's Gospel, we are reminded of what truly matters. John the Baptist points to Jesus and says: "Behold, the Lamb of God." He does not speak of what has passed, but of the One who is now and always present. Jesus does not remain confined to festive moments; He is present in our everyday life and ordinary days.

Christmas has brought us a light that was not meant only for a few weeks of the year. It is a gift we are called to carry forward throughout the year: into our families, workplaces, schools, and encounters with those we love, but also with those who may not be easy to love.

Reflecting on this, I realized that under the shelter of Christmas light, we can at least partially reflect that light ourselves. If at Christmas we gifted each other with things, why not continue giving throughout the year something even more valuable? Our time, attention, willingness to be close to someone, listening, or the talents we have. With a smile, kindness, or a gentle word?

We may not be able to change the world in a major way, but God has placed us in this world for a reason. We can ensure that a person who has been in contact with us leaves at least a little happier than before. And that is how the joy of Christmas does not remain just a memory but becomes a way of life.

John the Baptist did not keep the attention on himself; he pointed to Jesus. We, too, are called to do the same with our lives, actions, and daily small choices. We can strive to make the Christmas light we have received visible in everything we do.

May this new year, begun in the light of Christmas, be an opportunity for us not to let that light go out, but to carry it forward faithfully and joyfully from day to day.