

# **Sunday Prayer at Home**

## **The Baptism of the Lord**

**January 10, 2021**

*For use by St. Mary's Parishioners  
Immaculate Conception Church, Alton, IL*

## Explanation

We have resumed public Mass at St. Mary's, abiding by social distancing requirements. The dispensation from Sunday Mass remains in effect. This booklet of readings and prayers is designed to help your family keep the Lord's day holy, even if you do not go to church.

It is most fitting for the father of the house to lead these prayers, encouraging the participation of as many members of the family as possible in the various readings and intercessions.

In place of the Eucharist, pray an Act of Spiritual Communion (included). Desire to receive the living presence of God into your souls. This may be done many times each day without limit. Holy Communion is distributed on Sunday on 4<sup>th</sup> Street from 11:45am-12:30pm, one car at a time. Those at higher risk should continue to shelter at home.

The Vatican has decreed special conditions for receiving plenary indulgences during this time (<https://bit.ly/2xj6pAw>). The prayer service outlined in this booklet satisfies the conditions, together with a firm desire to receive the Eucharist and sacramental absolution in confession as soon as possible. A plenary indulgence is the full pardon of temporal punishment due to our sins in this life (a "get out of purgatory free" card). The decree mentions many other actions that are granted an indulgence during the time of pandemic.

The place and attire: it would be nice for everyone to dress as for Sunday Mass, to arrange the room with candles or statues of saints or a bible in a prominent place. It may also help to sit and stand together like we do at Mass.

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## Introduction

**Leader:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Leader:** Let us call to mind our sins and ask the Lord for his merciful forgiveness.

**All:** I confess to Almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned. In my thoughts, and in my words, in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault. Therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

**Leader:** May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

**All:** Amen.

**Leader:** Let us pray. (*pause in silence*)

Almighty ever-living God,  
who, when Christ had been baptized in the River Jordan  
and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him,  
solemnly declared him your beloved Son,  
grant that your children by adoption,  
reborn of water and the Holy Spirit,  
may always be well pleasing to you.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

## **Liturgy of the Word**

### **First Reading ([Isaiah 55:1–11](#))**

Thus says the LORD:

All you who are thirsty,  
come to the water!

You who have no money,  
come, receive grain and eat;  
come, without paying and without cost,  
drink wine and milk!

Why spend your money for what is not bread,  
your wages for what fails to satisfy?

Heed me, and you shall eat well,  
you shall delight in rich fare.

Come to me heedfully,  
listen, that you may have life.

I will renew with you the everlasting covenant,  
the benefits assured to David.

As I made him a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and commander of nations,  
so shall you summon a nation you knew not,  
and nations that knew you not shall run to you,  
because of the LORD, your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, who has glorified you.

Seek the LORD while he may be found,  
call him while he is near.

Let the scoundrel forsake his way,  
and the wicked man his thoughts;  
let him turn to the LORD for mercy;

to our God, who is generous in forgiving.  
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.  
As high as the heavens are above the earth  
so high are my ways above your ways  
and my thoughts above your thoughts.

For just as from the heavens  
the rain and snow come down  
and do not return there  
till they have watered the earth,  
making it fertile and fruitful,  
giving seed to the one who sows  
and bread to the one who eats,  
so shall my word be  
that goes forth from my mouth;  
my word shall not return to me void,  
but shall do my will,  
achieving the end for which I sent it.

## **Responsorial Psalm (Isaiah 12:2–3, 4bcd, 5–6)**

**R. (3) You will draw water joyfully  
from the springs of salvation.**

God indeed is my savior;

I am confident and unafraid.

My strength and my courage is the LORD,  
and he has been my savior.

With joy you will draw water  
at the fountain of salvation.

**R. You will draw water joyfully  
from the springs of salvation.**

Give thanks to the LORD, acclaim his name;  
among the nations make known his deeds,  
proclaim how exalted is his name.

**R. You will draw water joyfully  
from the springs of salvation.**

Sing praise to the LORD for his glorious achievement;  
let this be known throughout all the earth.

