





**We dedicate this website to the Generous Heart of Mother Mary**



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**DAILY HIGHLIGHTS, MASS READING,DAILY SAINTS, PRAYERS...**

**Volume 111, Monday, December 31, 2018.**

**The Seventh Day in the Octave of Christmas**

<b>Latin Rite</b>	<b>1st Reading</b>	<b>1 JN 2:18-21</b>	<b>Responsorial Psalm</b>	<b>96:1-2, 11-12, 13</b>
<b>2nd Reading</b>			<b>Gospel</b>	<b>JN 1:1-18</b>
<b>Syro-Malabar Rite</b>	<b>1st Reading</b>	<b>1 TM 6:6-12</b>	<b>Gospel</b>	<b>LK 13:6-9</b>
<b>Syro-Malankara Rite</b>	<b>1st Reading</b>	<b>ROM 15:14-21</b>	<b>Gospel</b>	<b>LK 12:13-21</b>

**"The Word became flesh and dwelt among us"**

**Prayer for All Souls**



Prayer of St. Gertrude the great dictated by Our Lady to release 1,000 Souls from Purgatory each time it is said. The prayer was extend to include living sinners which would alleviate the indebtedness accrued to them during their lives.

“Eternal Father, I offer Thee the Most precious Blood of Thy Divine Son, Jesus in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the holy Souls in Purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the Universal Church, those in my own home and within my family. Amen.”

St. Gertrude the Great was born in Germany in 1263. She was a Benedictine Nun, and meditated on the Passion of Christ, which many times brought floods of tears to her eyes. She did many penances, and Our Lady appeared to her many times. Her holy Soul passed away in 1334. November 16 is her Feast Day.

**Weekly Guide for Daily prayer**

[Second Week of Christmas](#)

[Daily Prayer This Week](#)

[Prayer Before Mass](#)

[Prayer After Mass](#)

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**Meditation:**

Why does John the Evangelist begin his Gospel account with a description of the Word of God and the creation of the universe and humankind? How might the beginning of John's Gospel be linked with the beginning of the first book of Genesis (John 1:1-3 and Genesis 1:1-3)? The "word of God" was a common expression among the Jews. God's word in the Old Testament Scriptures is an active, creative, and dynamic word. "By the word of the Lord the heavens were made" (Psalm 33:6). "He sends forth his commands to the earth; his word runs swiftly" (Psalm 147:15). "Is not my word like fire, says the Lord, and like a hammer which breaks the rock in pieces" (Jeremiah 23:29)?

The eternal Word leaped down from heaven

The writer of the (deutero-canonical) Book of Wisdom addresses God as the one who "made all things by your word" (Wisdom 9:1). God's word is also equated with his wisdom. "The Lord by wisdom founded the earth" (Proverbs 3:19). The Book of Wisdom describes "wisdom" as God's eternal, creative, and illuminating power. Both "word" and "wisdom" are seen as one and the same. "For while gentle silence enveloped all things, and night in its swift course was now half gone, your all-powerful word leaped from heaven, from the royal throne, into the midst of the land that was doomed, a stern warrior carrying the sharp sword of your authentic command" (deutero-canonical Book of Wisdom 18:14-16).

Truly man and truly God

John describes Jesus as God's creative, life-giving and light-giving Word that has come to earth in human form. "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). Jesus is the wisdom and power of God which created the world and sustains it who assumed a human nature in order to accomplish our salvation in it. Jesus became truly man while remaining truly God. "What he was, he remained, and what he was not he assumed" (from an early church antiphon for morning prayer). Jesus Christ is truly the Son of God who, without ceasing to be God and Lord, became a man and our brother. From the time of the Apostles the Christian faith has insisted on the incarnation of God's Son "who has come in the flesh" (1 John 4:2)

Gregory of Nyssa, one of the great early church fathers (330-395 AD) wrote:

Sick, our nature demanded to be healed; fallen, to be raised up; dead, to rise again. We had lost the possession of the good; it was necessary for it to be given back to us. Closed in darkness, it was necessary to bring us the light; captives, we awaited a Savior; prisoners, help; slaves, a liberator. Are these things minor or insignificant? Did they not move God to descend to human nature and visit it, since humanity was in so miserable and unhappy a state?

