HOLY FAMILY
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Small Christian Communities
Gathering in Grace

1st Sunday of Advent
November 29, 2026

through

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 7, 2027

"For where
two or three
have gathered
together
in my name,
I am there
in their midst"

(Matthew 18:20)

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COVENANT PRAYER

Loving God, we are thankful for this Small Christian Community, Gathered in Grace,
to hear your Word and share Your Good News
for the salvation of the world.
We believe Jesus is present and continues
to break open the Word and speak to our hearts
as once He did for His disciples.
Open our minds, our hearts and our lips
so that what we hear we will understand,
what we understand we will share.
Remind us of the needs of our community, our church
and our world as we strive to know your Word.
Give us the strength to be present to one another
and while in this community may we always
be respectful of each other and honor a spirit
of confidentiality and trust.
Temper our differences with love and understanding,
and call us all to mutual respect and compassion.
May this community and the covenant we share,
be a reflection of the covenant you made with our ancestors,
a bond that is only strengthened and deepened each time
we gather to know, love and serve You.
When our time of prayer and reflection is complete,
may your Spirit be with us as we,
together with our larger community of faith,
live the Word in our world.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen!

GRACE MOMENTS

Share your experience of one of the following Adventures in Grace spiritual exercises since you last met:

1. Grace is God's Presence and Gift of Self. When, where, and/or how did I experience Grace?
2. Baptism is being drenched in the mysterious Love of God. How did I experience myself as baptized?
3. What gift was I able to affirm, call forth, give thanks for?
4. How did I mediate the Grace of Mercy to someone or in some situation.
5. How was I fed/nourished spiritually?

LECTIO DIVINA (Sacred Reading)

Settle into silence for a moment. Remember that God is always present. Allow silence to take root for several long moments.

Someone volunteers to read the First Reading. Invite the group to open their hearts to the passage, be curious, and listen as if they are hearing it for the first time. Listen for a word, phrase, thought, or image that speaks to them today. The text is then read slowly and meditatively. After a moment of silence, continue with the discussion questions for the reading.

Repeat this format for the Second Reading.

Repeat this format for the Gospel, but after the reading and moment of silence, invite group members to speak their word, phrase, thought, or image aloud with no elaboration or discussion. They may also "pass." When all who wish to speak have done so, silently meditate on what has been shared for a few moments, then continue with the discussion questions for the Gospel.

At the end of the discussion, invite everyone to offer prayers of petition. Conclude with:

"For these prayers that we speak, and for those we hold in the silence of our hearts, we pray together in the words that Jesus taught us, 'Our Father, …' Amen."

Small Christian Community Guide

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1st Sunday of Advent November 29, 2026

FIRST READING
Isaiah 63:16b-17, 64:2-7
A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

You, LORD, are our father,
our redeemer; you are named forever.
Why do you let us wander, O LORD, from your ways, and harden our hearts so that we fear you not?
Return for the sake of your servants,
the tribes of your heritage.
Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, with the mountains quaking before you, while you wrought awesome deeds we could not hope for, such as they had not heard of from of old.
No ear has ever heard, no eye ever seen, any God but you doing such deeds for those who wait for him. Would that you might meet us doing right, that we were mindful of you in our ways!
Behold, you are angry, and we are sinful;
all of us have become like unclean people,
all our good deeds are like polluted rags;
we have all withered like leaves,
and our guilt carries us away like the wind.
There is none who calls upon your name,
who rouses himself to cling to you;
for you have hidden your face from us
and have delivered us up to our guilt.
Yet, O LORD, you are our father;
we are the clay and you the potter:
we are all the work of your hands.

SECOND READING
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Brothers and sisters:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
I give thanks to my God always on your account for the grace of God bestowed on you in Christ Jesus, that in him you were enriched in every way, with all discourse and all knowledge, as the testimony to Christ was confirmed among you, so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ.
He will keep you firm to the end, irreproachable on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, and by him you were called to fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

GOSPEL
Mark 13:33-37
A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

Jesus said to his disciples:
"Be watchful! Be alert!
You do not know when the time will come.
It is like a man traveling abroad.
He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch.
Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning.
May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all:
'Watch!'"

