

Bulletin Shorts for Year B – 2021

Sunday Prayer Shaping Life and Belief

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Christmas Time

This Bulletin Shorts Series began in 2016 during the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. Now, in this sixth year, it still aims to help the faithful and catechumens delve into the Sunday Scriptures and wrestle with Christian life. The hope is to rest more and more in God's grace and act in more merciful ways. The style is mystagogical.

Use these shorts with your diocese, parish, ministry, and friends. Put in the mail, post on the website, print in bulletin or newsletter, and share in other helpful ways. They are a gift. They are also posted on some diocesan worship office web pages. Here are two direct links:

- ◇ Diocese of Springfield in Illinois: <http://www.dio.org/worship/liturgical-year.html>
- ◇ Diocese of Belleville: <https://dps.diobelle.org/offices/worship/seasonal-recources>
- ◇ Eliot Kapitan, Springfield, Illinois USA – ekapitan89@gmail.com

CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY ◇ Feed the hungry ◇ Give drink to the thirsty ◇ Shelter the homeless ◇ Clothe the naked ◇ Visit the sick ◇ Visit the prisoners ◇ Bury the dead ◇ Give alms to the poor ◇ Care of our Common Home ◇ **SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY** ◇ Counseling the doubtful ◇ Instructing the ignorant ◇ Admonishing the sinner ◇ Comforting the sorrowful ◇ Forgiving injuries ◇ Bearing wrongs patiently ◇ Praying for the living and the dead ◇ Caring for our Common Home ◇

Bulletin Shorts for Christmas Time in Year B – 2020-2021

The Nativity of the Lord [Christmas], Solemnity

At the Vigil Mass – Thursday, 24 December 2020

Isaiah 62:1-5. Psalm 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29. Acts 13:16-17, 22-25. Matthew 1:1-25.

At the Mass during the Night – Friday, 25 December 2020

Isaiah 9:1-6. Psalm 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13. Titus 2:11-14. Luke 2:1-14.

At the Mass at Dawn

Isaiah 62:11-12. Psalm 97:1, 6, 11-12. Titus 3:4-7. Luke 2:15-20.

At the Mass during the Day

Isaiah 52:7-10. Psalm 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6. Hebrews 1:1-6. John 1:1-18.

A Great Light. Isaiah declares (in 9:1): “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.” We have surely walked in darkness during this pandemic year. Some of us, perhaps all of us may still be there. We have been confined to home. We have jobs and homes in peril. We grieve the sickness and death of family, friends, and unknown-to-us citizens of this country and of the world. Yet we take hope this Christmas. For we are not alone. We are not left in darkness. Today, the Lord Jesus Christ is with us. In truth, he never abandons us. He will be with us today and tomorrow and tomorrow's tomorrow. And all the tomorrows.

- ◇ How do I know that Jesus is with me, is with us?

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, *Feast* – 27 December 2020

Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3. Psalm 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9. Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 7-19. Luke 2:22-40.

This Child. Every parent knows a child is a blessing who is filled with innocence and wonder and grace. Grandparents know this, too, perhaps in renewed and deeper ways. It is their hope that every child will grow strong, be wise, and be favored.

- ♦ How will I care for a child today even if not related to me?
- ♦ How can I help children be holy?
- ♦ How will I be holy because of the blessedness of children?

The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord [*Christmas*]**Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God – Friday, 01 January 2021**

Numbers 6:22-27. Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8. Galatians 4:4-7. Luke 2:16-21.

Being Amazed. All those who heard the shepherds (among the riffraff of ancient society) were amazed at what was said about angels on high ... about glory to God ... about the resting favor of God.

- ♦ How will I glorify and praise God this day?

The Epiphany of the Lord, *Solemnity* – 03 January 2021

Isaiah 60:1-6. Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13. Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6. Matthew 2:1-12.

Copartners in the Promise. The readings and this solemnity are filled with competing images and persons. Darkness and light. Christians of Jewish heritage and Gentiles. Chosen people and coheirs, copartners. Herod and the Magi. Epiphany teaches us this: all are members of the same body, all are coheirs of God's goodness, all are copartners in the promise of Christ Jesus.

- ♦ Like the Magi, how will I give homage to Christ today?
- ♦ Whom do I look down upon that I must see as a copartner with me?
- ♦ What treasure will I give away, will I offer to another?

The Baptism of the Lord, *Feast* – 10 January 2021

Isaiah 55:1-11. Isaiah 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6. 1 John 5:1-19. Mark 1:7-11.

God Shows No Partiality. Saint Peter speaks the truth. God is impartial. For everyone who acts uprightly is acceptable. Everyone. Politics may be partisan at times, but Christians can never be. Indeed, Baptism makes us all alike – with differing gifts and charisms – but all in the image of Christ whose name we bear. God says to us as well: "I am well pleased."

- ♦ Because of Baptism, how will I cherish even those not like me?
- ♦ What will I do today to bear the image of Christ?
- ♦ To whom will I say, because of this _____, I am well pleased?