



DAY	FEAST	READINGS	TIME
Mon 11	1st Week in Ordinary Time Psalter Week I	Hebr 1, 1-6; Mk 1, 14-20.	5:30 PM
Tue 12	1st Week in Ordinary Time Psalter Week I	Hebr 2, 5-12; Mk 1, 21b-28.	5:30 PM
Wed 13	1st Week in Ordinary Time Psalter Week I St Hilary	Hebr 2, 14-18; Mk 1, 29-39.	5:30 PM
Thu 14	1st Week in Ordinary Time Psalter Week I	Hebr 3, 7-14; Mk 1, 40-45.	5:30 PM
Fri 15	1st Week in Ordinary Time Psalter Week I	Hebr 4, 1-5. 11; Mk 2, 1-12.	12.15 PM
Sat 16	1st Week in Ordinary Time Psalter Week I	Hebr 4, 12-16; Mk 2, 13-17.	Novena: 5:00 PM Mass: 5:30 PM
Sun 10	2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Psalter Week II	1 Sam 3, 3b-10. 19; 1 Cor 6, 13c-15a. 17-20. Jn 1, 35-42.	8:00 AM 5:30 PM

Today the Church celebrates the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord. This brings to an end the season of Christmas. The Church recalls Our Lord's second manifestation or epiphany which occurred on the occasion of His baptism in the Jordan. Jesus descended into the River to sanctify its waters and to give them the power to beget sons of God. The event takes on the importance of a second creation in which the entire Trinity intervenes.

In the Eastern Church this feast is called Theophany because at the baptism of Christ in the River Jordan God appeared in three persons. The baptism of John was a sort of sacramental preparatory for the Baptism of Christ. It moved men to sentiments of repentance and induced them to confess their sins. Christ did not need the baptism of John. Although He appeared in the "substance of our flesh" and was recognized "outwardly like unto ourselves", He was absolutely sinless and impeccable. He conferred upon the water the power of the true Baptism which would remove all the sins of the world: "Behold the Lamb of God, behold Him Who takes away the sin of the world".

Many of the incidents which accompanied Christ's baptism are symbolical of what happened at our Baptism. At Christ's baptism the Holy Spirit descended upon Him; at our Baptism the Trinity took its abode in our soul. At His baptism Christ was proclaimed the "Beloved Son" of the Father; at our Baptism we become the adopted sons of God. At Christ's baptism the heavens were opened; at our Baptism heaven was opened to us. At His baptism Jesus prayed; after our Baptism we must pray to avoid actual sin.

## THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Reading I: Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 or Isaiah 55:1-11

Responsorial Psalm: 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10

or Isaiah 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6

Reading II: Acts 10:34-38 or 1 John 5:1-9

Gospel: Mark 1:7-11

Revised Roman Missal: 636; Bahasa: 206.



## REFLECTION

The baptism of Christ in the waters of Jordan had the strength to open the sky and make the voice of the Father heard: "This is my beloved Son." We too are those dear children, adopted children, reborn in the waters of baptism by the power of the Holy Spirit.

1. The scene of the Jordan has all the features of a new birth, as St. Gregory Nazianzen says: "He plunged into the water alone, but he lifted up the entire world; he stooped down to raise us up; he bore all our sins so that we would stay forgiven." Just as the Epiphany was the manifestation of Christ in Bethlehem as the son of Mary, his baptism in the Jordan is his manifestation as the "Son of the Father" and the beginning of his public life.
2. There our baptism was instituted. When our parents asked this grace for us even though we were very young, they knew that they were giving us a great treasure and leaving us their best inheritance. Exteriorly, it is a washing in water. With this sign, Christ cleanses us from all guilt and begets us again into the divine life, unites us intimately to himself, imprints his own image on our soul in an indelible way, incorporates us into the Church and into the people of God, and sanctifies us with the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
3. A Christian is one who follows Christ in everything. The Christian life is based on the fundamental and irreversible decision to adhere to Christ, follow him, imitate him. But how? When? In all situations of life: the joys, hardships, at work, at rest, in risk, temptation, and death. The Christian seeks to reproduce in his own life what Christ would do in his place, so he grows familiar with the Gospel readings to find Christ's words and examples.

Through the sacrament of baptism we are born to new life, we partake of the life of God, and we are marked with an identity stamp that will identify us forever. Just as Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River marks the beginning of his redemptive mission, a Christian's baptism is the fundamental and decisive event that dominates his way of being, thinking and acting and influences him altogether. Today is a day when we remember the privilege of our baptism and renew our commitments as new men and women.

Wouldn't it be a beautiful custom to celebrate the anniversary of our baptism as festively as we celebrate our birth? On several occasions we usually renew the baptismal promises made by our parents in our name: for example, in our confirmation, First Communion, the Easter Vigil Mass, and whenever we participate in a baptism or confirmation. From now on, let's try to do so consciously and fervently, so that our enthusiasm for being Christians is also renewed. Amen.

