

Sunday and Feast Day Liturgical Notes for Priests and Deacons

Suggestions for Leading Worship



Office of Worship
P.O. Box 2028
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-2028
Phone: (225) 242-0120
Fax: (225) 336-8731
E-Mail: tranzino@diobr.org

RE: Liturgical Suggestions for the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Sunday or Feast Day date: January 12-13, 2008

Dear Fathers and Deacons,

An Overview of this Sunday...

This is the first time in three years that we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord on a Sunday. Following last week's manifestation of Jesus at the Epiphany, the Baptism of the Lord heralds yet another time that God reveals Jesus to us as His "beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." Baptism also marks the beginning of Christ's public ministry. It reminds us that our Baptisms calls us to act out our mission as "beloved" children of God, just as Jesus does in His ministry. The first reading this Sunday helps to identify our mission as one of justice, healing and liberation. "I, the Lord, have called you for the victory of justice."

Some Considerations As You Prepare...

1. This is an ideal Sunday for baptisms of infants and to allow your assembly to renew its baptismal commitments. A Sprinkling Rite would be most appropriate.
2. Both Opening Prayers, which call to mind Christ revelation as God's Son, would be appropriate.

3. The Proper Preface for the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (P7) is specified for this feast day.
4. This the last day of the year on which to use the Solemn Blessing of Christmas.
5. The Baptism of the Lord ends the Christmas season. Decorations should be taken down after the last mass. There are some suggestions for services to conclude the season with evening prayer in the Sourcebook.

Some Reflection Questions...

1. How significantly does your Baptism determine your identity and mission?
2. How and when have you seen yourself as a “beloved” child of God? Do you have difficulty seeing others as beloved children of God?
3. With whom do you find it most difficult to be impartial?

Looking Ahead...

This will be a short Ordinary Time so preparations should already be underway for the Lenten season which begins on February 6. Daily Mass schedules for Lent need to be publicized.

Some Intercessories for the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Priest: Let us call upon the God who loves us enough to care for our needs.

Deacon (or other reader if there is no deacon):

1. May the Spirit of God descend on our world and its leaders, bringing the light of compassion and justice to places darkened by war and violence, we pray to the Lord.
2. May our Church show no partiality, opening its doors to all people: the outcast, the oppressed, the immigrant, the old, the poor, the lonely, we pray to the Lord.
3. May the Spirit of God's peace be with all those, especially children, who share the baptismal waters with Jesus today, we pray to the Lord
4. May this assembly, gathered as a baptized people, strive to please God in all we do this week, we pray to the Lord.
5. May our friends and loved ones, who have died [especially _____], be beloved by God in eternal life, we pray to the Lord.
6. In silence we lift up the prayers of our hearts.

Priest: Father, hear the prayers of our hearts
and speak to us with your blessings,
so that we may please you in all we do.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
your Beloved Son and our Savior.
Amen.