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

- If we are clay in God's hands, how willing are you to be reshaped at this point in your life? What is it that needs reshaping?
- There is a sense of hope in this reading. What is it that you are hopeful for this Advent?

SECOND READING

- How can we prepare our hearts for the Infant Jesus?

GOSPEL

- What are we to be watchful and ready for? Why is waiting such an important part of Christian life?
- What does the first candle of the Advent wreath represent to you in this Advent season?

2nd Sunday of Advent December 6, 2026

FIRST READING
Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11
A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Comfort, give comfort to my people,
says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and
proclaim to her that her service is at an end,
her guilt is expiated; indeed, she has received
from the hand of the LORD double for all her
sins.
A voice cries out:
In the desert prepare the way of the LORD!
Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our
God!
Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain
and hill shall be made low;
the rugged land shall be made a plain,
the rough country, a broad valley.
Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together;
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.
Go up on to a high mountain, Zion, herald of
glad tidings; cry out at the top of your voice,
Jerusalem, herald of good news!
Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah:
Here is your God!
Here comes with power the Lord GOD,
who rules by his strong arm; here is his reward
with him, his recompense before him.
Like a shepherd he feeds his flock;
in his arms he gathers the lambs,
carrying them in his bosom,
and leading the ewes with care.

SECOND READING
2 Peter 3:8-14
A reading from the second letter of Peter.

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved,
that with the Lord one day is like a thousand
years and a thousand years like one day.
The Lord does not delay his promise, as some
regard "delay," but he is patient with you,
not wishing that any should perish but that all
should come to repentance.
But the day of the Lord will come like a thief,
and then the heavens will pass away with a
mighty roar and the elements will be
dissolved by fire, and the earth and
everything done on it will be found out.
Since everything is to be dissolved in this
way, what sort of persons ought you to be,
conducting yourselves in holiness and
devotion, waiting for and hastening the
coming of the day of God, because of which
the heavens will be dissolved in flames
and the elements melted by fire.
But according to his promise we await new
heavens and a new earth in which
righteousness dwells.
Therefore, beloved, since you await these
things, be eager to be found without spot or
blemish before him, at peace.

GOSPEL
Mark 1:1-8
A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet:
Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way.
A voice of one crying out in the desert:
"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths."
John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.
People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins.
John was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed:
"One mightier than I is coming after me.
I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

- What might be getting in the way of making more room for God in your heart?
- Do you have an example of when you needed to let go of control and allow God to "straighten out a path" that seemed uncertain?

SECOND READING

- Can you think of a time when something you prayed for didn't happen according to your timeline, but you could later recognize God's wisdom in the timing?

GOSPEL

- Is there someone in your life whom God is asking you to help prepare the way for Him to enter their heart?

3rd Sunday of Advent December 13, 2026

FIRST READING
Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11
A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the
poor, to heal the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives
and release to the prisoners,
to announce a year of favor from the LORD
and a day of vindication by our God.
I rejoice heartily in the LORD,
in my God is the joy of my soul;
for he has clothed me with a robe of
salvation and wrapped me in a mantle of
justice, like a bridegroom adorned with a
diadem, like a bride bedecked with her
jewels.
As the earth brings forth its plants,
and a garden makes its growth spring up,
so will the Lord GOD make justice and
praise spring up before all the nations.

SECOND READING
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.
In all circumstances give thanks, for this is
the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.
Do not quench the Spirit.
Do not despise prophetic utterances.
Test everything; retain what is good.
Refrain from every kind of evil.
May the God of peace make you perfectly
holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and
body, be preserved blameless for the coming
of our Lord Jesus Christ.
The one who calls you is faithful, and he will
also accomplish it.

