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Proper of Saints
Common of Saints

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DECEMBER 29

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The Fifth Day in the Octave of Christmas

FIRST READING

Those who love their brother remain in the light.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

2:3-11

Beloved:
 The way we may be sure that we know Jesus
 is to keep his commandments.
 Whoever says, “I know him,” but does not keep his command-
 ments
 is a liar, and the truth is not in him.
 But whoever keeps his word,
 the love of God is truly perfected in him.
 This is the way we may know that we are in union with him:
 whoever claims to abide in him ought to walk just as he walked.

Beloved, I am writing no new commandment to you
 but an old commandment that you had from the beginning.
 The old commandment is the word that you have heard.
 And yet I do write a new commandment to you,
 which holds true in him and among you,
 for the darkness is passing away,
 and the true light is already shining.

Whoever says he is in the light,
 yet hates his brother, is still in the darkness.
 Whoever loves his brother remains in the light,
 and there is nothing in him to cause a fall.
 Whoever hates his brother is in darkness;
 he walks in darkness
 and does not know where he is going
 because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

The word of the Lord.

FRIDAY

228

FIRST READING

Do I derive any pleasure from the death of the wicked
and not rejoice when he turns from his evil way that he may live?

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel

18:21-28

Thus says the Lord GOD:

If the wicked man turns away from all the sins he committed,
if he keeps all my statutes and does what is right and just,
he shall surely live, he shall not die.

None of the crimes he committed shall be remembered against
him;

he shall live because of the virtue he has practiced.

Do I indeed derive any pleasure from the death of the wicked?
says the Lord GOD.

Do I not rather rejoice when he turns from his evil way
that he may live?

And if the virtuous man turns from the path of virtue to do evil,
the same kind of abominable things that the wicked man does,
can he do this and still live?

None of his virtuous deeds shall be remembered,
because he has broken faith and committed sin;
because of this, he shall die.

You say, “The LORD’S way is not fair!”

Hear now, house of Israel:

Is it my way that is unfair, or rather, are not your ways unfair?
When someone virtuous turns away from virtue to commit iniquity,
and dies,

it is because of the iniquity he committed that he must die.

But if the wicked, turning from the wickedness he has committed,
does what is right and just,
he shall preserve his life;
since he has turned away from all the sins that he committed,
he shall surely live, he shall not die.

The word of the Lord.

[251]

Daniel said to him,
“Offspring of Canaan, not of Judah, beauty has seduced you,
lust has subverted your conscience.
This is how you acted with the daughters of Israel,
and in their fear they yielded to you;
but a daughter of Judah did not tolerate your wickedness.
Now, then, tell me under what tree you surprised them together.”
“Under an oak,” he said.
Daniel replied, “Your fine lie has cost you also your head,
for the angel of God waits with a sword to cut you in two
so as to make an end of you both.”

The whole assembly cried aloud,
blessing God who saves those who hope in him.
They rose up against the two elders,
for by their own words Daniel had convicted them of perjury.
According to the law of Moses,
they inflicted on them
the penalty they had plotted to impose on their neighbor:
they put them to death.
Thus was innocent blood spared that day.

The word of the Lord.

OR

SHORT FORM

Here I am about to die, though I have done
none of the things charged against me.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Daniel

13:41c-62

The assembly condemned Susanna to death.

But Susanna cried aloud:

“O eternal God, you know what is hidden
and are aware of all things before they come to be:
you know that they have testified falsely against me.

Here I am about to die,
though I have done none of the things
with which these wicked men have charged me.”

The Lord heard her prayer.

As she was being led to execution,
God stirred up the holy spirit of a young boy named Daniel,
and he cried aloud:
“I will have no part in the death of this woman.”

THIRD WEEK OF EASTER

273

MONDAY

FIRST READING

They could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit
with which he spoke.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

6:8-15

Stephen, filled with grace and power,
was working great wonders and signs among the people.
Certain members of the so-called Synagogue of Freedmen,
Cyrenians, and Alexandrians,
and people from Cilicia and Asia,
came forward and debated with Stephen,
but they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with
which he spoke.