### **Second Collection (10th January)**

The Second Collection today will be for the Priest Retirement Fund.

### **Missionary Childhood Association Coin Boxes**

The Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) Coin boxes was given out on World Mission Sunday. Please return the box to the Parish Office as soon as possible.



### **Sunday School Registration (10th January)**

Sunday School and COM classes continues this morning at 10:30 AM in the Parish Hall. There will be a parents orientation on 31st January at 10:30 AM in the Parish Hall.

### **Confirmation Rehearsal (10th January)**

After much delayed, the Sacrament of Confirmation for last year confirmandis will now take place on Sunday, January 24th at the 5:30 PM Mass. Parents, sponsors, and confirmandis, please take note of the date and time. More details will be convey to you during the rehearsal at 10:30 am this morning.

### **Pre-registration for Mass**

Starting next Sunday, 17th January you will not need to pre-register to come to Mass. However, you will be required to sign-in your name and contact details for contact tracing purposes. Since seats in the church are limited, once we have reach the allowed capacity, you will be directed to join the Mass in the Parish Hall. Communion will also be given in the Parish Hall. We will shortly be using the Parish ID card to speed up the check-in, eliminating the need for sign-in. If you have not register for the Parish ID, please collect the Parish ID registration form from the registration desk or Parish Office and return it as soon as possible.

### **Holy Hour (15th January)**

Join us on Friday, 15th January at 7:30 PM for an hour with the Lord. This coming Holy Hour will include the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

### **Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help (16th January)**

The Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help is held every Saturday at 5:00 PM, before the daily Mass at 5:30 PM. If you want your petitions or thanksgiving to be read, please pass it to Fr Robert before the novena.

### **Catechist Meeting (17th January)**

There will be a Catechist Meeting next Sunday, 17th January at 12 noon in the Parish Hall. All focal points from each classes are requested to attend.

### **Children Mass (24th January)**

There will be a Mass on Sunday, 24th January at 11:00 AM specifically for children only before we start the Sunday School and COM classes next month. As usual, parents are requested to drop their children 15 minutes before the Mass and to pick them up at 12:00 Noon. Since they will also be Sunday School class registration in the Parish Hall, parents can also register their children then and wait in the parish hall for the Mass to end. There will be collection at Mass for the Missionary Childhood Association. Parents are reminded to encourage their child to bring money for this cause.

### **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2021 (January 18-25, 2021)**

Every year, Christian communities and churches join together to pray for the visible unity of the Church, accepting the will of Christ, who prayed “that *all may be one*” (John 17:21) during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. In much of the world, this Week of Prayer is commemorated from January 18-25. As we gather throughout our world to pray for the unity of Christians in 2021, we celebrate the theme gifted this year to the Church from the ecumenical monastic community of Grandchamp in Switzerland, “*Abide in my love... you shall bear much fruit.*” (John 15:1-17) We are reminded by the very voice of Jesus Christ the he is the vine and we are the branches. The sap that nourishes a grapevine is a metaphor of the Holy Spirit nourishing the whole vine of the one Church, no matter what our branch. Each branch can produce abundant good fruit to nourish in turn the whole world. But Christ himself is the vine who holds us all together.

Together then, especially after the upheavals and anguish of 2020, let us all abide in Christ’s love to bear the good fruit that can make 2021 a blessing for all. Pray that they all may be one.



Plump and juicy grapes, giving nourishment and joy to the world, explicitly emphasize the metaphor Jesus uses when he says “*I am the vine and you are the branches.*” Jesus is the cause and center of Christian unity, no matter which branch we may find ourselves part of. Each branch, made healthy and true by the power of the sap of the Holy Spirit bears good fruit for the sake of the Gospel and the world. Yet those branches cannot exist separately. We would wither and die, producing shriveled fruit that would never be appealing to the senses. The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, especially after the anguish of Covid-19 and other events of 2020, reminds us all of the need to be attached fully to the vine of Christ and become his body, the Church. We know that the sin of Christian division has no basis in the truth. By our diversity we show the many faces and cultures of Christianity, but by our divisions we only sow doubt, confusion and competition. The one vine is surely an excellent description of how we can abide in Christ’s love.

Almost as a background fading out, the words of the theme are woven into the fabric behind the grapes. The Word of God gives us encouragement, hope and strength as we begin 2021. Abide... my love...bear...much fruit. Another word for abide is remain. Can we remain in Christ’s love and thus bear much fruit if we never pray together? Remaining or abiding in his love powerfully enables us to love one another. Again, the branches reach out in different directions but they are all rooted in the everlasting Word of God. And that word is clear: do not succumb to rivalries and factions, but seek justice and peace together. With one united voice the Gospel is indeed so very powerful. The Gospel liberates the soul and assures of God’s grace. This is our fruit for the world. May it be plump and juicy!