GOSPEL
John 1:6-8, 19-28
A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

A man named John was sent from God.
He came for testimony, to testify to the light,
so that all might believe through him.
He was not the light, but came to testify to the light.
And this is the testimony of John.
When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests
and Levites to him to ask him, "Who are you?"
He admitted and did not deny it, but admitted,
"I am not the Christ."
So they asked him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?"
And he said, "I am not."
"Are you the Prophet?"
He answered, "No."
So they said to him, "Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us?
What do you have to say for yourself?"
He said:
"*I am the voice of one crying out in the desert,*
'make straight the way of the Lord,'
as Isaiah the prophet said."
Some Pharisees were also sent.
They asked him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?"
John answered them, "I baptize with water;
but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me,
whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie."
This happened in Bethany across the Jordan,
where John was baptizing.

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

- How do you handle situations when your efforts to help or guide others are not received?

SECOND READING

- How do you find joy in the midst of seasons of struggles, loss, despair, or unanswered prayer?
- What is a practical way you can develop a more grateful heart?

GOSPEL

- How has your faith prompted you to ACTION?
- How might God be asking you to use your voice to encourage, support, speak up for others?

4th Sunday of Advent December 20, 2026

FIRST READING
2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
A reading from the Second Book of Samuel

When King David was settled in his palace,
and the LORD had given him rest from his enemies on every side, he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God dwells in a tent!"
Nathan answered the king, "Go, do whatever you have in mind, for the LORD is with you."
But that night the LORD spoke to Nathan and said: "Go, tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Should you build me a house to dwell in?'

"It was I who took you from the pasture
and from the care of the flock to be commander of my people Israel.
I have been with you wherever you went,
and I have destroyed all your enemies before you.
And I will make you famous like the great ones of the earth. I will fix a place for my people Israel; I will plant them so that they may dwell in their place without further disturbance.
Neither shall the wicked continue to afflict them as they did of old, since the time I first appointed judges over my people Israel.
I will give you rest from all your enemies.
The LORD also reveals to you that he will establish a house for you.
And when your time comes and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins, and I will make his kingdom firm.
I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me;
your throne shall stand firm forever."

SECOND READING
Romans 16:25-27
A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters:
To him who can strengthen you, according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages but now manifested through the prophetic writings and, according to the command of the eternal God, made known to all nations to bring about the obedience of faith, to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ be glory forever and ever. Amen.

GOSPEL
Luke 1:26-38
A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

The angel Gabriel was sent from God
to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a
virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph,
of the house of David, and the virgin's name
was Mary.
And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of
grace! The Lord is with you."
But she was greatly troubled at what was said
and pondered what sort of greeting this might
be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be
afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with
God.

"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and
bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus.
He will be great and will be called Son of the
Most High, and the Lord God will give him
the throne of David his father, and he will rule
over the house of Jacob forever, and of his
kingdom there will be no end."
But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be,
since I have no relations with a man?"
And the angel said to her in reply,
"The Holy Spirit will come upon you,
and the power of the Most High will
overshadow you. Therefore the child to be
born will be called holy, the Son of God.
And behold, Elizabeth, your relative,
has also conceived a son in her old age,
and this is the sixth month for her who was
called barren; for nothing will be impossible
for God."
Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the
Lord. May it be done to me according to your
word." Then the angel departed from her.

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

- David wanted to build a house for God, but God reminded him that God has been present with him throughout his journey. Where have you experienced God's presence and faithfulness in your own life's journey, maybe in ways you did not recognize at the time?

- David received a promise that extended far beyond his own lifetime. How might we, as individuals and as an SCC, build something of lasting value for future generations of faith?

SECOND READING

- Paul speaks of a mystery that has now been revealed through Jesus Christ. What does Jesus reveal to us about God's love, and how does that revelation challenge the way we live and relate to others?

GOSPEL

- Mary's "yes" changed the course of human history. What might saying "yes" to God look like in our lives today? What opportunities might God be placing before us that require us to respond with Mary's courage and openness?

- As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, what might God be inviting us to do differently so that Christ can be more fully born into our families, our parish, and our world?

Feast of the Holy Family December 27, 2026

FIRST READING
Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
A reading from the Book of Sirach.

God sets a father in honor over his children;
a mother's authority he confirms over her sons. Whoever honors his father atones for his sins, and preserves himself from them.
When he prays, he is heard;
he stores up riches who reveres his mother.
Whoever honors his father is gladdened by children, and, when he prays, is heard.
Whoever reveres his father will live a long life; he who obeys his father brings comfort to his mother.