Christians never cease proclaiming anew the wonder of the Incarnation. The Son of God assumed a human nature in order to accomplish our salvation in it. The Son of God ...worked with human hands; he thought with a human mind. He acted with a human will, and with a human heart he loved. Born of the Virgin Mary, he has truly been made one of us, like to us in all things except sin (Gaudium et Spes).

We become partakers of Christ's divine nature

If we are going to behold the glory of God we will do it through Jesus Christ. Jesus became the partaker of our humanity so we could be partakers of his divinity (2 Peter 1:4). God's purpose for us, even from the beginning of his creation, is that we would be fully united with him. When Jesus comes God is made known as the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. By our being united in Jesus, God becomes our Father and we become his sons and daughters. Do you thank the Father for sending his only begotten Son to redeem you and to share with you his glory?

"Almighty God and Father of light, your eternal Word leaped down from heaven in the silent watches of the night. Open our hearts to receive his life and increase our vision with the rising of dawn, that our lives may be filled with his glory and his peace."

**Reading 1**

1 JN 2:18-21

Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that the antichrist was coming, so now many antichrists have appeared. Thus we know this is the last hour. They went out from us, but they were not really of our number; if they had been, they would have remained with us. Their desertion shows that none of them was of our number. But you have the anointing that comes from the Holy One, and you all have knowledge. I write to you not because you do not know the truth but because you do, and because every lie is alien to the truth

**Responsorial Psalm**

96:1-2, 11-12, 13

R. (11a) Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice!  
Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all you lands.  
Sing to the LORD; bless his name; announce his salvation, day after day.  
R. Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice!  
Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice; let the sea and what fills it resound; let the plains be joyful and all that is in them!  
Then shall all the trees of the forest exult before the LORD.  
R. Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice!  
The LORD comes, he comes to rule the earth.  
He shall rule the world with justice and the peoples with his constancy.  
R. Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice!  
Alleluia JN 1:14A, 12A  
R. Alleluia, alleluia.  
The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us. To those who accepted him he gave power to become the children of God.  
R. Alleluia, alleluia.

**Gospel**

JN 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

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. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him.

But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name, who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man's decision but of God.

And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only-begotten Son, full of grace and truth.

John testified to him and cried out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, "The one who is coming after me ranks ahead of me because he existed before me." From his fullness we have all received, grace in place of grace, because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. The only-begotten Son, God, who is at the Father's side, has revealed him.

**Resources**

- ♦ Importance of the Mass
- ♦ Mystical Stigmata
- ♦ What is Charismatic Renewal
- ♦ The Real Meaning of Christmas
- ♦ Why should I Confess?
- ♦ History & Devotion-Sacred Heart

**Prayers ♦ Prayer**

- ♦ Novena
- ♦ Holy Rosary
- ♦ Way of the Cross
- ♦ Holy Mass
- ♦ Bible
- ♦ Intercession Prayers & Other Prayers

**Downloads**

- ♦ Divine Songs - Malayalam
- ♦ Divine Songs - English
- ♦ Divine Songs - Tamil
- ♦ Divine Songs - Telugu
- ♦ Other Downloads
- ♦ Holy Picture Gallery
- ♦ Wallpapers

