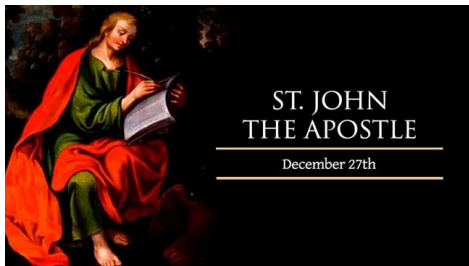


**Monday-Saturday, 27th Dec 2021-1st Jan 2022**

**Week - Year C**

**MONDAY**

*Feast of St John, apostle, evangelist*



**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** This is John, who reclined on the Lord's breast at supper, the blessed Apostle, to whom celestial secrets were revealed and who spread the words of life through all the world.

**The Glory to God in the highest is said.**

**READING:** *1 John 1:1-4*

*A reading from the first letter of St John.*

Something which has existed since the beginning, that we have heard, and we have seen with our own eyes; that we have watched and touched with our hands: the Word, who is life – this is our subject. That life was made visible: we saw it and we are giving our testimony, telling you of the eternal life which was with the Father and has been made visible to us.

What we have seen and heard we are telling you so that you too may be in union with us, as we are in union with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing this to you to make our own joy complete.

**PSALM:** **Let the just rejoice in the Lord..**

**ACCLAMATION:** **Alleluia, alleluia!**

**You are God: we praise you; you are the Lord: we acclaim you; the glorious company of apostles praise you. Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL:** *John 20:2-8*

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.*

On the first day of the week Mary of Magdala came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb' she said 'and we don't know where they have put him.'

So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:** **The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and from his fullness we have all received.**

**TUESDAY**

*Feast of the Holy Innocents*



**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** **The innocents were slaughtered as infants for Christ; spotless, they follow the Lamb and sing for ever: Glory to you, O Lord.**

**The Glory to God in the highest is said.**

**READING:** *1 John 1:5-2:2*

*A reading from the first letter of St John.*

This is what we have heard from Jesus Christ, and the message that we are announcing to you: God is light; there is no darkness in him at all.

If we say that we are in union with God while we are living in darkness, we are lying because we are not living the truth.

But if we live our lives in the light, as he is in the light, we are in union with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

If we say we have no sin in us, we are deceiving

ourselves and refusing to admit the truth; but if we acknowledge our sins, then God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and purify us from everything that is wrong.

To say that we have never sinned is to call God a liar and to show that his word is not in us.

I am writing this, my children, to stop you sinning; but if anyone should sin, we have our advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, who is just; he is the sacrifice that takes our sins away, and not only ours, but the whole world's.

**PSALM: Our soul has escaped like a bird from the hunter's net.**

**ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia!**

**You are God: we praise you; you are the Lord: we acclaim you; the white-robed army of martyrs praise you! Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL: Matthew 2:13-18**

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.*

After the wise men had left, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you, and escape into Egypt, and stay there until I tell you, because Herod intends to search for the child and do away with him.' So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, left that night for Egypt, where he stayed until Herod was dead. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: I called my son out of Egypt. Herod was furious when he realised that he had been outwitted by the wise men, and in Bethlehem and its surrounding district he had all the male children killed who were two years old or under, reckoning by the date he had been careful to ask the wise men. It was then that the words spoken through the prophet Jeremiah were fulfilled: A voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loudly lamenting: it was Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted because they were no more.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:** Behold those redeemed as the first fruits of the human race for God and the Lamb, and who follow the Lamb wherever he goes.

**WEDNESDAY**

*Mass of the Day*

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: God so loved the world that he gave his Only Begotten Son, so that all who believe in him may not perish, but may have eternal life.**

**The Glory to God in the highest is said.**

**FIRST READING: 1 John 2:3-11**

*A reading from the first letter of St John.*

We can be sure that we know Jesus only by keeping his commandments. Anyone who says, 'I know him', and does not keep his commandments, is a liar, refusing to admit the truth.

But when anyone does obey what he has said, God's love comes to perfection in him. We can be sure that we are in God only when the one who claims to be living in him is living the same kind of life as Christ lived.

