



January, 2024

Special Dates:

The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God (January 1)

The Epiphany of the Lord (January 7)

The Baptism of the Lord (January 8)

Prayer for Christian Unity (January 18-25)

Sunday of the Word of God (January 21)

St. John Bosco (January 31)

Featured Special Season: Ordinary Time

During Ordinary Time, the Church celebrates the fullness of the mystery of the Lord Jesus. The people of God offer praise by celebrating the Paschal Mystery of the Death and Resurrection of Jesus.

On the first day of the week, the Lord's Day God assembles the beloved people to hear the Word, to reflect upon it, to offer the living sacrifice of praise, and to eat and drink the banquet of the Lord. Then God sends them forth to proclaim this love by their words and actions.

Sunday is the original Christian Feast Day, following the traditional handed down from Apostolic times, for this was the day of the Lord's Resurrection. Today's Christian communities continue this tradition by celebrating every Sunday as the day of the risen Lord.

****taken from 'Ordo: Liturgical Calendar 2023-2024' published by the CCCB**



Food for Thought!

If, on a typical Sunday morning, you were asked to turn to the people next to you in the pew and ask them why they came to mass, what response do you think you would receive? Many people would say they have come because coming to church on Sunday means something to them: a sense of belonging, a sense of community, a sense of God's presence. Others might like the music or the homily. Some people will say they have come out of a sense of obligation – because the church says that we have to go to church on Sunday. If you were to talk to some of the younger members of the assembly, they might tell you that they are in church because their parents made them come.

How many would respond that they are present because God has called them to come and celebrate with this community? We respond to God's call with praise and thanksgiving. Our ability to give praise and thanks to God always originates with God. This is echoed in the words of Eucharistic Prayer III: "from age to age you have gathered a people to yourself." It is our saying "yes" to God's call that makes us put the Sunday paper down, turn off the early morning sports, or decide that the lawn can be mowed or the snow shoveled at another time, in order that we may join with our brothers and sisters to offer praise and thanksgiving to the God who has called us. This is why the Second Vatican Council calls the liturgy the "source" and the "summit" of our lives as Christians (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy [CSL], 10).

The pattern of God's call and our response, the foundation of how we live out our daily lives as Christians, is most fully expressed when we gather for worship. The assembly that gathers together on Sunday or during the week to celebrate eucharist, the sacraments, or the prayer of the church becomes a visible sign to the world of God's loving presence, not only in the lives of this community, but for all people. The gathered assembly makes visible the body of Christ, the church.

****taken from 'Preparing for Liturgy Series: Preparing the Assembly to Celebrate'
by Kim Aldi-Wanner**