**The Bible in one year: DECEMBER**

01 Wisd of Sol 15-16, 1 Macc 15:1-15, 1 Pet 3, Ps 135:15-21  
02 Wisd of Sol 17-18, 1 Macc 15:16-41, 1 Pet 4-5, Ps 136:1-7  
03 Wisd of Sol 19, 1 Macc 16, 2 Pet 1, Ps 136:8-14  
04 Sirach Pro-3, 2 Macc 1:1-11, 2 Pet 2, Ps 136:15-21  
05 Sirach 4, 2 Macc 1:12-36, 2 Pet 3, Ps 136:22-26  
06 Sirach 5-6, 2 Macc 2:1-15, 1 John 1, Ps 137  
07 Sirach 7-8, 2 Macc 2:16-32, 1 John 2, Ps 138  
08 Sirach 9-10, 2 Macc 3:1-24, 1 John 3, Ps 139:title-5  
09 Sirach 11:1-14, Sirach 11:17-12:18, 2 Macc 3:25-40, 1 John 4, Ps 139:6-12  
10 Sirach 13-14, 2 Macc 4:1-24, 1 John 5, Ps 139:13-19  
11 Sirach 15:1-16:14, Sirach 16:17-30, 2 Macc 4:25-50, 2 John, Ps 139:20-24  
12 Sirach 17, 2 Macc 5:1-14, Jude, Ps 140:title-8  
13 Sirach 18:1-19:17, Sirach 19:20-30, 2 Macc 5:15-27, Rev 1, Ps 140:9-13  
14 Sirach 20, 2 Macc 6, Rev 2:1-13, Ps 141  
15 Sirach 21:1-22:8, Sirach 22:11-27, 2 Macc 7:1-17, Rev 2:14-29, Ps 142  
16 Sirach 23-24, 2 Macc 7:18-42, Rev 3-4, Ps 143:title-3  
17 Sirach 25:1-26:18, Sirach 26:28-29, 2 Macc 8:1-15, Rev 5, Ps 143:4-12  
18 Sirach 27, 2 Macc 8:16-36, Rev 6, Ps 144:title-4  
19 Sirach 28-29, 2 Macc 9, Rev 7-8, Ps 144:5-11  
20 Sirach 30-31, 2 Macc 10:1-10, Rev 9, Ps 144:12-15  
21 Sirach 32-33, 2 Macc 10:11-38, Rev 10-11, Ps 145:title-9  
22 Sirach 34-35, 2 Macc 11:1-13, Rev 12, Ps 145:10-16  
23 Sirach 36-37, 2 Macc 11:14-38, Rev 13, Ps 145:17-21  
24 Sirach 38, 2 Macc 12:1-15, Rev 14, Ps 146  
25 Sirach 39, 2 Macc 12:16-45, Rev 15-16, Ps 147:1-7  
26 Sirach 40-41, 2 Macc 13:1-10, Rev 17, Ps 147:8-14  
27 Sirach 42-43, 2 Macc 13:11-26, Rev 18, Ps 147:15-20  
28 Sirach 44-45, 2 Macc 14:1-25, Rev 19, Ps 148:1-8  
29 Sirach 46-47, 2 Macc 14:26-46, Rev 20, Ps 148:9-14  
30 Sirach 48-49, 2 Macc 15:1-19, Rev 21, Ps 149  
31 Sirach 50-51, 2 Macc 15:20-39, Rev 22, Ps 150



**Today's**

**St. Sylvester**



**St. Sylvester**

Saint Sylvester was born in Rome. When he reached the age to dispose of his fortune, he took pleasure in giving hospitality to Christians passing through the city. He would take them with him, wash their feet, serve them at table, and in sum give them in the name of Christ, all the care that the most sincere charity inspired. One day Timothy of Antioch, an illustrious confessor of the Faith, arrived in Rome. No one dared receive him, but Sylvester considered it an honor. For a year Timothy, preaching Jesus Christ with unflinching zeal, received at Sylvester's dwelling the most generous hospitality. When this heroic man had won the palm of martyrdom, Sylvester took up his precious remains and buried them during the night. But he himself was soon denounced to the prefect and accused of having hidden the martyr's treasures. He replied, Timothy left to me only the heritage of his faith and courage. The governor threatened him with death and had him imprisoned, but Sylvester said to him, Senseless one, this very night it is you who will render an account to God. And the persecutor that evening swallowed a fish bone, and died in fact that night.

