

2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time - Jan 17, 2021

Sunday's Readings

First Reading

1 Samuel 3:3b–10,19

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 40:2, 4, 7–8, 8–9, 10

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 6:13c–15a,17–20

Paul reminds the Corinthians that their bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit.

Gospel Reading

John 1:35–42

John the Baptist recognizes Jesus as the Lamb of God, and Jesus receives his first followers.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Although the liturgical season of Ordinary Time begins this week, today's reading continues with the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord, which concludes the Christmas season. Today's reading from the Gospel according to John immediately follows John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus and his identification of Jesus as the Lamb of God. Having been baptized by John, Jesus begins to gather followers. The first followers sought out Jesus because of the testimony and witness of John the Baptist.

We are familiar with the title that John the Baptist uses for Jesus—the Lamb of God. We hear it weekly at the fraction rite during Mass. For those who heard John the Baptist, however, this title recalled key themes from the Old Testament. It alludes to the paschal lamb offered as a sacrifice when God freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, the event that is commemorated by the Jewish Passover celebration. The designation also recalls the prophet Isaiah's description of the suffering servant of Israel. In using this name for Jesus, John the Baptist predicts Jesus' passion and death and the new interpretation of Passover that will begin with Jesus' Last Supper.

We learn in today's reading how Jesus' first followers were gathered. The first two, Andrew and another man, were followers of John the Baptist. After hearing John's testimony, they became followers of Jesus. During their time with Jesus, the details of which are not specified, Andrew and the other follower came to believe that Jesus was the Messiah. Andrew then brings his brother, Simon, to Jesus.

Immediately, Jesus gave Simon a new name, calling him *Peter*, which means “rock” in Greek. The renaming of Simon to Peter is reported in all four of the Gospels.

Jesus asks Andrew and the other disciple, “What are you looking for?” This is a telling question, and one that we might often ask of ourselves. John the Baptist testified to Jesus' identity, the Lamb of God, using the framework of the Old Testament. Andrew, Simon, and the other first disciples were looking for the Messiah, whom they also came to know as the Son of God. What do we look for and what do we find in Jesus? <https://www.loyolapress.com>

Prayer of the Month – January 2021

God our Father,
you love each of your children
and you don't stop taking care of them and looking
out for their good.
Help me to be the image and the example of this love
of yours.
May I find in each person a brother or sister
and truly love them, welcoming them despite any
differences we may have,
respecting them in their dignity,
regardless of their origin or faith.
I pray that in the hearts of all your children,
the seed of human fraternity is cultivated,
to build your kingdom together on this earth.

<http://popesprayerusa.net>

Liturgical Calendar

Jan 20-**St. Fabian** was a pope of the early church and was martyred in 250.

Jan 20- **St. Sebastian** is one of the patron saints of the pope's Swiss Guards. He is also a patron saint of athletes and soldiers.

Jan 21- **St. Agnes** is a symbol of virginal innocence and is often pictured as a lamb. She is also a patron saint of gardeners and engaged couples.

Jan 22- **St. Vincent** was the first Spanish martyr, killed in 304. He is a patron of wine producers and brick makers.

Jan 24- **St. Francis de Sales** is a patron saint of writers and journalist, and of the deaf.

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I LIFT UP MY NEEDS IN PRAYER

Joseph, with Jesus and Mary, you knew hunger, uncertainty, and illness.

You turned your heart to God to lift up your needs and those of your family.

In faith you accepted the Father's response as events unfolded.

Be with me today as I offer my requests to the Father.

Joseph, let me recognize God's will as I open my hands to accept what God bestows in loving kindness. With tenderness, God fills creation with life and love. Open my eyes to the wonders that God works without ceasing.

Let me learn the true intention behind my request so that I may discover within myself the lowly one that God commends. Amen.

<https://www.saint-joseph.org>

JOSEPH, HOPE OF THE SICK

Benevolent Joseph, the Son of God placed his life in your hands.

With Mary, you cared for Him who is the force of life. May your compassion enfold our fragility, bringing us the comfort of the divine presence.

We join with you in prayer, saying :

« Lord Jesus, Son of Living God, say a word for our healing ! »

Make us sensitive to the illnesses of those close to us. Support our efforts and grant us courage in the fight against all evil. Help us to find meaning in God's great project for humanity beyond the sicknesses and sufferings that blind our sight. The love of God be with us, as our hope lies with Him. Amen.

<https://www.saint-joseph.org>

JOSEPH, PROTECTOR OF THE CHURCH

Brave Joseph, collaborator in God's project for humanity, your tenderness enfolds the newborn Church.

Just as Mary and Jesus recognize in you the protection of the Father, so too does the community of faith place itself under your protection.

Strengthen us with the Spirit that filled the Nazarene home and guide our footsteps on the road to the Kingdom.

Accompany us in carrying out our mission. Help us to be lights in the world so that the family of God may spring forth from humanity transfigured in Christ.

Grant us the strength to imitate God's preference for the poor and weak. Guide us in our pastoral activities that our actions may be modeled on the Good News. Amen. <https://www.saint-joseph.org>

The Rosary is a long chain that links heaven and earth. One end of it is in our hands and the other end is in the hands of the holy Virgin... the Rosary prayer rise like incense of the feet of the Almighty. -St. Therese of Lisieux

A humble soul does not trust itself, but places all its confidence in God. - St. Faustina

If the soul is sick, one must begin by treating the soul. Do you have faith? Do you believe that God can do something for you? Go confess yourself to the priest...then go to Communion. -St. Andre Bessette

Christ made my soul beautiful with the jewels of grace and virtue. I belong to him whom the angels serve. -St. Agnes

If you do not hope, you will not find what is beyond your hopes. - St. Clement of Alexandria

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