

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023**

**The Holy Name of Jesus.**

**Psalm 26**

**Philippians 2:5-11**



January 1 – the start of a New Year, I think we may all be breathing a sigh of relief considering the past years. Today is special for a much more important reason – January 1<sup>st</sup> is the Octave Day of Christmas – an 8–day feast from Dec 25<sup>th</sup> to today.

Today was the day when Jesus, as an 8–day old, was taken to the temple by Mary and Joseph to be circumcised and to be named.

His name was chosen by God – not by man nor angel. His name was hidden in the heart of the Father **until the time was right**.

God wished to choose the name Himself which His well–beloved Son should bear upon earth, thus gave the name to the Angel Gabriel to pass on. it

**What does it mean – until the time was right?**

*In Psalms 31:15 we read: “at the right time, God will provide your need. At the right time, God will deliver you. At the right time, God will rescue you.”*

Ecclesiastes tells us there is a time and season for everything under heaven. This means that when God has planned it, things happen when they are supposed to, and nothing ever catches God by surprise.

We may sometimes wonder if God will ever respond to our prayers, but we must never doubt Him or give up hope. At the right time, He will respond.

Are you waiting for God's timing? Trust His judgement and trust that He has your best interests in mind.

The writer from **Psalms** sings out His praises to God, overwhelmed by all that God has done. He says – Praise His Name, for God overflows from His creation and should overflow from our lips.

We read in **Philippians**: there is a name which is above all other names. A name which we must always pronounce with the greatest reverence, with the most blissful happiness and the tenderest love and that is the name of Jesus.

I find it very offensive and sad when I hear people using the name of Jesus as a swear word or saying: Oh my God. Do they really know how offensive this is? Most have no idea who Jesus or God really are.

Jesus was born of a woman – He was human. He was born as a Jew – He was subject to God's law and fulfilled it perfectly.

The Hebrew name we write as "Jesus" was a compound word formed from the short nickname of God – "Yah" and the verb "shua" which means to save. So, the word means The Lord Saves.

Jesus told us in Scripture – if you ask the Father anything in My name, He will grant your request. Endowed with the power of the Holy name, the Disciples spread the Gospel to the world; the temples of the pagans collapsed, and the spirits of darkness fled.

In Jesus' name the Church carries on its divine mission to teach, pray, bless, and consecrate.

His name reminds us of His entire earthly life, from His birth, until His death. Of all the steps that He took, of the miracles that He worked, of all the sick that He healed, of all the dead that He raised to life, of the sinners whom He forgave, of the sacraments which He calls us to remember and partake of, of everything which the Incarnate Son of God did and still does, not only to render us happy here upon earth, but also to make us happy and to bless us for all eternity.

It is the name of honour, which belongs to the Son of God, who died upon the cross to save the fallen world. The name of Jesus was placed over His head on the cross – Jesus Nazarenus, Rex Judaeorum (Jesus of Nazareth – King of the Jews).

Jesus – the most blessed name in all the Universe – gives us advice in difficulties, courage in dangers, fortitude and strength in temptations, perseverance in life, consolation and joy in trouble and suffering.

His name now shines over heaven and earth to the glory of God.

No-one can explain the great mystery revealed on earth by Christ, the Incarnate Son of God, but in the fullness of time, He was revealed, He received a name which showed us distinctly, in the light of faith, the wonderful significance of the Incarnation of the Son of God and our redemption.

Jesus is the only mediator between God and man. He is called Immanuel; Lamb of God; Gate; Prince of Peace; Light of the World; Pioneer and perfecter of Faith; Shepherd; Resurrection and the life; Lord of Lord's. What do these names mean? Take a look at the handout available on the website or in hard copy here – you

can look up the Biblical reference and read more of the Holy Name of Jesus.