



# Behold the Lamb of God

## Our Parish's New Crucifix

*“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 hear these words at every Mass. They look backward to God saving Israel through the Passover lamb, forward to the completion of the Church's salvation when Christ returns in glory, and heavenward to the eternal liturgy of the Lamb that was slain (Revelation 5). At the center of all this is the Crucifixion, the sacrifice of the Lamb who saves us from sin.

We participate in Christ's sacrifice on the altar of the Cross every time the Eucharist is consecrated on our altar. Jesus offered himself to the Father once and for all when he died; he also instituted the Eucharist as a visible sacrifice that re-presents his Crucifixion and applies its power to us. The purpose of our new crucifix, positioned above the altar, is to focus our hearts and minds on Christ's saving Passion as we experience it in the Eucharist.



Increasing the prominence of the crucifix in our parish roots us even more deeply in the identity and tradition we share with Catholics throughout time and space. A vision for the crucifix emerged at Our Lady of the Lake over the last several years, and Fr. Mike was recently presented with the opportunity to make it a reality. Many thanks to Jerry Hammes, a former parishioner, whose generosity allowed us to acquire a beautiful, hand-carved crucifix from Italy.