

QUESTION OF THE WEEK
with Sunday Scripture Readings
The Solemnity of Mary
January 1, 2012
Breaking Open the Word

STEP ONE: Listen to the Word

For Faith Sharing—The Gospel [Luke 2:16-21](#)

Theme: Mary thinks deeply about what is happening to her.

The shepherds went in haste to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to them. When eight days were completed for his circumcision, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

QUESTION 1: What touches your heart in this reading? What stirs your gratitude? What challenges you?

STEP TWO: Look into Your Life

QUESTION 2: (for children): Mary took time to think deeply about what God was doing with her. What will you think deeply about today?

QUESTION 3 (for youth): Why do you think that giving birth to Jesus in a stable happened to Mary and Joseph? Would you be content or angry?

QUESTION 4 (for adults): Mary pondered the praise given to God in her newborn son. How do you ponder and treasure God's presence in your life?

Reading I: [Numbers 6:22-27](#)

The LORD said to Moses: "Speak to Aaron and his sons and tell them: This is how you shall bless the Israelites. Say to them: ***The LORD bless you and keep you! The LORD let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! The LORD look upon you kindly and give you peace!*** So shall they invoke my name upon the Israelites, and I will bless them."

Reading II: [Galatians 4:4-7](#)

Brothers and sisters: When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to ransom those under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. As proof that you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son then also an heir, through God.

[* The Question of the Week is from: http://your.harcourtreligion.com/lifelong_catechesis/adults_gow_24.jsp by Bill Huebsch and the Scripture readings are from *The New American Bible*.]

Special Mission Statement Question of the Week (for adults): How will I keep a daily awareness of the presence of Christ in me so that I may help others experience the living and loving presence of Christ through my daily prayer, actions, witness and service to others?

HNJ MISSION STATEMENT: We, the Catholic community at Holy Name of Jesus Parish, graced by the Holy Spirit, are called to invite all people to experience the living and loving presence of Christ by nurturing the spiritual growth of all our members through energetic celebration of the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, daily prayer, lifelong study of our faith, witness, service and hospitality.

WHY DISCUSS THE QUESTION OF THE WEEK?

It goes without saying that **the family is the first place where faith becomes real**. Here it is born, shared, lived, and loved. Therefore, we have provided this powerful resource to help you guide families—your own and those in your parish—with weekly exercises in faith. Use these resources. The Question of the Week is an opportunity to pause with your family, to reflect during your busy week and to allow the Word of God shared at Sunday Mass to enter more deeply into your souls. Are you sharing your faith with your loved ones regularly so that they may be graced and blessed?

The Second Vatican council reminds us that our Catholic faith is dynamic because: **God is at work in the world**. We learn throughout life. We never arrive. We must **deepen our understanding of the faith as we mature as adults**. And we do this best in community. The goal of being a mature Christian is to become an active, living disciple with **a personal relationship with Jesus Christ that we share with others**.

Faith sharing **informs people in the faith** so that who they are and how they live are deeply influenced by what they know. It involves **forming people** by nurturing their lifestyle as Christian disciples. It involves **transforming people** by empowering them **to live their faith so that the world is transformed**.

So, the regular practice of discussing the Question of the Week in our homes helps ‘jump start’ us in lifelong learning, invites us to become more active in a learning community in our parish and encourages us to communicate our faith with our loved ones at home. **Sharing how God touches our daily lives** teaches our family and others in deep, profound and powerful ways.