Fear of heavenly chastisements softened the guardians, and the brave young man was set at liberty. Sylvester's courageous acts became known to Saint Melchiad, Pope, who elevated him to the diaconate. He was a young priest when persecution of the Christians grew worse under the tyrant Diocletian. Idols were erected at the street corners, in the market-places, and over the public fountains, so that it was scarcely possible for a Christian to go abroad without being put to the test of offering sacrifice, with the alternative of apostasy or death. During this fiery trial, Sylvester strengthened the confessors and martyrs, and God preserved his life from many dangers. It was indeed he who was destined to succeed the Pope who had recognized his virtues.

His long pontificate of twenty-one years, famous for several reasons, is remembered in particular for the Council of Nicea, the Baptism of Constantine, and the triumph of the Church. Some authors would place Constantine's Baptism later, but there are numerous and serious testimonies which fix the emperor's reception into the Church under the reign of Saint Sylvester, and the Roman Breviary confirms that opinion. Constantine, while still pagan and little concerned for the Christians, whose doctrine was entirely unknown to him, was attacked by a kind of leprosy which soon covered his entire body. One night Saint Peter and Saint Paul, shining with light, appeared to him and commanded him to call for Pope Sylvester, who would cure him by giving him Baptism. In effect, the Pope instructed the royal neophyte and baptized him. Thus began the social reign of Jesus Christ: Constantine's conversion, culminating in the Edict of Milan in 313, had as its happy consequence that of the known world.

Reflection: Never forget to thank God daily for having made you a member of His indefectible Church, and grow daily in your attachment, devotion, and loyalty to the Vicar of Christ. Ubi Petrus, ibi ecclesia: Where Peter is, there the Church is.

**St. John Francis Regis**

Son of a wealthy merchant. Educated at the Jesuit college at Beziers, and at Cahors, Le Puy, Auch, and Tournon. Joined the Jesuits at age 18. Preacher. Catechist who was so good that children he taught helped bring their parents back to the Church. Ordained at age 34. Worked with plague victims in Toulouse, France. Taught at Pamiers.

His skill at preaching caused him to be sent as evangelist to provinces that had fallen to the Huguenots following the Edict of Nantes, places where many had abandoned the Church. Not known for a polished style or appearance, his simple method of preaching the Truth, and his willingness to work for the poor, converted crowds of farmers, workers, and country folk. When pressed about his image he replied, "The rich never lack confessors." He lived off apples, black bread, and whatever came to hand, preferring to spend his time preaching, teaching, and hearing confessions.

Established hostels for prostitutes, whom he called "Daughters of Refuge", who wished to leave the business. He was often assaulted for his trouble. Helped a group of country girls stay away from the cities by establishing them in the lacemaking and embroidery trade, an area of which he a patron saint.

Established the Confraternities of the Blessed Sacrament; to the society women he offered the "gift" of a few hungry mouths to feed, while to others he sent notes like,

"Sir, you will provide food for the poor people who names are listed below, and you will give them six sous for their lodging. If you are unable to provide them with food, you will give them a further six sous so that they may buy it themselves."

They did. Established a granary for the poor which sometimes miraculously refilled, demanded (and received) treatment for them by doctors, nurses, and pharmacists. Known for miraculous healing, but said that "every time God converts a hardened sinner, He is working a far greater miracle."

At one point there was a movement against him by some of his fellow Jesuits who felt his zealous "signs of simplicity and indiscretion" did not best showcase their order nor follow its teachings. Regis' bishop, however, recognized there was more jealousy than theology in the complaint, and ignored it. Regis asked for transfer to Canada where he could preach without worries about the politics of the Order, but he was ordered to continue his good works in the French countryside.

At age 43 Regis had a premonition of his death. He spent three days in retreat, made a general confession, and resumed his mission in mountain villages. Bad weather set in, he spent his days preaching, his nights in poor shelter, developed pleurisy and then pneumonia. His last words were "Jesus, my Savior, I recommend my soul to You."

Born: 31 January 1597 at Font-Couverte, Narbonne, Languedoc, France

Died: 31 December 1640 of pneumonia while preaching a mission at La Louvesc, Dauphine, France

Canonized : 16 June 1737 by Pope Clement XII

Patronage : • against plague• embroiderers• lace makers, lace workers• medical social workers• social workers• French Jesuits• Sisters of Saint Francis Régis

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