

January

The month of January is dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus, which is celebrated on January 3rd.

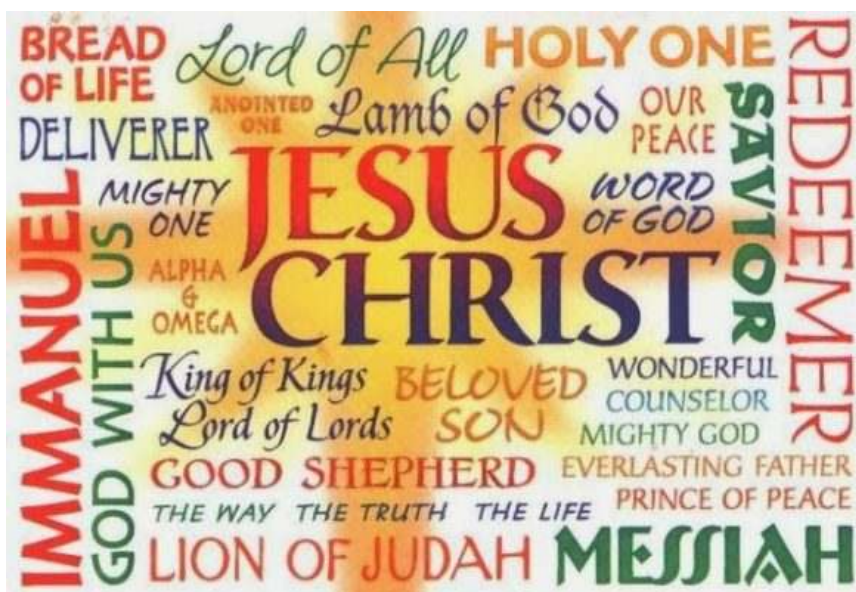
"Thou shalt call His Name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins."

The opening days of January may be cold and nature bleak, but the domestic church still glows warm with the peace and joy of Christmas; The first twelve days of January fall during the liturgical season known as Christmas it is represented by the liturgical colour white — the colour of light, a symbol of joy, purity and innocence (absolute or restored). We dedicate the New Year to Mary on the 1st of January in the Solemnity honouring her as Mother of God. It is through the virginal Motherhood of Mary that the Word was made flesh. In adoring the Son of God made man in the Child of Bethlehem, we recognize that Mary is the Mother of God — Magnificat; on January 6th, the Solemnity of Epiphany (celebrated on the nearest Sunday), we rejoice with her, as her Son is adored by the three Wise Men, whose gifts foreshadow future events and proclaim Him as King, Prophet and Priest. Herald John, who ushered in the Advent season, is present once again to close Christmastide on the feast of the Baptism of Our Lord (The First Luminous Mystery.) He points to Jesus, the Lamb of God who unites time and eternity in the Eucharistic Sacrifice, and even January's diminishing darkness seems to echo St. John's prayer: *"He must increase and I must decrease."*

The remaining days of January open the beginning of Ordinary Time, which is represented by the liturgical colour green. This symbol of hope is the colour of the sprouting seed and arouses in the faithful the hope of reaping the eternal harvest of Heaven, especially the hope of a glorious resurrection. The colour green is used in the offices and Masses of Ordinary Time.

In this liturgical season the Church eagerly follows Our Lord as he gathers his apostles and announces his mission. At Cana's wedding feast (The Second Luminous Mystery) he performs his first public miracle at the request of his Mother, and his disciples see his glory and believe in him.

We, his present-day disciples should pray for a like faith as we contemplate the eternal wedding feast of the Lamb and the unique role of the Blessed Mother in the plan of salvation. We should wholeheartedly obey her words of counsel: *"Do whatever he tells you."*



This month the main liturgical feasts are:

Mary Mother of God (January 1st)
St. Basil the Great and St. Gregory Nazianzen (January 2nd)
Holy Name of Jesus (January 3rd)
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (January 4th)
St. John Neumann (January 5th)
Epiphany of the Lord (January 6th)
Andre Bessette (January 6th)
Raymond of Penafort (January 7th)
Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (January 12th)
St Hilary; St Kentigern (Mungo) (January 13th)
St Anthony, abbot (January 17th)
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday
St Fabian and St Sebastian (January 20th)
St Agnes (January 21st)
Day of Prayer for Unborn (January 22nd)
Vincent of Saragossa (January 23rd)
Francis de Sales; Our Lady of Peace (January 24th)
The Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle (January 25th)
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday - The Word of the Lord
Sts. Timothy and Titus (January 26th),
St Angela Merici (January 27th)
St Thomas Aquinas (January 28th)
St John Bosco (January 31st)