My dear people, this is not a new commandment that I am writing to tell you, but an old commandment that you were given from the beginning, the original commandment which was the message brought to you.

Yet in another way, what I am writing to you, and what is being carried out in your lives as it was in his, is a new commandment; because the night is over and the real light is already shining.

Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the dark. But anyone who loves his brother is living in the light and need not be afraid of stumbling; unlike the man who hates his brother and is in the darkness, not knowing where he is going, because it is too dark to see.

**PSALM: Let heaven and earth exult in joy!**

**ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia!**

**This is the light of revelation to the nations, and the glory of your people, Israel. Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-35**

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.*

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man called Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said: 'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for

the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.’

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Through the tender mercy of our God, the Dawn from on high will visit us.**

### **THURSDAY**

*Mass of the Day*

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: When a profound silence covered all things and night was in the middle of its course, your all-powerful Word, O Lord, bounded from heaven's royal throne.**

**The Glory to God in the highest is said.**

**READING: 1 John 2:12-17**

*A reading from the first letter of St John.*

I am writing to you, fathers, who have come to know the one who has existed since the beginning; I am writing to you, young men, who have already overcome the Evil One; I have written to you, children, because you already know the father; I have written to you, fathers, because you have come to know the one who has existed since the beginning; I have written to you, young men, because you are strong and God's word has made its home in you, and you have overcome the Evil One. You must not love this passing world or anything that is in the world. The love of the Father cannot be in any man who loves the world, because nothing the world has to offer – the sensual body, the lustful eye, pride in possessions – could ever come from the Father but only from the world; and the world, with all it craves for, is coming to an end; but anyone who does the will of God remains for ever.

**PSALM: Let heaven and earth exult in joy!**

**ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia!**

**A holy day has dawned upon us. Come, you nations, and adore the Lord. Today a great light has come upon the earth. Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL: Luke 2:36-40**

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.*

There was a prophetess, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem. When they had done everything the

Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON: From his fullness we have all received grace upon grace.**

### **FRIDAY**

*Mass of the Day*

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: A child is born for us, and a son is given to us; his sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.**

**READING: 1 John 2:18-21**

*A reading from the first letter of St John.*

Children, these are the last days; you were told that an Antichrist must come, and now several antichrists have already appeared; we know from this that these are the last days.

Those rivals of Christ came out of your own number, but they had never really belonged; if they had belonged, they would have stayed with us; but they left us, to prove that not one of them ever belonged to us.

But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and have all received the knowledge. It is not because you do not know the truth that I am writing to you but rather because you know it already and know that no lie can come from the truth.

**PSALM: Let heaven and earth exult in joy!**

**ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia!**

**The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us. He enabled those who accepted him to become the children of God. Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL: John 1:1-18**

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.*

In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God.

He was with God in the beginning.

Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him.

All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower.

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world.

He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him

he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself.

The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John appears as his witness. He proclaims:

'This is the one of whom I said: He who comes after me ranks before me because he existed before me.' Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received – yes, grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ.

No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON: God sent his only Begotten Son into the world, so that we might have life through him.**

## SATURDAY

*Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God  
And World Day of Peace*



**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** Hail, Holy Mother, who gave birth to the King, who rules heaven and earth for ever.

**FIRST READING:** *Numbers 6:22-27*

*A reading from the book of Numbers.*

The Lord spoke to Moses and said, 'Say this to Aaron and his sons: "This is how you are to bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them:

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord let his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord uncover his face to you and bring you peace." This is how they are to call down my name on the sons of Israel, and I will bless them.'

**PSALM: May God Bless us in his mercy.**

**SECOND READING:** *Galatians 4:4-7*

*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Galatians*

When the appointed time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born a subject of the Law, to redeem the subjects of the Law and to enable us to be adopted as sons. The proof that you are sons is that God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts: the Spirit that cries, 'Abba, Father', and it is this that makes you a son, you are not a slave any more; and if God has made you son, then he has made you heir.

**ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia!**

**In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; now he speaks to us through his Son. Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL:** *Luke 2:16-21*

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.*

The shepherds hurried away to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told.

When the eighth day came and the child was to be circumcised, they gave him the name Jesus, the name the angel had given him before his conception.

**The Creed is said.**

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and for ever.**