

Here is your God!

Isaiah 40: 6-11

Old
Testament
Story Time

The prophet Isaiah, speaking to the people of Israel, gives them words of comfort while living in exile in Babylon. Isaiah speaks to them about how some day their sins will be forgiven and they will have a new exodus. A new exodus means that just like Moses saved the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, the people will once again be brought back to their homeland promised to them by God. But this time, in the new exodus, God will come to the people Himself. One day the people will climb a high mountain and shout with joy: "Here is your God!"



According to Isaiah, the image of this loving and forgiving God is one of a shepherd caring for his sheep. Now sheep are big fuzzy animals that are very gentle, but they have no way to protect themselves. Therefore, they must rely on someone else to protect them. The job of the shepherd is to take care, feed, and protect the sheep. The sheep could not

survive without their shepherd. So the God who is to come among us is one who wants to take care, to feed and to protect us -- his sheep!

Now in the Old Testament, the baby sheep, called lambs, are also very important. The lamb is often used as a sacrificial animal, which means it was offered to God as an act of reconciliation between God and the sinful people. The most important time the people of Israel were taught to sacrifice a lamb was on the feast of Passover when they were fleeing slavery in Egypt, known as the exodus. The blood from the lamb was put on the door of the house, and the angel of God passed over their homes as he went on to eliminate the firstborn sons of all the Egyptians. Every year the people of Israel were instructed to observe this Passover feast by sacrificing a lamb.

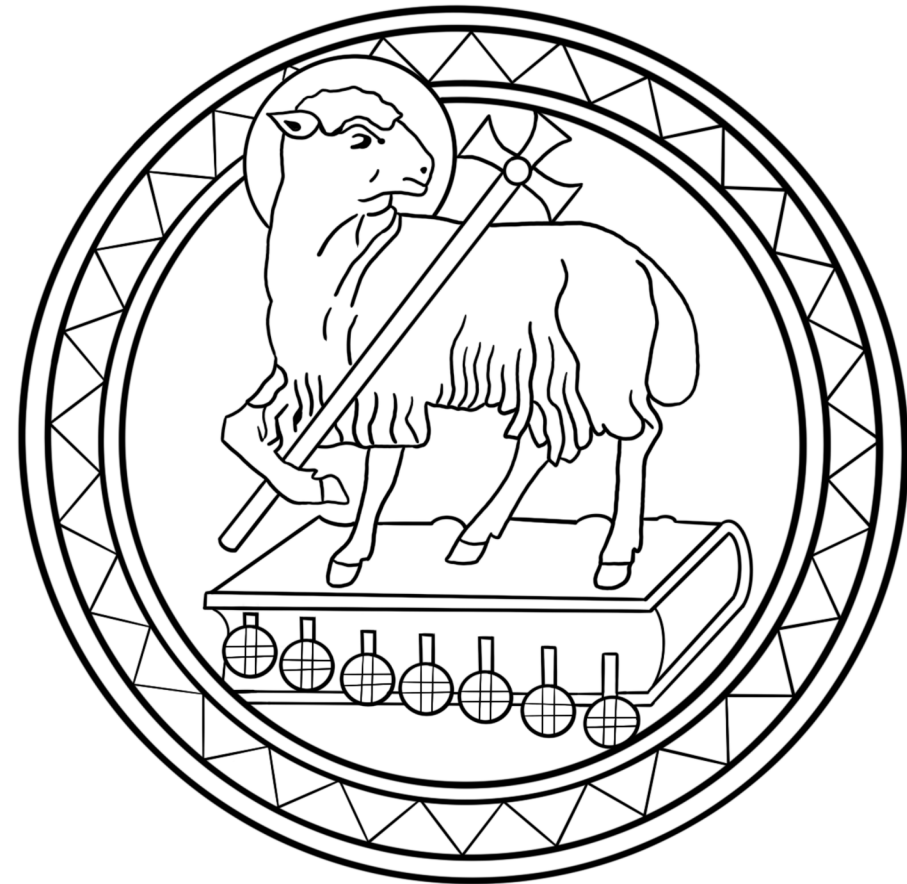
But one day there would be a final sacrifice to reconcile God and all humanity!

Cedar Kids



The Way of Blessed Estephan Douaihy

1st Sunday after Epiphany, Vol 1, No.15



**“Behold the lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.”**





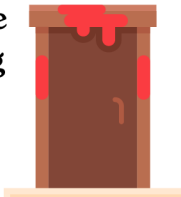
Gospel Corner

John
1:29-34

In an earlier Cedar Kid issue, we learned the definition of "typology." Just in case you don't remember, or didn't see that issue, this is what it said:

Typology is the method of reading the Bible that involves identifying events, people, or things in the Old Testament that foreshadow events which are fulfilled in the New Testament.

In the book of Exodus, in the Old Testament, God sent Moses to free the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. After sending nine plagues upon Egypt because Pharaoh refused to let the Israelites leave, God sent the tenth and final plague. However, before doing so, He instructed the Israelites to take a lamb and paint its blood above their doorways. In this way, the Israelites' firstborn sons would be saved from death, while all of the firstborn Egyptian boys would die.



This event in the Old Testament points us forward to Jesus as the Lamb of God. In today's Gospel reading John says, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world."

Just as the Israelite sons were saved from physical death by the blood of the lamb, Jesus came to save us from spiritual death by his blood on the cross. Now, instead of putting blood on our doors, we receive the Mystery of Baptism where we are cleansed of original sin and are brought into a new life with God through the use of Holy Water.



Did you know?

SACRAMENTAL



Holy Water is one of many sacraments found in the Catholic Church. Sacraments have the ability to signify effects, particularly of a spiritual nature, which are obtained through the intercession of the Church. They help us to be better disposed to receive God's grace in our life.

Normally, something is made into a sacramental through the blessing and prayers of a priest or bishop.

What you can do

Invite your priest to your home to bless it with the Epiphany Holy Water.



If you have Holy Water in your home, bless yourself with it each day.

If you don't have Holy Water, take a small container with a lid to your church and fill it with Holy Water to use at home.

John the Baptist

Fill in the blanks with the information you've learned over the past few weeks about John the Baptist. Then draw his picture - be sure to include his clothes that were made out of camel hair!

Name: John the Baptist

Parents: _____

Cousin: _____

One thing he is famous for:

