

Sunday and Feast Day Liturgical Notes for Priests and Deacons

Suggestions for Leading Worship



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RE: Liturgical Suggestions for the 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Cycle A

Sunday date: January 19- 20, 2008

Dear Fathers and Deacons,

An Overview...

This year there are only three Sundays of Ordinary Time before we begin the Lenten season on February 6. On this Second Sunday of Ordinary Time, we hear from John, whose Gospel sounds remarkably similar to the one we heard last week on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. For this reason, we tend to think of this as a “transitional” Sunday which brings us out of the Christmas season into Ordinary Time. John tells us that John the Baptist meets Jesus, at first not knowing who He is, but then coming to know Him as “the Lamb of God” – another manifestation of Christ’s identity – and as the Son of God. John also clearly gives us the mission of Christ to take away the sins of the world.

The First Reading adds to the richness and depth of knowing Christ. We see Him as servant Lord, of a light to the nations. The Second Reading is from St. Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians, which we will hear from each Sunday until Lent. In today’s reading Paul establishes himself as an apostle appointed by God who tells the people of Corinth of their call to be holy, a call we still have today.

Some Considerations As You Prepare...

1. In the Penitential Rite, Form C, options C-iv, C-vi, C-vii and C-viii would work today.
2. Both Opening Prayers call to mind the peace of the Christ Child at Bethlehem. Either would be appropriate.
3. Preface 34 follows the message of the Gospel today as it speaks of the Holy Spirit's presence at Jesus' baptism.
4. This Week is the official "Week of Prayer for Christian Unity." It would be appropriate to include an intercessory prayer for this cause.
5. In the next week is also the anniversary of *Roe v Wade*. A petition for life could also be included in Sunday's Mass.
6. Monday is Martin Luther King Jr. Day, a federal and State holiday, and an opportunity to pray for unity and an end to racism.

Reflection Questions...

1. How has your image of Christ changed over the years: Jesus as friend, God, servant, Lamb of God, Good Shepherd? Who do you "understand" Jesus is to you today?
2. Who or what has helped you to come to know Jesus?
3. When other people interact with you, what are you teaching them about Jesus' identity?

Looking Ahead...

1. Monday, January 21, is Martin Luther King Day observed.
2. Tuesday, January 22, is the annual "Day of Penance for Violations to the Dignity of the Human Person Committed through Acts of Abortion" (GIRM, no. 373). Purple vestments are worn and the Mass "For Peace and Justice" should be celebrated.
3. Catholic Schools Week begins on Sunday, January 27.
4. Saturday, February 2, is the feast of the Presentation of the Lord, the day on which candles traditionally are blessed.
5. Ash Wednesday will be on February 6.

Sample Prayers of the Faithful – 2nd Ordinal Sunday

Priest: With confidence that the God who sent the Spirit upon the only Son will hear our prayers, we place our needs before Him...

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

1. For men and women who minister in the Lord's name. May they bring the gospel message of salvation to the ends of the earth, we pray to the Lord.
2. For our government leaders. May they continue the work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., by seeking equality for all people, we pray to the Lord.
3. For all Christians who long to know Jesus, for the candidates and catechumens in the R.C.I.A. process who seek the fullness of faith, we pray to the Lord.
4. For each of us here. May we who were formed in our mother's womb as servants of God work for the rights of the unborn, the oppressed and the condemned, we pray to the Lord.
5. For (_____names of particular deceased if any_____and) all who have died searching for God. May they be granted His mercy, we pray to the Lord.
6. In silence we lift up the prayers that lie unspoken in our hearts.

Priest: Father, you send your Spirit upon us, your faithful servants. Hear and answer the prayers we place before you today and make us true servants who bring you praise and glory. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, who lives and reigns with you forever and ever. Amen.