

The Incarnation

Reading: A reading from the Holy Gospel, according to John (John 1:1-14)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. He was in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him. But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name, who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a human's decision but of God.

And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.

Our Response to the Mystery of the Incarnation

Reading: A reading from Leviticus (19:32-34)

Stand up in the presence of the aged, show respect for the old, and love your God! When an alien resides with you in your land, do not mistreat such a one. You shall treat the alien who resides with you no differently than the natives born among you; you shall love the alien as yourself; for you too were once aliens in an alien land. I, the Lord, am your God.

God's Faithfulness

Reading: A reading from the Book of the prophet, Ezekiel (36:24-28)

For I will take you away from among the nations,
gather you from all the foreign lands,
and bring you back to your own land.
I will sprinkle clean water upon you
to cleanse you from all your impurities,
and from all your idols I will cleanse you.
I will give you a new heart and place a new spirit within you,
taking from your bodies your stony hearts
and giving you natural hearts.
I will put my spirit within you and make you live by my statutes,

careful to observe my decrees.
You shall live in the land I gave your ancestors;
you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

God's Love for Us

Reading: A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians

Brothers and sisters:

I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that he may grant you in accord with the riches of his glory to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in the inner self, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the holy ones what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to accomplish far more than all we ask or imagine, by the power at work within us, to him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen

Our Love for God

Reading: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew (6:19-24)

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and decay destroy, and thieves break in and steal. But store up treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor decay destroys, nor thieves break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.

Our Life in Community

Reading : A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their property and possessions and divide them among all according to each one's need. Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple area and to breaking bread in their homes. They ate their meals with exultation

and sincerity of heart, praising God and enjoying favor with all the people. And every day the Lord added to their number.

Renewal of our Commitment

The leader introduces "Renewal of Vows"

Renewal of Vows

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Loving and gracious God, in your presence and in union with Mary, Mother of the Incarnate Word, we renew our dedication to you as Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word. May our lives of consecrated celibacy, evangelical poverty and religious obedience, lived in community, bring us to a deeper union with you. May our love for you be manifested in our service to each other and to your people. Accept this offering of ourselves, and give us the grace and strength to be faithful to you forever. Amen.