

January 3, 2023

Good Morning All,

Fr. Gillespie is on Retreat. No Mass or Confession today.

Hilltoppers Lunch today at 11:30. Guest Speaker is Terence Roberts, Mayor of Anderson.

Consecration to Mary class with Deacon Chet Johns begins tonight at 6:30 at the Parish Office.

1. Today's Readings: [Christmas Weekday | USCCB](#)

2. The RE Corner with Jan Heithaus: Since Our Lord was a Jew, a lot of the basis of Catholicism comes from the Jewish faith. In Jewish thought, a name is not merely an arbitrary designation, a random combination of sounds. The name conveys the nature and essence of the thing named. It represents the history and reputation of the being named.

This is not as strange or unfamiliar a concept as it may seem at first glance. In English, we often refer to a person's reputation as his "good name." When a company is sold, one thing that may be sold is the company's "good will," that is, the right to use the company's name. The Hebrew concept of a name is very similar to these ideas.

An example of this usage occurs in [Ex. 3:13-22](#): [Moses](#) asks God what His "name" is. Moses is not asking "what should I call you;" rather, he is asking "who are you; what are you like; what have you done." That is clear from God's response. God replies that He is eternal, that He is the God of our ancestors, that He has seen our affliction and will redeem us from bondage.

Because a name represents the reputation of the thing named, a name should be treated with the same respect as the thing's reputation. For this reason, God's Names, in all of their forms, are treated with enormous respect and reverence in Judaism. ([jewfaq.org](#))

Today we celebrate Devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus. How do we reverence—or fail to reverence--the Most Holy Name of Our Lord? Read the beautiful preaching by St. Bernadine about the Holy Name.

3. Quotes of the Day:

~ "Faith in Jesus and in the power of His Holy Name is the greatest spiritual force in the world today. It is a source of joy and inspiration in our youth; of strength in our manhood, when only His Holy Name and His grace can enable us to overcome temptation; of hope, consolation, and confidence at the hour of our death, when more

than ever before, we realize that the meaning of Jesus is 'Lord, the Savior.' We should bow in reverence to His Name and submission to His Holy Will." *Blessed Henry Suso*

~ "Was it not through the brilliance and sweet savour of this Name, that God called us into His marvelous light?" *St Bernadine of Siena*

~ "So great is the Most Holy Name of Jesus that God highly exalted Him and gave Him the Name that is above every name, so that at the Name of Jesus every knee should bend; in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." *St Paul the Apostle (Phil 2:9-11)*

~ Jesus, Name full of glory, grace, love and strength!

You are the refuge of those who repent,
our banner of warfare in this life,
the medicine of souls,
the comfort of those who mourn,
the delight of those who believe,
the light of those who preach the true faith,
the wages of those who toil,
the healing of the sick.

To You, our devotion aspires;
by You, our prayers are received;
we delight in contemplating You.
O Name of Jesus,
You are the glory
of all the saints for eternity. Amen.
-*St. Bernadine of Siena*

St. Joseph, Pray for Us!

Blessed be the most holy Name of Jesus without end!

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Devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus

The month of January is traditionally dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus, with January 3rd being the feast of the Holy Name. After the Blessed Virgin Mary had conceived her Child by the Holy Spirit, the angel Gabriel appeared to St. Joseph and instructed him that the Child's name should be called Jesus, which means "God Saves".

A BIT OF HISTORY

Historically, this special feast reverencing Jesus' name is closely associated with the Feast of the Circumcision of Jesus. According to Jewish law, on the 8th day after his birth a male child was circumcised, received his name, and became a full member of God's covenant people.

This is what happened to Jesus, in fulfillment of the Law, as we read in Luke 2:21: *"And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb."*

According to the old Roman liturgical calendar, the Feast of the Circumcision of Jesus was celebrated on January 1st, eight days after his birth on Christmas, the same day that he was given his sacred name. Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Mother of God on January 1st and honor the Feast of the Holy Name on January 3rd.

For Catholics, Jesus' sacred name is the object of a special devotion. Devotion to the Most Holy Name of Jesus was popularized by St. Bernardine of Siena, a 15th-century Franciscan, often symbolized by the monogram "IHS", (sometimes called a Christogram), which is the first three letters of the Greek spelling of Jesus' name.



