

**Sunday's Readings**

**First Reading**

Isaiah 55:1-11

**Responsorial Psalm**

Isaiah 12:2-3,4-6

**Second Reading**

1 John 5:1-9

**Gospel Reading**

Mark 1:7-11



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*"I do not remember even now that I have ever asked anything of [St. Joseph] which he has failed to grant...*

*To other saints the Lord seems to have given grace to succour us in some of our necessities, but of this glorious saint my experience is that he succours us in them all..."*

(Autobiography of St. Teresa of Avila)

*Some people come in your life as blessings. Some people come to your life as lessons. -St. Teresa of Calcutta*

**Background on the Gospel Reading**

Today we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. In most years, this feast is celebrated on the Sunday after Epiphany. In today's Gospel we hear John the Baptist contrast his baptism of repentance with the baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John the Baptist says that he has baptized with water, but that the one who is to come will baptize with the Holy Spirit. John's baptism was not yet a Christian baptism; it was a preparation for the Christian Baptism we celebrate today, and through which sins are forgiven and the gift of the Holy Spirit is received. In accepting John's baptism, Jesus, though sinless, united himself with all sinners.

Surprisingly, on this the last day of the Christmas season the Gospel does not tell a story from Jesus' childhood. Instead the Gospel reveals Jesus' relationship to God: the Son of Mary and Joseph is also God's own Son. We

believe that through Baptism we are also made children of God.

In the story of Jesus' baptism, we hear the report of a significant moment in Jesus' life. By accepting baptism from John the Baptist, Jesus shows himself to accept solidarity with sinners. In the voice from heaven and the descent of the Holy Spirit, we know that God received this offering from Jesus and found it pleasing. In the passages that follow in Mark's Gospel, we learn that Jesus' baptism marks the beginning of his public ministry.

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**The official prayer of the Year of St. Joseph—  
To you, O blessed Joseph (Ad te, beate Ioseph)—  
was composed by Pope Leo XIII in his 1889  
encyclical, *Quamquam Pluries*.**

**Consecration to St. Joseph**

O dearest St. Joseph, I consecrate myself to thy honor and give myself to thee, that thou mayest always be my father, my protector, and my guide in the way of salvation. Obtain for me a great purity of heart and a fervent love of the interior life. After thine example, may I do all my actions for the greater glory of God, in union with the Divine Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary! And do thou, O Blessed St. Joseph, pray for me that I may share in the peace and joy of thy holy death Amen.

**Daily Novena Prayer to St. Joseph**

O Saint Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God, I place in you all my interests and desires.

O Saint Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession and obtain for me from your divine Son all spiritual blessings through Jesus Christ, Our Lord, so that having experienced here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of fathers.

O Saint Joseph, I never weary of contemplating you and Jesus asleep in your arms. I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Hold Him close in my name and kiss His fine head from me, and ask Him to return the kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, patron of departing souls, pray for me. Amen.

**Litany of St. Joseph**

Lord, have mercy on us.  
*Christ, have mercy on us.*  
Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, hear us.  
*Christ, graciously hear us.*  
God the Father of Heaven, *have mercy on us.*  
God the Son, Redeemer of the world, *have mercy on us.*  
God the Holy Ghost, *have mercy on us.*  
Holy Trinity, One God, *have mercy on us.*  
Holy Mary, *pray for us.*  
St. Joseph, *pray for us.*  
Illustrious son of David, *pray for us.*  
Light of patriarchs, *pray for us.*  
Spouse of the Mother of God, *pray for us.*  
Chaste guardian of the Virgin, *pray for us.*  
Foster father of the Son of God, *pray for us.*  
Watchful defender of Christ, *pray for us.*  
Head of the Holy Family, *pray for us.*  
Joseph most just, *pray for us.*  
Joseph most chaste, *pray for us.*  
Joseph most prudent, *pray for us.*  
Joseph most valiant, *pray for us.*  
Joseph most obedient, *pray for us.*  
Joseph most faithful, *pray for us.*  
Mirror of patience, *pray for us.*  
Lover of poverty, *pray for us.*  
Model of workmen, *pray for us.*  
Glory of home life, *pray for us.*  
Guardian of virgins, *pray for us.*  
Pillar of families, *pray for us.*  
Solace of the afflicted, *pray for us.*  
Hope of the sick, *pray for us.*  
Patron of the dying, *pray for us.*  
Terror of demons, *pray for us.*  
Protector of Holy Church, *pray for us.*  
Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world, *Spare us, O Lord!*  
Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world, *Graciously hear us, O Lord!*  
Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world, *Have mercy on us!*  
V. He made him the lord of His household,  
R. *And prince over all His possessions.*  
*Let Us Pray*  
O God, Who in Thine ineffable Providence didst vouchsafe to choose Blessed Joseph to be the spouse of Thy most holy Mother, grant, we beseech Thee, that he whom we venerate as our protector on earth may be our intercessor in Heaven. Who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

**Liturgical Calendar**

Jan12- St. Marguerite Bourgeoys

Jan 13- St. Hilary