

THE WORD THIS SUNDAY

YOU ARE CHRIST'S BODY

SUNDAY, January 24, 2016

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING

Ezra read plainly from the book of the law of God, interpreting it so that all could understand what was read.

—*Nehemiah 8:2-4A, 5-6, 8-10*

PSALM

Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life.

—*Psalm 19*

SECOND READING

For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.

—*1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 27*

GOSPEL

He came to Nazareth, where he had grown up, and went according to his custom into the synagogue on the sabbath day. He stood up to read and was handed a scroll of the prophet Isaiah.

—*Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21*

REFLECTION QUESTION

What roles do each of the members of your family play in the “body” of your family? Who is the “hand” or “foot”?

This reflection continues in [Breaking Open the Word at Home](#), where you'll find more reflection questions and Scripture resources.

THE CHURCH THIS WEEK

MONDAY January 25

Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul

“...about noon a great light from the sky suddenly shone around me. I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’”

TUESDAY January 26

Sts. Timothy and Titus (first century)

The close companions and helpers of the apostle Paul; Paul's letters to them are in the New Testament.

WEDNESDAY January 27

St. Angela Merici (1470-1540)

The founder of a group of women dedicated to the education of girls; the group eventually became the Order of the Ursulines.

THURSDAY January 28

St. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274)

One of the greatest theologians in Church history, known as the “Angelic Doctor”; he never completed his greatest work because it seemed like “straw” compared to what God had revealed to him.

FRIDAY January 29

Servant of God Brother Juniper (d. 1258)

The humble and generous companion of St. Francis who played with children, gave away everything to the needy, and comforted St. Clare on her deathbed.

SATURDAY January 30

St. Balthild of Ascania (620-680)

The queen of Burgandy who founded monasteries and freed enslaved children.

THE WEEKS AHEAD

1 week to Catholic Schools Week (Jan 31-Feb 6)

2 weeks to Ash Wednesday (Feb 10)

Living in Christ day by day

THE Bread

fresh and free

Get Your Grace On

PRAY

Preview this Sunday's readings with your kids. [20]

Have you experienced the power of letting your kids lead? Have your kids plan and lead a family prayer service. (Works best with ages 4+ after you've been doing prayer for a while.) See "Let Kids Lead" at pbgrace.com. [30]

Make a list of the prayers your kids know by heart, and the prayers you'd like them to know by heart. Commit to reciting one prayer every day for a month to help your kids memorize it. See "Prayer by Osmosis" at pbgrace.com. [80]

CELEBRATE

Celebrate the feast of Brother Juniper by pulling out the old Brother Juniper comic strips by Fr. Justin 'Fred' McCarthy. The strip ran for 30 years in 150 papers, and featured Brother Juniper in a modern setting. Go to brotherjuniper.com for samples. [20]

SERVE

National Poverty Awareness Month ends this week. Sign up for Catholics Confront Global Poverty for lots of practical ways to help combat poverty: confrontglobalpoverty.org. [80]

Consider sponsoring a child overseas through an organization such as Unbound; it's a great way for your kids to make personal connections with kids in another country. See unbound.org. [80]

TALK

Teach your kids how to participate in polite, other-centered table conversation by playing the Question Game at your next family meal. The rules are simple: One person asks another person at the table a question about himself or herself (e.g., "What surprised you today?"). After that person answers, they can ask a question of another person at the table who hasn't spoken yet. [35]

Share a conversion story with your kids in honor of the Conversion of St. Paul. [30]



Mary

Have your kids check out questions 94-100 in the *Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church* (available online), where they'll also find the answers.

Then let them try to stump you with three questions. Some sample questions:

1. What is the meaning of the expression "conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit..."? (#94)
2. Why is Mary truly the Mother of God? (#95)
3. What does the "Immaculate Conception" mean? (#96)
4. How does Mary cooperate in the divine plan of salvation? (#97)
5. What does the virginal conception of Jesus mean? (#98)
6. In what way is the spiritual motherhood of Mary universal? (#100)

NOTES

Keep track of game points and family faith formation activities here.