INVOKING THE NAME OF JESUS

Invoking the name of Jesus in an ejaculatory and reverential manner is so powerful that it has historically been associated with the granting of indulgences by various Popes such as Pope Sixtus V, Pope Benedict XIII, Pope Clement XIII, and Pope Pius X.

It was even common in some places in the Middle Ages to greet one another in the name of Jesus, and to spontaneously exclaim, "Praise be to Jesus Christ!" with the response, "For evermore", or "Amen".

Invoking the name of Jesus goes back even further to the Early Church in the form of the "Jesus Prayer". This penitential prayer very simply says, "**Lord Jesus Christ Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner,**" which can be repeated on a prayer rope or Jesus Beads just as the Hail Mary is prayed on the Rosary.

It's a shame that the lovable name of Jesus, so powerful and salvific, is so often invoked in vain or in blasphemy. To more greatly honor the name of Jesus ensure that you and your family avoid making this mistake yourselves, and, whenever you hear the name of Jesus said in vain or blasphemed, make up for the sacrilege by praising the name of Jesus either in your heart, or even better, out loud. Jesus is the King of Kings, and this small act of love for His Name will not go unrewarded by him.

**For this reason also,
God highly exalted Him,
and bestowed on Him the name
which is above every name,
so that at the name of JESUS
every knee will bow,
of those who are in heaven
and on earth and under the earth,**

and that every tongue will confess

that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

(Philippians 2:9-11)

Source: catholiccompany.com

The Holy Name of Jesus

San Bernardino of Siena (a.k.a. St. Bernadine) was a great Franciscan preacher from Tuscany who died in 1444. He was very successful at fostering devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus, taking St. Paul as his model.

The name of Jesus is the glory of preachers because the shining splendor of that name causes his word to be proclaimed and heard.

JESUS, THE DAZZLING LIGHT OF HEAVEN

And how do you think such an immense, sudden and dazzling light of faith came into the world, if not because Jesus was preached? Was it not through the brilliance and sweet savor of this name that God *called us into his marvelous light*? When we have been enlightened, and in that same light behold the light of heaven, rightly may the apostle Paul say to us: *Once you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord, walk as children of light.*

So, this name must be proclaimed, that it may shine out and never be suppressed. But it must not be preached by someone with sullied mind or unclean lips but stored up and poured out from a chosen vessel.

PAUL & THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS

That is why our Lord said of Saint Paul: *He is a chosen instrument of mine, the vessel of my choice, to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel. In this chosen vessel* there was to be a drink more pleasing than earth ever knew, offered to all mankind for a price they could pay, so that they would be drawn to taste of it. Poured into other chosen vessels, it would grow and radiate splendor. For our Lord said: *He is to carry my name.*

When a fire is lit to clear a field, it burns off all the dry and useless weeds and thorns. When the sun rises and darkness is dispelled, robbers, night-prowlers and burglars hide away. So, when Paul's voice was raised to preach the Gospel to the

nations, like a great clap of thunder in the sky, his preaching was a blazing fire carrying all before it. It was the sun rising in full glory. Infidelity was consumed by it, false beliefs fled away, and the truth appeared like a great candle lighting the whole world with its brilliant flame.

PAUL PRAISED THE NAME OF JESUS

By word of mouth, by letters, by miracles and by the example of his own life, Saint Paul bore the name of Jesus wherever he went. He praised the name of Jesus at all times, but never more than when bearing witness to his faith.

Moreover, the Apostle did indeed carry this name before *the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel* as a light to enlighten all nations. And this was his cry wherever he journeyed: *The night is passing away; the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves honorably as in the day* (Rom 13:12). Paul himself showed forth the burning and shining light set upon a candlestick, everywhere proclaiming *Jesus, and him crucified*.

JESUS, THE SAVIOR

And so, the Church, the bride of Christ strengthened by his testimony, rejoices with the psalmist, singing: *O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds*. The psalmist exhorts her to do this, as he says: *Sing to the Lord, and bless his name, proclaim his salvation day after day*. And this salvation is Jesus, her savior.

Source: crossroadsinitiative.com