

Mass Intentions (Jan 17-23, 2026)

Memorial- St. Anthony, Abbot

Sat. Jan 17/4:30 p.m. Gael Shannon - Erin Shannon

Sun. Jan 18 /10:00 a.m. Nick Baird - Teresa Baird
Philip Palucci - Family
Dr. Nagib Cassar - Samia Cassar
Eileen Shanahan - Shanahan & Scott family
Deceased members of Liganor & Chan family - Liganor & Chan family

Memorial- St. Agnes

Wed. Jan 21/ 10:00 a.m. David Awe - Teresa Baird & family
Pasqualina Di-Murro - Velia

Thu. Jan 22 /10:00 a.m. Antonio Muzzo - Anna Muzzo

Fri. Jan 23 /10:00 a.m. Living & Deceased members of the Baird, Shanahan, Scott, Ryan, Malone, Faherty, McGarry & Kostner families - Teresa Baird

2nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year A)

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

“Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world .”

First Reading (Isaiah 49:3.5-6)

I will give you as a light to the nations, that you may be my salvation.

Second Reading (1 Corinthians 1:1-3)

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel (John 1:29-34)

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

Reflection:

The early Christians preached the Gospel to the Gentile world and were willing to use the riches of that gentile culture to express Christ’s message, as Paul did. Dialogue with other cultures and religions does not deny the truth of faith but enriches it and allows it to recognize the truth present in other religions. Living in a multi-religious society gives us the opportunity of sharing with others the unique and catholic Gospel that Christ brought, but also of humbly appreciating and respecting the insights into truth that other people’s own faiths provide. As we approach Christ in communion at every Mass, we are reminded how he saves us through humble self-giving, for he is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

May the Lord Jesus continue to manifest His presence to you and may you lift up His name in praise!



**The Sanctuary Lamp will burn this week
In memory of Dr. Nagib Cassar.**

By: Cassar Family.

**MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE LEO XIV
FOR THE LIX WORLD DAY OF PEACE
1st JANUARY 2026**

**Peace be with you all:
Towards an “unarmed and disarming” peace
“Peace be with you!”**

When we treat peace as a distant ideal, we cease to be scandalized when it is denied, or even when war is waged in its name. We seem to lack those “right ideas,” the well-considered words and the ability to say that peace is near. When peace is not a reality that is lived, cultivated and protected, then aggression spreads into domestic and public life. In the relations between citizens and rulers, it could even be considered a fault not to be sufficiently prepared for war, not to react to attacks, and not to return violence for violence. Far beyond the principle of legitimate defense, such confrontational logic now dominates global politics, deepening instability and unpredictability day by day. It is no coincidence that repeated calls to increase military spending, and the choices that follow, are presented by many government leaders as a justified response to external threats. The idea of the deterrent power of military might, especially nuclear deterrence, is based on the irrationality of relations between nations, built not on law, justice and trust, but on fear and domination by force. “Consequently,” as [Saint John XXIII](#) had already written in his day, “people are living in the grip of constant fear. They are afraid that at any moment the impending storm may break upon them with horrific violence. And they have good reasons for their fear, for there is certainly no lack of such weapons. While it is difficult to believe that anyone would dare to assume responsibility for initiating the appalling slaughter and destruction that war would bring in its wake, there is no denying that the conflagration could be started by some chance and unforeseen circumstance.” [\[4\]](#)

Moreover, it should be noted that global military expenditure increased by 9.4% in 2024 compared to the previous year, confirming the trend of the last ten years and reaching a total of \$2718 billion (or 2.5% of global GDP). [\[5\]](#) Furthermore, the response to new challenges seems to involve not only enormous economic investment in rearmament, but also a shift in educational policies. Rather than fostering a culture of memory that preserves the hard-won awareness of the twentieth century and the millions of victims, we now see communication campaigns and educational programs – at schools, universities and in the media – that spread a perception of threats and promote only an armed notion of defense and security.

And yet, “those who truly love peace also love the enemies of peace.” [\[6\]](#) Saint Augustine thus advised not to burn bridges or persist in reproach, but to prefer listening and, where possible, engaging in discussions with others. Sixty years ago, [the Second Vatican Council](#) concluded with a renewed awareness of the pressing need for dialogue between the Church and the contemporary world. In particular, the Constitution [Gaudium et Spes](#) drew attention to the evolution of warfare: “The hazards peculiar to modern warfare consist in the fact that they expose those possessing recently developed weapons to the risk of perpetrating crimes like these and, by an inexorable chain of events, of urging people to even worse acts of atrocity. To obviate the possibility of this happening at any time in the future, the bishops of the world gathered together to implore everyone, especially government leaders and military advisors, to give unceasing consideration to their immense responsibilities before God and before the whole human race.” [\[7\]](#)

To be continued.....

**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 1, after mass.
St Richard’s Children’s Art Exhibit and
Pancake Breakfast.**



Children are requested to submit a drawing of their church on the blank page given to them.

only 2 guidelines : the drawing be of **St Richard’s altar** and that it fills the entire page provided.

Drawings to be completed and returned on January 25th.

Sunday, February 1st the pictures will be displayed in the church hall with a pancake breakfast.

Please pick up your SUNDAY ENVELOPE BOXES for 2026 available at the back of the church arranged in alphabetical order for your convenience.

Please note contributions \$20 and below for 2025 will not be assigned an envelope box for 2026. However, you will receive a tax receipt for any contribution you make during the year by providing you name and full address.

If your box is not available, please continue using a blank envelope with your contribution and 2025 number and leave your name, phone number and box number on the sheet provided on the table. The parish office will call you when one is assigned to you. Should you take the wrong box by mistake, please don’t forget to return it.

Our collection for January 11 was - \$ 1100.25

**It is only the hand that is open to give that is open to receive.
God cannot give us what we refuse to take and
God cannot give to us when our hands and hearts cling to things.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!