My son, take care of your father when he is old; grieve him not as long as he lives. Even if his mind fail, be considerate of him; revile him not all the days of his life;
Kindness to a father will not be forgotten, firmly planted against the debt of your sins – a house raised in justice to you.

SECOND READING
Colossians 3:12-17
A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians.

Brothers and sisters:
Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do.
And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection.
And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body.
And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.
And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

GOSPEL
Luke 2:22-40
A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, They took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, *Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord,*
and to offer the sacrifice of *a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons,* in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord.
Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.
It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death
before he had seen the Christ of the Lord.
He came in the Spirit into the temple;
and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, he took him into his arms and blessed God, saying:
"Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word,
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you prepared in sight of all the peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and glory for your people Israel."
The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother,
"Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted – and you yourself a sword will pierce – so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."
There was also a prophetess, Anna,
the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher.
She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage,
and then as a widow until she was eighty-four.
She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer.
And coming forward at that very time,
she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem.
When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.
The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

- How do we/can we demonstrate genuine respect, patience, and gratitude toward our parents, particularly when we disagree with them or find their decisions difficult to understand?

- How does this reading challenge us to put LOVE into ACTION, and what can we learn about God's unconditional love through the responsibility of caring for those who once cared for us?

SECOND READING

- Paul tells us to clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Which of these qualities do you find most difficult to practice in your everyday life, especially when dealing with difficult people? What would you change in your relationships if you made a conscious effort to live these virtues every day?

GOSPEL

- How can we develop the same patience and spiritual awareness as Simeon to recognize God's presence and work in our own lives, especially when His timing differs from our expectations?

- What can we learn from Anna about remaining faithful throughout every stage of life, and how can we become witnesses of Christ to the people we encounter every day?

The Epiphany of the Lord January 3, 2027

FIRST READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light
has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon
you. See, darkness covers the earth,
and thick clouds cover the peoples;
but upon you the LORD shines,
and over you appears his glory.
Nations shall walk by your light,
and kings by your shining radiance.
Raise your eyes and look about;
they all gather and come to you:
your sons come from afar, and your
daughters in the arms of their nurses.

Then you shall be radiant at what you see,
your heart shall throb and overflow,
for the riches of the sea shall be emptied out
before you, the wealth of nations shall be
brought to you.
Caravans of camels shall fill you,
dromedaries from Midian and Ephah;
all from Sheba shall come bearing gold and
frankincense, and proclaiming the praises of
the LORD.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 3:2-3z, 5-6

A reading from the letter to the Ephesians.

Brothers and sisters:
You have heard of the stewardship of God's
grace that was given to me for your benefit,
namely, that the mystery was made known to
me by revelation.
It was not made known to people in other
generations as it has now been revealed
to his holy apostles and prophets by the
Spirit: that the Gentiles are coheirs, members
of the same body, and copartners in the
promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea,
in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from
the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying,
"Where is the newborn king of the Jews?
We saw his star at its rising and have come to
do him homage."
When King Herod heard this, he was greatly
troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.
Assembling all the chief priests and the
scribes of the people, He inquired of them
where the Christ was to be born.
They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea,
for thus it has been written through the
prophet:
And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of
Judah; since from you shall come a ruler,
who is to shepherd my people Israel."
Then Herod called the magi secretly and
ascertained from them the time of the star's
appearance.
He sent them to Bethlehem and said,
"Go and search diligently for the child.
When you have found him, bring me word,
that I too may go and do him homage."
After their audience with the king, they set
out. And behold, the star that they had seen at
its rising preceded them, until it came and
stopped over the place where the child was.
They were overjoyed at seeing the star,
and on entering the house they saw the child
with Mary his mother.
They prostrated themselves and did him
homage. Then they opened their treasures
and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense,
and myrrh. And having been warned in a
dream not to return to Herod, they departed
for their country by another way.