Then they instigated some men to say,

“We have heard him speaking blasphemous words
against Moses and God.”

They stirred up the people, the elders, and the scribes,
accosted him, seized him,
and brought him before the Sanhedrin.

They presented false witnesses who testified,

“This man never stops saying things against this holy place and
the law.

For we have heard him claim

that this Jesus the Nazorean will destroy this place
and change the customs that Moses handed down to us.”

All those who sat in the Sanhedrin looked intently at him
and saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

The word of the Lord.

FIRST READING

Year I

So now praise God. Behold, I am about to ascend to him who sent me.

A reading from the Book of Tobit

12:1, 5-15, 20

Tobit called his son Tobiah and said to him,
 “Son, see to it that you give what is due to the man
 who made the journey with you; give him a bonus too.”
 So he called Raphael and said,
 “Take as your wages half of all that you have brought back,
 and go in peace.”

Raphael called the two men aside privately and said to them:

“Thank God! Give him the praise and the glory.

Before all the living,

acknowledge the many good things he has done for you,
 by blessing and extolling his name in song.

Honor and proclaim God’s deeds,

and do not be slack in praising him.

A king’s secret it is prudent to keep,

but the works of God are to be declared and made known.

Praise them with due honor.

Do good, and evil will not find its way to you.

Prayer and fasting are good,

but better than either is almsgiving accompanied by righteousness.

A little with righteousness is better than abundance with wickedness.

It is better to give alms than to store up gold;

for almsgiving saves one from death and expiates every sin.

Those who regularly give alms shall enjoy a full life;

but those habitually guilty of sin are their own worst enemies.

“I will now tell you the whole truth;

I will conceal nothing at all from you.

I have already said to you,

‘A king’s secret it is prudent to keep,

but the works of God are to be made known with due honor.’

I can now tell you that when you, Tobit, and Sarah prayed,

it was I who presented and read the record of your prayer
 before the Glory of the Lord;

and I did the same thing when you used to bury the dead.

457

WEDNESDAY

FIRST READING

Year I

If it please the king, send me to the city of my ancestors and I will rebuild it.

A reading from the Book of Nehemiah

2:1-8

In the month Nisan of the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes,
when the wine was in my charge,

I took some and offered it to the king.

As I had never before been sad in his presence,
the king asked me, “Why do you look sad?

If you are not sick, you must be sad at heart.”

Though I was seized with great fear, I answered the king:

“May the king live forever!

How could I not look sad

when the city where my ancestors are buried lies in ruins,
and its gates have been eaten out by fire?”

The king asked me, “What is it, then, that you wish?”

I prayed to the God of heaven and then answered the king:

“If it please the king,

and if your servant is deserving of your favor,
send me to Judah, to the city of my ancestors’ graves,
to rebuild it.”

Then the king, and the queen seated beside him,
asked me how long my journey would take
and when I would return.

I set a date that was acceptable to him,
and the king agreed that I might go.

I asked the king further: “If it please the king,
let letters be given to me for the governors
of West-of-Euphrates,
that they may afford me safe-conduct until I arrive in Judah;
also a letter for Asaph, the keeper of the royal park,
that he may give me wood for timbering the gates
of the temple-citadel and for the city wall
and the house that I shall occupy.”

The king granted my requests,
for the favoring hand of my God was upon me.

The word of the Lord.

498

TUESDAY

FIRST READING

Year I

I will leave to the young a noble example of how
to die willingly and generously for the revered and holy laws.

