



Breaking open the Word

SUNDAY GOSPEL READINGS December 2011, January, February, March, April 2012

December 11

Reflection:

John 1:6-8 (Third Sunday of Advent)

What word or phrase speaks to you? Why?

Is there a new idea or understanding that occurs to you after hearing the reading? What is it?

In what ways do you testify to the light who is Christ? How do you lead others to witness to Christ?

December 18

Reflection:

Luke 1:26-27 (Fourth Sunday of Advent)

What word or phrase speaks to you? Why?

Is there a new idea or understanding that occurs to you after hearing the reading? What is it?

Are we willing to live out God's plan for us just as Mary did?

December 25

Reflection:

John 1:1-18 (The Nativity of the Lord)

What word or phrase speaks to you? Why?

Is there a new idea or understanding that occurs to you after hearing the reading? What is it?

After weeks of preparing our hearts for this celebration of the Nativity of the Lord, preparing our homes for family gatherings, and preparing food and gifts, take a moment now to be quiet and ponder the glorious message of this day.

January 1

Reflection:

Luke 2:16-21 (Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God)

What word or phrase speaks to you? Why?

Is there a new idea or understanding that occurs to you after hearing the reading? What is it?

Are we open to seeing and experiencing the love of God in our daily lives? Do we hold that grace and ponder it in our heart?

January 8

Reflection:

Matthew 2:1-12 (The Epiphany of the Lord)

What word or phrase speaks to you? Why?

Is there a new idea or understanding that occurs to you after hearing the reading? What is it?

How do we share all that we have been given so that others may see the brightness of Christ's light and life through us?

ORDINARY TIME

The term "Ordinary Time" may be misleading. In the context of the liturgical year the term "ordinary" does not mean "usual or average." Ordinary here means "not seasonal." Ordinary Time is that part of the Liturgical Year that lies outside the seasons of Lent-Easter and Advent-Christmas. In Ordinary Time, the Church celebrates the mystery of Christ not in one specific aspect but in all its aspects. The readings during the liturgies of Ordinary Time help to instruct us on how to live out our Christian faith in our daily lives.

Ordinary Time in the Church's year occurs in two sections. The first part begins on the Monday following the Christmas season, which ends with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord on the Sunday following January 6. It lasts through the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Lenten season. Ordinary Time resumes after the Easter Season, on the Monday after Pentecost, and continues until evening prayer on the Saturday before the First Sunday of Advent. (from William H. Sadler, Inc., Publishers)

January 15

Reflection:

John 1:35-42 (The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time)

What word or phrase speaks to you? Why?

Is there a new idea or understanding that occurs to you after hearing the reading? What is it?

When did you first become aware of Jesus in your own life? How do you now stay with our Lord, learn his ways, and draw others to him?

January 22

Reflection:

Mark 1:14-20 (Third Sunday in Ordinary Time)

What word or phrase speaks to you? Why?

Is there a new idea or understanding that occurs to you after hearing the reading? What is it?

What things do you need to leave behind in order to follow Jesus Christ?

January 29

Reflection:

Mark 1:21-28 (Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time)

What word or phrase speaks to you? Why?

Is there a new idea or understanding that occurs to you after hearing the reading? What is it?

How do you give Christ authority in your life?

February 5

Reflection

Mark 1:29-39 (Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time)

What word or phrase speaks to you? Why?

Is there a new idea or understanding that occurs to you after hearing the reading? What is it?

How do we preach and reach out to those who seek our Lord and those who do not know for whom they seek?

February 12

Reflection:

Mark 1:40-45 (Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time)

What word or phrase speaks to you? Why?

Is there a new idea or understanding that occurs to you after hearing the reading? What is it?

How do you “publicize” the wonders that God has wrought in your life?

February 19

Reflection:

Mark 2: 1-12 (Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time)

What word or phrase speaks to you? Why?

Is there a new idea or understanding that occurs to you after hearing the reading? What is it?

We can easily become paralyzed by fear, worry, and pride. From what paralysis do you need to rise?

February 26

Reflection

Mark 1 12-15 (First Sunday of Lent)

What word or phrase speaks to you? Why?

Is there a new idea or understanding that occurs to you after hearing the reading? What is it?

How do we repent and begin doing all things in prayerful union With God? Do we rely on the strength of our Lord to sustain us in all things?

March 4

Reflection

Mark 9:2-10 (Second Sunday of Lent)

What word or phrase speaks to you? Why?

Is there a new idea or understanding that occurs to you after hearing the reading? What is it?

Are there any journeys or mountains that you are avoiding out of fear or inactions? How can we be encouraged to trust fully as we walk with Christ?

March 11

Reflection

John 2:12-35 (Third Sunday of Lent)

What word or phrase speaks to you? Why?

Is there a new idea or understanding that occurs to you after hearing the reading? What is it?

Even though it may make us unpopular or make us contribute to temporary discomfort, do we act in ways that can upset the status quo?

March 18

Reflection

John 3:14-21 (Fourth Sunday of Lent)

What word or phrase speaks to you? Why?

Is there a new idea or understanding that occurs to you after hearing the reading? What is it?

Are there parts of our lives we prefer to keep hidden in the darkness?

March 25
Reflection

John 12:20-33 (Fifth Sunday of Lent)

What word or phrase speaks to you? Why?
Is there a new idea or understanding that occurs to you after hearing the reading? What is it?
Through our Baptism, we are united with Christ in death and life. Does this union give our lives meaning beyond the passing moments of yesterday or today?

April 1
Reflection

Mark 14:1 - 15:47 (Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord)

What word or phrase speaks to you? Why?
Is there a new idea or understanding that occurs to you after hearing the reading? What is it?
Do we promise to stand with Christ in his Passion, through death, and into the life to come?

April 8
Reflection

John 20:1-9 (Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord)

What word or phrase speaks to you? Why?
Is there a new idea or understanding that occurs to you after hearing the reading? What is it?
Alleluia! Christ is risen! What wonder and awe do you find in the mysteries of God's love? How do you proclaim the Good News to the world?