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

- Isaiah speaks of darkness covering the earth while God's light shines through. Where do you see that darkness in the world today, and what makes it difficult to recognize God's light?
- Isaiah tells us to "Raise your eyes and look about." What might we be missing in our lives because we're too busy, distracted, or focused on our own concerns? In what area of your life (marriage, fatherhood, motherhood, purity, discipline, or service) do you feel God is nudging you to stop coasting and "arise" right now?

SECOND READING

- Paul tells us that God's promise extends to people who were once considered outsiders. What makes it difficult for us to see others as equally deserving of God's grace?
- In verse 2, Paul calls his ministry the "stewardship of God's grace" given to him for others. How is viewing grace as a stewardship (something managed for someone else's benefit) different from viewing it just as a personal ticket to heaven?

GOSPEL

- The Magi followed a star without knowing exactly where it would lead them. Think about a time when you felt called to move forward without knowing the outcome. What gave you the courage to take that step? What made the effort worth it?
- After encountering Jesus, the Magi returned home by a different route. When has an encounter with God, or an experience in your faith journey, caused you to reconsider the direction of your life?
- Herod felt threatened because a new king meant he would lose control. In what areas of your life – such as finances, retirement plans, parenting, grandparenting, or personal comfort – do you find yourself resisting Jesus' authority to stay in control.

The Baptism of the Lord January 10, 2027

FIRST READING
Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7
A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

Thus says the LORD:
Here is my servant whom I uphold,
my chosen one with whom I am pleased,
upon whom I have put my spirit;
he shall bring forth justice to the nations,
not crying out, not shouting,
not making his voice heard in the street.
A bruised reed he shall not break,
And a smoldering wick he shall not quench,
until he establishes justice on the earth;
the coastlands will wait for his teaching.

I, the Lord, have called you for the victory
of justice, I have grasped you by the hand;
I formed you, and set you
as a covenant of the people,
a light for the nations,
to open the eyes of the blind,
to bring out prisoners from confinement,
and from the dungeon, those who live in
darkness.

SECOND READING
Acts 10:34-38
A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter proceeded to speak to those gathered in the house of Cornelius, saying:
"In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. You know the word that he sent to the Israelites as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all, what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power.
He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him."

GOSPEL

Mark 1:7-11

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

This is what John the Baptist proclaimed:
"One mightier than I is coming after me.
I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals.
I have baptized you with water;
he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."
It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John.
On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him.
And a voice came from the heavens,
"You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

The Baptism of the Lord • January 10, 2027

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

- How does this passage help us to understand how to be called for a purpose?
- How can we be a light for our nation?

SECOND READING

- What is the main theme/message of Peter's speech in the house of Cornelius, the non-Jew?

GOSPEL

- Why was God pleased when Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River?
- What does our own baptism mean to us today? How do we live it out?

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time January 17, 2027

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19

A reading from the First Book of Samuel.

Samuel was sleeping in the temple of the
LORD where the ark of God was.
The LORD called to Samuel, who answered,
"Here I am."
Samuel ran to Eli and said, "Here I am. You
called me."
"I did not call you, " Eli said. "Go back to
sleep."
So he went back to sleep.
Again the LORD called Samuel, who rose
and went to Eli.
"Here I am, " he said. "You called me."
But Eli answered, "I did not call you, my son.
Go back to sleep."

At that time Samuel was not familiar with the
LORD, because the LORD had not revealed
anything to him as yet. The LORD called
Samuel again, for the third time.
Getting up and going to Eli, he said, "Here I
am. You called me."
Then Eli understood that the LORD was
calling the youth. So he said to Samuel, "Go
to sleep, and if you are called, reply,
Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening."
When Samuel went to sleep in his place,
the LORD came and revealed his presence,
calling out as before, "Samuel, Samuel!"
Samuel answered, "Speak, for your servant is
listening."

Samuel grew up, and the LORD was with
him, not permitting any word of his to be
without effect.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Brothers and sisters:
The body is not for immorality, but for the
Lord, and the Lord is for the body;
God raised the Lord and will also raise us by
his power.