Shout with exultation, O city of Zion,  
for great in your midst  
is the Holy One of Israel!

**R. You will draw water joyfully  
from the springs of salvation.**

## **Second Reading ([1 John 5:1–9](#))**

Beloved:

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is begotten by God,

and everyone who loves the Father loves also the one begotten by him.

In this way we know that we love the children of God when we love God and obey his commandments.

For the love of God is this, that we keep his commandments.

And his commandments are not burdensome, for whoever is begotten by God conquers the world.

And the victory that conquers the world is our faith.

Who indeed is the victor over the world

but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is the one who came through water and blood, Jesus Christ,

not by water alone, but by water and blood.

The Spirit is the one who testifies, and the Spirit is truth.

So there are three that testify, the Spirit, the water, and the blood, and the three are of one accord.

If we accept human testimony, the testimony of God is surely greater.

Now the testimony of God is this, that he has testified on behalf of his Son.

## **Alleluia**

**R. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

John saw Jesus approaching him, and said:  
Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

**R. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

## **Gospel ([Mark 1:7–11](#))**

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.”

## Reflection

*Pause for silent reflection. Members of the family may share what inspired them, or what they are praying for on this day. This is not a time for open discussion, but for speaking from the heart while the others listen. Someone may read aloud from a printed reflection or homily written by someone else on the readings and circumstances of the day.*

## Creed

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
(*bow*) and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,  
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## Intercessions

**Leader:** Because of our baptism, we are able  
to offer these petitions to God as our Father.  
We therefore pray with confidence.

**Reader:**

1. That the Church may effectively lead all peoples to acknowledge Christ as the Son of God, we pray to the Lord...
2. That nations may resolve their conflicts by seeking the justice and peace brought to the world by the Lord Jesus, we pray to the Lord...
3. For our teachers, that they may be blessed with the wisdom to lead their students faithfully; and for all students, that they may be filled with the gift of understanding and their hearts and minds be continually open to the wisdom and knowledge imparted through the grace of God, we pray to the Lord...
4. That as we commemorate the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, every parishioner will devote themselves and their families to praying for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life, especially from our own parish, we pray to the Lord...
5. That those who are ill may, as sons and daughters of God, offer their sufferings to him with patience and trust, we pray to the Lord ...
6. That those who have died may share the glory of eternal life, we pray to the Lord...

7. For all the intentions we hold in our hearts  
(*pause for a few seconds*), we pray to the Lord...

**Leader:** Father, we thank you for making us your children.

Answer the prayers we have offered today with  
confidence and trust.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

## **Spiritual Communion**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Leader:** At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**All:** Our Father ...

### **Act of Spiritual Communion**

My Jesus,  
I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.  
I love You above all things,  
and I desire to receive You into my soul.  
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there  
and unite myself wholly to You.  
Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

### **Silent Thanksgiving**

*Here, a moment of silence may be observed to thank Jesus for coming into our hearts, and to ask Him personally for all that we need.*

## **Conclusion**

**Leader:** May the Lord bless us, † protect us from evil,  
and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

## **Dismissal**

**Leader:** Let us go in peace.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

## **Prayer to St. Michael**

Saint Michael the Archangel,  
defend us in battle.

Be our protection

against the wickedness and snares of the devil.

May God rebuke him, we humbly pray;

and do Thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host,

by the Power of God,

cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits

who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

## St. Mary's Streaming Schedule

On <https://www.facebook.com/stmarysalton> (no account/login)

- Monday-Friday, 5:30pm Rosary
- The regular Mass schedule has resumed in the church, with social distancing, facemasks recommended  
**Monday-Saturday** 6:30am and 8am (also streaming)  
**Fridays** 8:15am during school year, still streaming  
**Full Sunday Mass schedule:**
  - Saturday 5:15pm,
  - Sunday 6:30am,  
8am (also streaming; facemasks required),  
9:30am, 11am, 6pm

Please visit our homepage at <https://www.stmarysalton.com> for the most current directives and schedules.

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