A reading from the second Book of Maccabees

6:18-31

Eleazar, one of the foremost scribes,
a man of advanced age and noble appearance,
was being forced to open his mouth to eat pork.
But preferring a glorious death to a life of defilement,
he spat out the meat,
and went forward of his own accord to the instrument of torture,
as people ought to do who have the courage to reject the food
which it is unlawful to taste even for love of life.
Those in charge of that unlawful ritual meal took the man aside privately,
because of their long acquaintance with him,
and urged him to bring meat of his own providing,
such as he could legitimately eat,
and to pretend to be eating some of the meat of the sacrifice
prescribed by the king;
in this way he would escape the death penalty,
and be treated kindly because of their old friendship with him.
But Eleazar made up his mind in a noble manner,
worthy of his years, the dignity of his advanced age,
the merited distinction of his gray hair,
and of the admirable life he had lived from childhood;
and so he declared that above all
he would be loyal to the holy laws given by God.

He told them to send him at once
to the abode of the dead, explaining:
“At our age it would be unbecoming to make such a pretense;
many young people would think the ninety-year-old Eleazar
had gone over to an alien religion.
Should I thus pretend for the sake of a brief moment of life,
they would be led astray by me,
while I would bring shame and dishonor on my old age.
Even if, for the time being, I avoid the punishment of men,
I shall never, whether alive or dead,
escape the hands of the Almighty.

669

November 3

Saint Martin de Porres,

religious

From the Common of Holy Men and Women:
For Religious, p. 1472,

OR:**FIRST READING**

Think about whatever is worthy of praise.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul
to the Philippians 4:4-9

Brothers and sisters:
Rejoice in the Lord always.
I shall say it again: rejoice!
Your kindness should be known to all.
The Lord is near.
Have no anxiety at all, but in every-
thing,
by prayer and petition, with thanks-
giving,
make your requests known to God.
Then the peace of God that surpasses
all understanding
will guard your hearts and minds in
Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters,
whatever is true, whatever is honor-
able,
whatever is just, whatever is pure,
whatever is lovely, whatever is gra-
cious,
if there is any excellence
and if there is anything worthy of
praise,
think about these things.
Keep on doing what you have learned
and received
and heard and seen in me.
Then the God of peace will be with you.
The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 131:1bcde, 2, 3

R. In you, Lord, I have found my
peace.

**O LORD, my heart is not proud,
nor are my eyes haughty;
I busy not myself with great things,
nor with things too sublime for me.**

R. In you, Lord, I have found my
peace.

**Nay rather, I have stilled and quieted
my soul like a weaned child.
Like a weaned child on its mother's lap,
so is my soul within me.**

R. In you, Lord, I have found my
peace.

**O Israel, hope in the LORD,
both now and forever.**

R. In you, Lord, I have found my
peace.

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

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
Sadducees,
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?”

December 27

697

Saint John,
Apostle and evangelist

Feast

FIRST READING

What we have seen and heard we proclaim now to you.

A reading from the beginning of the first Letter of Saint John

1:1-4

Beloved:
 What was from the beginning,
 what we have heard,
 what we have seen with our eyes,
 what we looked upon
 and touched with our hands
 concerns the Word of life—
 for the life was made visible;
 we have seen it and testify to it
 and proclaim to you the eternal life
 that was with the Father and was made visible to us—
 what we have seen and heard
 we proclaim now to you,
 so that you too may have fellowship with us;
 for our fellowship is with the Father
 and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

We are writing this so that our joy may be complete.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12

R. (12) Rejoice in the Lord, you just!
 The LORD is king; let the earth rejoice;
 let the many isles be glad.
 Clouds and darkness are around him,
 justice and judgment are the founda-
 tion of his throne.

R. Rejoice in the Lord, you just!
 The mountains melt like wax before
 the LORD,
 before the LORD of all the earth.

**The heavens proclaim his justice,
 and all peoples see his glory.**

R. Rejoice in the Lord, you just!

**Light dawns for the just;
 and gladness, for the upright of
 heart.**

**Be glad in the LORD, you just,
 and give thanks to his holy name.**

R. Rejoice in the Lord, you just!

	Sunday			Weekday				Sunday			Weekday		
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