Do you not know that your bodies are
members of Christ? But whoever is joined to
the Lord becomes one Spirit with him.
Avoid immorality.
Every other sin a person commits is outside
the body, but the immoral person sins against
his own body.
Do you not know that your body is a temple
of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you
have from God, and that you are not your
own?
For you have been purchased at a price.
Therefore glorify God in your body.

GOSPEL

John 1:35-42

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

John was standing with two of his disciples,
and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said,
"Behold, the Lamb of God."
The two disciples heard what he said and
followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them
following him and said to them,
"What are you looking for?"
They said to him, "Rabbi" — which translated
means Teacher —, "where are you staying?"
He said to them, "Come, and you will see."
So they went and saw where Jesus was
staying, and they stayed with him that day.
It was about four in the afternoon.
Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter,
was one of the two who heard John and
followed Jesus.
He first found his own brother Simon and told
him, "We have found the Messiah" — which
is translated Christ.
Then he brought him to Jesus.
Jesus looked at him and said,
"You are Simon the son of John;
you will be called Cephas" — which is
translated Peter.

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

- Under what circumstances have you believed God was calling you to act on His behalf, and how did you respond?
- What are the modern “voices,” or distractions, that make it difficult for you to recognize when God is speaking to you?

SECOND READING

- What are the changes in your daily choices, when you view your life, time, and body as belonging to God rather than yourself?

GOSPEL

- How can we deepen our relationship with Jesus and commit to follow him in our lives?
- Who in your life is currently looking for meaning or hope, and how can you gently invite them to experience Christ?

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time January 24, 2027

FIRST READING

Jonah 3:1-5,10

A reading from the Prophet Jonah.

The word of the LORD came to Jonah,
saying:
"Set out for the great city of Nineveh,
and announce to it the message that I will tell
you."
So Jonah made ready and went to Nineveh,
according to the LORD'S bidding.
Now Nineveh was an enormously large city;
it took three days to go through it.
Jonah began his journey through the city,
and had gone but a single day's walk
announcing, "Forty days more and Nineveh
shall be destroyed," when the people of
Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a
fast and all of them, great and small, put on
sackcloth.

When God saw by their actions how they
turned from their evil way, he repented of the
evil that he had threatened to do to them;
he did not carry it out.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

A reading from the first letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.

I tell you, brothers and sisters, the time is
running out. From now on, let those having
wives act as not having them, those weeping
as not weeping, those rejoicing as not
rejoicing, those buying as not owning, those
using the world as not using it fully.
For the world in its present form is passing
away.

GOSPEL
Mark 1:14-20
A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God:
"This is the time of fulfillment.
The kingdom of God is at hand.
Repent, and believe in the gospel."

As he passed by the Sea of Galilee,
he saw Simon and his brother Andrew
casting their nets into the sea; they were fishermen.
Jesus said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men."
Then they abandoned their nets and followed him. He walked along a little farther
and saw James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They too were in a boat mending their nets. Then he called them.
So they left their father Zebedee in the boat along with the hired men and followed him.

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

- If you heard a warning, similar to Jonah, "Forty days more and Nineveh shall be destroyed," what do you think your response would be?

- In your life, who do you listen to regarding the need to repent and change?

SECOND READING

- In our current culture, how is it challenging to put God first before our relationships, feelings, and possessions?

GOSPEL

- When have you heard Jesus calling you to follow him? In what ways have you responded to encourage others to follow Jesus?

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time January 31, 2027

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy.

Moses spoke to all the people, saying:
"A prophet like me will the LORD, your God, raise up for you from among your own kin; to him you shall listen.
This is exactly what you requested of the LORD, your God, at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said,
'Let us not again hear the voice of the LORD, our God, nor see this great fire any more, lest we die.'
And the LORD said to me, 'This was well said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their kin, and will put my words into his mouth; he shall tell them all that I command him. Whoever will not listen to my words which he speaks in my name, I myself will make him answer for it.
But if a prophet presumes to speak in my name an oracle that I have not commanded him to speak, or speaks in the name of other gods, he shall die.'"

