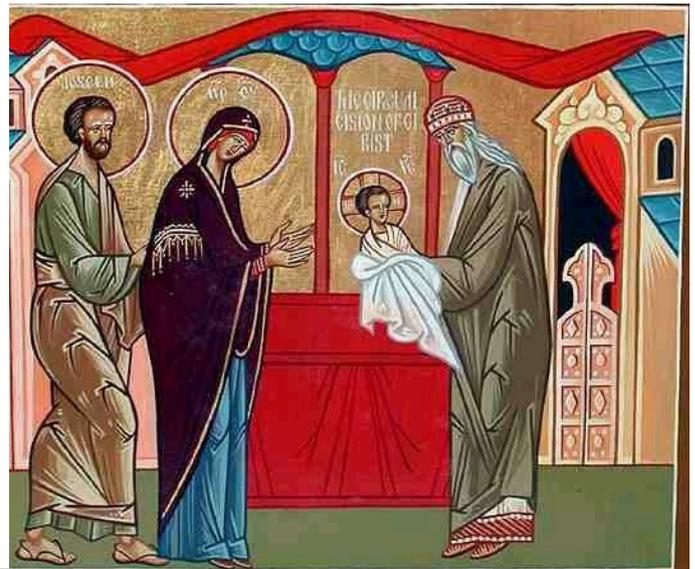




The month of January is dedicated to the Most Holy Name of Jesus.

On January 1, the Church focuses its attention on the mystery of the divine motherhood of Our Lady (which has its own feast on October 11, the anniversary of the ecumenical council of Ephesus in 431, in which it was proclaimed against Nestorius, who was insisting that the Virgin Mary cannot be the mother of God, of Jesus yes, but not of God) and on the circumcision of the Child born in Bethlehem, to whom the Holy Name of Jesus was imposed in this rite, the one that the archangel Gabriel had indicated to Mary in the annunciation, and to Saint Joseph in dreams, the "Name that is above every Name", before which "every knee bends in heaven, on earth and in the abyss", as Saint Paul says (Phil II, 9-10). Jesus (from the Hebrew Jehoshua) means "the one who saves".

Furthermore, there is no other name by which salvation comes to us, as Saint Peter proclaimed in his first preaching on the day of Pentecost (Act IV, 12). Hence, "if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart, that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (Rom X, 9-10). We are not saved, then, neither by Brahma, nor by Buddha, nor by Amaterasu, nor by Allah, nor by Muhammad, nor by Luther, nor by Russel, nor by Calvin, nor by the angel Moroni, nor by any other deity, or men's bill or founder of human religion. We are saved by Jesus, the second Person of the Holy Trinity, the Word incarnate through the work of the Holy Spirit in the most pure womb of the ever-Virgin Mother, the Christ, the anointed of the Father as High Priest, Eternal King and Prophet par excellence.



And those who are saved in different religions, all men of good will, who sincerely seek God in their hearts and live according to natural law, also owe their salvation to Jesus, even though they do not know him: they are saved in their religions, but not by virtue of their religions (which are false), but thanks to the mercy of God, which has been poured out of Jesus, and in his blessed Name, cause of our eternal health. The Church instituted a festival in honour of the Most Holy Name of Jesus, fixing it on the Sunday between Circumcision and Epiphany or, if this Sunday does not take place, on January 2. This year it is Sunday, so on January 3, we celebrate that name that is honey for the lips, and joy for the heart, who delighted a Saint Bernardine of Siena (1380-1444), who became its great apostle, and to whom is due the introduction of the feast in the seraphic order, to which it belonged and who contributed to spreading it, until the Pope Innocent XIII extended it to the entire Church in 1721. The Society of Jesus has also been a great propagandist of the Name that presides over it, whose monogram is famous.

The entire month of January is specially dedicated to the Most Holy Name of Jesus. Let us sanctify him daily by reciting the beautiful litanies that are dedicated to him, as they appear in the *Rituale Romanum*, and whose text in English, we offer to the devotion of our readers, to whom we wish a happy year that brings them Peace and Goodness



When this litany is prayed publicly, the congregation's responses to a leader appear in italics below.

Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us. Jesus, hear us.
Jesus, graciously hear us.
God the Father of Heaven, *have mercy on us*

(Repeat "Have mercy on us" after each line)

God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
God the Holy Ghost,
Holy Trinity, one God,
Jesus, Son of the living God,
Jesus, splendor of the Father,
Jesus, brightness of eternal light,
Jesus, King of glory,
Jesus, sun of justice,
Jesus, Son of the Virgin Mary,
Jesus, most amiable,
Jesus, most admirable,
Jesus, the mighty God,
Jesus, father of the world to come,
Jesus, Angel of great counsel,
Jesus, most powerful,
Jesus, most patient,
Jesus, most obedient,
Jesus, meek and humble of heart,
Jesus, lover of chastity,
Jesus, lover of us,
Jesus, God of peace,
Jesus, author of life,
Jesus, example of virtues,
Jesus, zealous lover of souls,
Jesus, our God,
Jesus, our refuge,
Jesus, father of the poor,
Jesus, treasure of the faithful,
Jesus, good Shepherd,
Jesus, true light,
Jesus, eternal wisdom,
Jesus, infinite goodness,

Jesus, our way and our life,
Jesus, joy of Angels,
Jesus, King of Patriarchs,
Jesus, Master of the Apostles,
Jesus, Teacher of the Evangelists,
Jesus, strength of Martyrs,
Jesus, light of Confessors,
Jesus, purity of Virgins,
Jesus, crown of all Saints,
Be merciful, *spare us, O Jesus.*
Be merciful, *graciously hear us, O Jesus.*
From all evil, *deliver us, O Jesus.* (after each line)
From all sin,
From Thy wrath,
From the snares of the devil,
From the spirit of fornication,
From everlasting death,
From the neglect of Thine inspirations,
By the mystery of Thy holy Incarnation,
By Thy Nativity,
By Thine Infancy,
By Thy most divine Life,
By Thy labors,
By Thine agony and Passion,
By Thy Cross and dereliction,
By Thy sufferings,
By Thy Resurrection,
By Thine Ascension,
By Thine institution of the most Holy Eucharist,
By Thy joys,
By Thy glory,

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world,
Spare us, O Jesus.

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world,
Hear us, O Jesus.

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world,
Have mercy on us, O Jesus.

Jesus, hear us.

Jesus, graciously hear us.

Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, who hast said: Ask and ye shall receive, seek, and ye shall find, knock, and it shall be opened unto you; mercifully attend to our supplications, and grant us the gift of Thy divine charity, that we may ever love Thee with our whole heart and with all our words and deeds, and may never cease from praising Thee.

Make us, O Lord, to have a perpetual fear and love of Thy holy Name, for Thou never failest to help and govern those whom Thou dost bring up in Thy steadfast fear and love; who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.



It is important to point out that the fear that that the Holy Name of Jesus should inspire in us is not a cringing, loathing kind of fear, but rather one of reverence and respect, as children should have for their parents.

Speaking of parents, the words our Blessed Mother said of the God the Father in the [Magnificat](#) can apply to her Son as well: "His mercy is from generation to generation on those who fear him." (Luke 1:50)

We should fear God's justice *and* trust in His mercy as well by asking Him for pardon for our sins in prayers such as this litany, in the Sacrament of the Eucharist (Mass), and, most importantly, in the Sacrament of Penance (Confession). AMEN