

# The St. Isidore Addition

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**Scripture** is an important element of Catholic prayer and devotion. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* reminds us:

“The Church forcefully and specially exhorts all the Christian faithful . . . to learn ‘the surpassing knowledge of Jesus Christ’ (Phil 3:8) by frequent reading of the divine Scriptures. . . . Let them remember, however, that prayer should accompany the reading of Sacred Scripture, so that a dialogue takes place between God and man. For we speak to him when we pray; we listen to him when we read the divine oracles” (2653)

In the weeks of January, the Gospel verses focus on the very identity of Jesus. He is the incarnation of the Second Person of the Trinity, beloved by the Father and in communion with the Spirit, God’s “chosen one” Jesus’ mission is teaching us to change our lives and live in union with the Father. We are challenged to say yes to Jesus’ invitation as the apostles did, to live the beatitudes in our daily lives.

Week One: John 1:1-18

Week Two: Matthew 3:13-17

Week Three: John 1:29-34

Week Four: Matthew 4:12-23

Week Five: Matthew 5:1-12

## Reflections for Daily Living

- Love is at the core of the universe
- Life triumphs over death, though only first by dying itself
- The most appropriate form of human relationship is friendship
- Those who believe the truth of the first three propositions proclaim them to others essentially by celebrating.
- That band of friends who celebrate love in the universe, the triumph of life over death, and friendship among all people, and by thus celebrating the Good News to others, is called the **church** “Excerpt from Fr. Andrew Greeley found in 22 Steps to a Great Parish”

## Observe the Sabbath, and Keep it Holy

Don't use Sunday as your catch all day for errands and chores.

Share a family dinner after Mass. Have the whole family join in the preparation and the clean-up.

Go for a walk or a bike ride and give thanks to God for the beauty of nature.

Spend time reading the Bible or a spiritual book.

Pray the Rosary or the Liturgy of the Hours, alone or with others

Volunteer in a local food pantry.

Visit parishioners who are home bound.

Read Bible stories to your children.

Turn off your gadgets and enjoy the silence.



- Jan 1**-The Blessed Virgin Mary-Holy Day of Obligation  
**2** -The Epiphany of the Lord  
**3** -The Most Holy Name of Jesus  
**4** -St. Elizabeth Ann Seton  
**5**-Saint John Neumann  
**6**- Saint Andre Bessette  
**7** -Saint Raymond Penyafort- 1<sup>st</sup> Friday abstinence  
**8** -Our Lady of Prompt Succor  
**9** -The Baptism of the Lord  
**10** -1<sup>st</sup> week of ordinary time  
**13** -Saint Hilary  
**16** -2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of ordinary time  
**17**- Saint Anthony, Abbot  
**20**- Saint Sebastian  
**21** -Saint Agnes  
**22** -Saint Vincent-Day of Penance  
**23** -3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of ordinary time  
**24** - Francis de Sales  
**25** -The Conversion of Saint Paul  
**26** -Saints Timothy and Titus  
**27** -Saint Angela Merici  
**28** -Saint Thomas Aquinas  
**30** -4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in ordinary time  
**31** -St John Bosco

### Colors of the Liturgical Year

**Green**-Ordinary Time

**Violet**-Advent & Lent

(Funerals optional)

**Red**-Passion, Holy Spirit, Martyrs, Pentecost, Confirmation

**White**-Easter, Christmas, Feast of Our Lord (Funerals optional)

**Rose**-3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent, 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent (optional)

**Black**-Funerals (optional) Masses for the Dead and All Souls Day (optional)

## Out with the Old and In with the New....2011

With every New Year we search our souls for what we can do differently. What can I do to make this year better? Save more money, lose weight, exercise more and spend more time with family are all examples of those resolutions that we have all tried. Some may have been successful, but many of us fail. Life is hectic, busy and many times overwhelming.

As a community of faith let's resolve to slow down, breathe and make 2011 a year of spiritual renewal.

Every day offers us an opportunity to learn, with every sunrise and break of day God is giving us the framework to grow, change and renew our body and mind. The challenge for all of us is to listen and make the choices to do just that. From the book, **Rediscovering Catholicism**, in chapter 17 on Spiritual Reading, it states that "reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body and prayer is to the soul." *The goal of spiritual reading is to ignite the soul with desire to grow in virtue and thus become the best version of oneself.*

*If you want to grow in faith, identify the teaching of the Catholic Church that you find most difficult to understand and read about it. Study that issue. Read contemporary books about the issue by men and women of prayer who seek their writing to reveal the truth and depth of the Church's teaching. The challenge then is to take fifteen minutes a day and read a spiritual book. Make 2011 a year of spiritual renewal. It is amazing how powerfully just fifteen minutes with the right book can stir your soul. Bring the New Year in with a renewed spirit and give just fifteen minutes a day to learn and grow.*

## The "How" of Daily Prayer

**Quick Tips:** God likes to converse with you the way you like to converse with others; He doesn't want you to rattle on and hardly notice him.

Start by remembering God is present and telling him in your own words why you believe in him, hope in him and love him.

**Remember: Prayer is talking to God.**

**Meditating is listening to God.**

**HIDDEN HEROES & QUIET ANGELS** Being Christian involves service, community and leadership. How often do projects get quietly done at our parish? This month we reach out to those of our parish family that during the cold wintery months of Michigan weather, take the time to shovel, plow and de-ice our sidewalks and parking lots. We are grateful for these individuals or groups that brave the cold to keep us safe. Recognition and thanks to these special parishioners. Their works do not go unnoticed by our community or God himself.