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 7:32-35

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Brothers and sisters:
I should like you to be free of anxieties.
An unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how he may please the Lord. But a married man is anxious about the things of the world, how he may please his wife, and he is divided.
An unmarried woman or a virgin is anxious about the things of the Lord, so that she may be holy in both body and spirit.
A married woman, on the other hand, is anxious about the things of the world, how she may please her husband.
I am telling you this for your own benefit, not to impose a restraint upon you, but for the sake of propriety and adherence to the Lord without distraction.

GOSPEL
Mark 1:21-28
A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

Then they came to Capernaum,
and on the sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and taught.
The people were astonished at his teaching,
for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes.
In their synagogue was a man with an unclean spirit; he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth?
Have you come to destroy us?
I know who you are—the Holy One of God!"
Jesus rebuked him and said,
"Quiet! Come out of him!"
The unclean spirit convulsed him and with a loud cry came out of him.
All were amazed and asked one another,
"What is this?
A new teaching with authority.
He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him."
His fame spread everywhere throughout the whole region of Galilee.

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

- What modern prophets do you recognize?
- Have you ever felt that God put words in your mouth?
- How would you recognize a false prophet? In a general sense a prophet is a person who speaks God's truth to others.

SECOND READING

- What distractions in your life are keeping you from God?
- What in today's world causes you anxiety?
- What does it mean to be holy in body and spirit?

GOSPEL

- Who in your life speaks with authority when it comes to Christ?
- What unclean spirits are living in our world today or in your own life?

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time February 7, 2027

FIRST READING

Job 7:1-4, 6-7

A reading from the Book of Job.

Job spoke, saying:
Is not man's life on earth a drudgery?
Are not his days those of hirelings?
He is a slave who longs for the shade,
a hireling who waits for his wages.
So I have been assigned months of misery,
and troubled nights have been allotted to me.
If in bed I say, "When shall I arise?"
then the night drags on;
I am filled with restlessness until the dawn.
My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle;
they come to an end without hope.
Remember that my life is like the wind;
I shall not see happiness again.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Brothers and sisters:
If I preach the gospel, this is no reason for
me to boast, for an obligation has been
imposed on me, and woe to me if I do not
preach it!
If I do so willingly, I have a recompense,
but if unwillingly, then I have been entrusted
with a stewardship. What then is my
recompense? That, when I preach,
I offer the gospel free of charge
so as not to make full use of my right in the
gospel.

Although I am free in regard to all,
I have made myself a slave to all
so as to win over as many as possible.
To the weak I became weak, to win over the
weak. I have become all things to all, to save
at least some. All this I do for the sake of the
gospel, so that I too may have a share in it.

GOSPEL
Mark 1:29-39
A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

On leaving the synagogue
Jesus entered the house of Simon and
Andrew with James and John.
Simon's mother-in-law lay sick with a fever.
They immediately told him about her.
He approached, grasped her hand, and
helped her up. Then the fever left her and
she waited on them.

When it was evening, after sunset,
they brought to him all who were ill or
possessed by demons. The whole town was
gathered at the door. He cured many who
were sick with various diseases, and he
drove out many demons, not permitting them
to speak because they knew him.

Rising very early before dawn, he left
and went off to a deserted place, where he
prayed. Simon and those who were with him
pursued him and on finding him said,
"Everyone is looking for you."
He told them, "Let us go on to the nearby
villages that I may preach there also.
For this purpose have I come."
So he went into their synagogues,
preaching and driving out demons
throughout the whole of Galilee.

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

- Job's life was a reversal of fortune, which led him to view his life on earth as drudgery. Despite this, Job did not blame God. How hard is it to not blame God when events in our life take a turn for the worse?

- At the end of this passage from Job, he says, "I shall not see happiness again." How can we help others – who feel the same way – to see the goodness of God again?

SECOND READING

- Paul is very sure of his calling and says, "All this I do for the sake of the Gospel." As members of the church, what is our calling?

GOSPEL

- In our Gospel reading, it says about Jesus: "He drove out many demons, not permitting them to speak because they knew him." What does this passage mean to you?

- After helping many, Jesus went to a deserted place to pray. How often do we need to find a quiet place to be in our thoughts and pray? Do we do it often enough?