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Proper of Saints
Common of Saints

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FIRST READING

The birth of Samson is announced by an angel.

A reading from the Book of Judges

13:2-7, 24-25a

There was a certain man from Zorah, of the clan of the Danites, whose name was Manoah.

His wife was barren and had borne no children.

An angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her,

“Though you are barren and have had no children,
yet you will conceive and bear a son.

Now, then, be careful to take no wine or strong drink
and to eat nothing unclean.

As for the son you will conceive and bear,
no razor shall touch his head,
for this boy is to be consecrated to God from the womb.

It is he who will begin the deliverance of Israel
from the power of the Philistines.”

The woman went and told her husband,

“A man of God came to me;
he had the appearance of an angel of God, terrible indeed.

I did not ask him where he came from, nor did he tell me his name.

But he said to me,

‘You will be with child and will bear a son.

So take neither wine nor strong drink, and eat nothing unclean.

For the boy shall be consecrated to God from the womb,
until the day of his death.’ ”

The woman bore a son and named him Samson.

The boy grew up and the LORD blessed him;
the Spirit of the LORD stirred him.

The word of the Lord.

209

JANUARY 6

If the Epiphany is celebrated on Sunday, January 7 or 8, the following readings are used for the Mass on January 6.

FIRST READING

The Spirit, the water, and the Blood.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

5:5-13

Beloved:

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.

Whoever believes in the Son of God
has this testimony within himself.

Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar
by not believing the testimony God has given about his Son.

And this is the testimony:
God gave us eternal life,
and this life is in his Son.

Whoever possesses the Son has life;
whoever does not possess the Son of God does not have life.

I write these things to you so that you may know
that you have eternal life,
you who believe in the name of the Son of God.

The word of the Lord.

FRIDAY

241

FIRST READING

We will not say to the work of our hands: our god.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Hosea

14:2-10

Thus says the LORD:
 Return, O Israel, to the LORD, your God;
 you have collapsed through your guilt.
 Take with you words,
 and return to the LORD;
 Say to him, “Forgive all iniquity,
 and receive what is good, that we may render
 as offerings the bullocks from our stalls.
 Assyria will not save us,
 nor shall we have horses to mount;
 We shall say no more, ‘Our god,’
 to the work of our hands;
 for in you the orphan finds compassion.”

I will heal their defection, says the LORD,
 I will love them freely;
 for my wrath is turned away from them.
 I will be like the dew for Israel:
 he shall blossom like the lily;
 He shall strike root like the Lebanon cedar,
 and put forth his shoots.
 His splendor shall be like the olive tree
 and his fragrance like the Lebanon cedar.
 Again they shall dwell in his shade
 and raise grain;
 They shall blossom like the vine,
 and his fame shall be like the wine of Lebanon.

Ephraim! What more has he to do with idols?
 I have humbled him, but I will prosper him.
 “I am like a verdant cypress tree”—
 Because of me you bear fruit!

Let him who is wise understand these things;
 let him who is prudent know them.
 Straight are the paths of the LORD,
 in them the just walk,
 but sinners stumble in them.

The word of the Lord.

TUESDAY

274

FIRST READING

Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

7:51—8:1a

Stephen said to the people, the elders, and the scribes:
 “You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears,
 you always oppose the Holy Spirit;
 you are just like your ancestors.
 Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute?
 They put to death those who foretold the coming of the righteous
 one,
 whose betrayers and murderers you have now become.
 You received the law as transmitted by angels,
 but you did not observe it.”

When they heard this, they were infuriated,
 and they ground their teeth at him.
 But Stephen, filled with the Holy Spirit,
 looked up intently to heaven and saw the glory of God
 and Jesus standing at the right hand of God,
 and Stephen said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened
 and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”
 But they cried out in a loud voice,
 covered their ears, and rushed upon him together.
 They threw him out of the city, and began to stone him.
 The witnesses laid down their cloaks
 at the feet of a young man named Saul.
 As they were stoning Stephen, he called out,
 “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”
 Then he fell to his knees and cried out in a loud voice,
 “Lord, do not hold this sin against them”;
 and when he said this, he fell asleep.

Now Saul was consenting to his execution.

The word of the Lord.



FIRST WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

When the Baptism of the Lord occurs on Monday of the First Week in Ordinary Time, the readings assigned to Monday may be joined to those of Tuesday so that the opening of each book will be read.

MONDAY

305

FIRST READING

Year II

Hannah's rival turned it into a constant reproach to her
that the LORD had left her barren.

A reading from the beginning of the first Book of Samuel

1:1-8

There was a certain man from Ramathaim, Elkanah by name,
a Zuphite from the hill country of Ephraim.
He was the son of Jeroham, son of Elihu,
son of Tohu, son of Zuph, an Ephraimite.
He had two wives, one named Hannah, the other Peninnah;
Peninnah had children, but Hannah was childless.
This man regularly went on pilgrimage from his city
to worship the LORD of hosts and to sacrifice to him at Shiloh,
where the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas,
were ministering as priests of the LORD.
When the day came for Elkanah to offer sacrifice,
he used to give a portion each to his wife Peninnah
and to all her sons and daughters,
but a double portion to Hannah because he loved her,
though the LORD had made her barren.
Her rival, to upset her, turned it into a constant reproach to her
that the LORD had left her barren.
This went on year after year;
each time they made their pilgrimage to the sanctuary of the LORD,
Peninnah would approach her,
and Hannah would weep and refuse to eat.
Her husband Elkanah used to ask her:
“Hannah, why do you weep, and why do you refuse to eat?
Why do you grieve?
Am I not more to you than ten sons?”
The word of the Lord.

