

Imagine with me that you are having trouble with your furnace. You call the furnace guy, and you are expecting him to come at any moment. The door bell rings...and it's the Pope! What do you see? Do you see what you expect, or do you see who is actually there? Do you see him as the Pope, or, because you are expecting the furnace guy, do you presume it is the furnace guy? That being the case, you greet him warmly, ask him to remove his shoes, and you show him to the furnace room. The only thought on your mind is, "How does he keep his cloths so white?"

Our expectations have an effect on our relationships. If you expect your new math teacher to be boring, you will likely miss his quirky sense of humor. If you expect your spouse to be inconsiderate, you will miss her subtle attempts at kindness. What do you expect of Jesus?

"John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.'" For the people of Israel, the connection of lamb and sin was already centuries old. They would heap their sins upon a lamb and then sacrifice it to God. Hold your hand like a cup—go ahead—now call to mind a sin and your feeling of guilt. Imagine your sin falling into your hands; it is no longer in you, it no longer controls you. You take that sin and you heap it upon the lamb who will be sacrificed. John said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world." The Lamb is Jesus! Who do you expect Jesus to be? If Jesus rang your door bell, what would you ask him to do?

Jesus died on the cross *so that our sins might be forgiven*. We are, in fact, ignoring his sacrificial death unless we give our sins to him. As Catholics, we believe that Jesus instituted a special sacrament by which we heap our sins upon him. In fact, the Sacrament of Reconciliation is the primary way for us to celebrate God's healing mercy.

We teach all our members, whether they be kids or new members through the RCIA, to treasure this sacrament and we invite them to celebrate it often. We shine a light upon this sacrament at least twice a year, in Lent and Advent. The Church requires you to celebrate this sacrament once a year and invites you to celebrate it often. Why would we NOT want Jesus to **be who his is**, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world?

I am here at Sacred Heart for confessions Sunday mornings at 7:30AM, Thursday mornings at 8:30 AM, Saturday afternoons at 4:30 PM, and other times by appointment. At Assumption I am in the reconciliation room Sundays after Mass and Thursdays at 6:30PM. This Sacrament is available to you! It is a wonderful to celebrate God's mercy, to free ourselves from sin and guilt, to be healed and to start anew. I went to confession last Thursday and I try to go at least every other week.

In a few moments you will be invited to the table of the Lord. This invitation uses the very words of John the Baptist, "Behold the lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb" We are blessed indeed!