378

TUESDAY

FIRST READING

Year II

The Lord GOD speaks—who will not prophesy!

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Amos

3:1-8; 4:11-12

Hear this word, O children of Israel, that the LORD pronounces over you,

over the whole family that I brought up from the land of Egypt:

You alone have I favored,
more than all the families of the earth;
Therefore I will punish you
for all your crimes.

Do two walk together
unless they have agreed?
Does a lion roar in the forest
when it has no prey?
Does a young lion cry out from its den
unless it has seized something?
Is a bird brought to earth by a snare
when there is no lure for it?
Does a snare spring up from the ground
without catching anything?
If the trumpet sounds in a city,
will the people not be frightened?
If evil befalls a city,
has not the LORD caused it?
Indeed, the Lord GOD does nothing
without revealing his plan
to his servants, the prophets.

The lion roars—
who will not be afraid!
The Lord GOD speaks—
who will not prophesy!

I brought upon you such upheaval
as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah:
you were like a brand plucked from the fire;
Yet you returned not to me,
says the LORD.

WEDNESDAY

451

FIRST READING

Year II

Give me neither poverty nor riches; provide me only with the food I need.

A reading from the Book of Proverbs

30:5-9

Every word of God is tested;
 he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.
 Add nothing to his words,
 lest he reprove you, and you will be exposed as a deceiver.
 Two things I ask of you,
 deny them not to me before I die:
 Put falsehood and lying far from me,
 give me neither poverty nor riches;
 provide me only with the food I need;
 Lest, being full, I deny you,
 saying, "Who is the LORD?"
 Or, being in want, I steal,
 and profane the name of my God.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

119:29, 72, 89, 101, 104, 163

R. (105) Your word, O Lord, is a
 lamp for my feet.

Remove from me the way of falsehood,
 and favor me with your law.

R. Your word, O Lord, is a lamp for
 my feet.

The law of your mouth is to me more
 precious
 than thousands of gold and silver
 pieces.

R. Your word, O Lord, is a lamp for
 my feet.

Your word, O LORD, endures forever;
 it is firm as the heavens.

R. Your word, O Lord, is a lamp for
 my feet.

From every evil way I withhold my feet,
 that I may keep your words.

R. Your word, O Lord, is a lamp for
 my feet.

Through your precepts I gain discern-
 ment;
 therefore I hate every false way.

R. Your word, O Lord, is a lamp for
 my feet.

Falsehood I hate and abhor;
 your law I love.

R. Your word, O Lord, is a lamp for
 my feet.

500

THURSDAY

FIRST READING

Year II

The Lamb that was slain purchased us with
his Blood from every nation.

A reading from the Book of Revelation

5:1-10

I, John, saw a scroll in the right hand of the one who sat on the throne.

It had writing on both sides and was sealed with seven seals.

Then I saw a mighty angel who proclaimed in a loud voice,

“Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?”

But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth
was able to open the scroll or to examine it.

I shed many tears because no one was found worthy
to open the scroll or to examine it.

One of the elders said to me, “Do not weep.

The lion of the tribe of Judah, the root of David, has triumphed,
enabling him to open the scroll with its seven seals.”

Then I saw standing in the midst of the throne
and the four living creatures and the elders
a Lamb that seemed to have been slain.

He had seven horns and seven eyes;
these are the seven spirits of God sent out into the whole world.

He came and received the scroll from the right hand
of the one who sat on the throne.

When he took it,
the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders
fell down before the Lamb.

Each of the elders held a harp and gold bowls filled with incense,
which are the prayers of the holy ones.

They sang a new hymn:

“Worthy are you to receive the scroll
and break open its seals,
for you were slain and with your Blood you purchased for God
those from every tribe and tongue, people and nation.

You made them a kingdom and priests for our God,
and they will reign on earth.”

The word of the Lord.

[540]

R. I will bless the Lord at all times.

or:

R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Fear the LORD, you his holy ones,
for nought is lacking to those who
fear him.

The great grow poor and hungry;
but those who seek the LORD want
for no good thing.

R. I will bless the Lord at all times.

or:

R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

ALLELUIA

John 13:34

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved you.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

You shall love the Lord your God, and your
neighbor as yourself.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel
according to Matthew 22:34-40

When the Pharisees heard that
Jesus had silenced the Sad-
ducees,
they gathered together, and one of
them,
a scholar of the law, tested him by
asking,
“Teacher, which commandment in
the law is the greatest?”

He said to him,

“You shall love the Lord, your God,
with all your heart,
with all your soul,
and with all your mind.

This is the greatest and the first com-
mandment.

The second is like it:

You shall love your neighbor as
yourself.

The whole law and the prophets de-
pend on these two command-
ments.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

541

March 17

Saint Patrick,
bishop

From the Common of Pastors: For
Missionaries, p. 1433,

OR:

FIRST READING

Each one has received a gift; use it to serve
one another.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint
Peter 4:7b-11

Beloved:
Be serious and sober-minded
so that you will be able to pray.
Above all, let your love for one an-
other be intense,
because love covers a multitude of
sins.
Be hospitable to one another without
complaining.
As each one has received a gift, use it
to serve one another
as good stewards of God’s varied
grace.

	Sunday			Weekday					
	A	B	C	I	II	I, II			
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* The long and short readings of the same pericope are indicated by an asterisk. The numbers refer to chapters and verses, not to pages.