

February 17
THE SEVEN HOLY FOUNDERS

First Fathers of the Order of Servants of Mary
Solemnity

Entrance Antiphon Sirach 44, 1,13b

Now will I praise these godly men, our ancestors, each in his own time: for all time their progeny will endure, their glory will never be blotted out.

Prayer of the Assembly

Merciful God,
guided by your care, Mary, our glorious Mother,
called seven holy men to found
the family of her Servants.
Grant that, by our devotion to Mary,
we may more generously serve you and each other.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
your Son, who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever.

First Reading Sirach 44, 1-2, 10-15

A Reading from the Book of Sirach

Let us praise famous men, our ancestors in their own time

Now will I praise those godly men,
our ancestors, each in his own time:
The abounding glory of the Most High's portion,
his own part, since the days of old.
Subduers of the land in kingly fashion,
men of renown for their might,
Yet these also were godly men
whose virtues have not been forgotten;
Their wealth remains in their families,
their heritage with their descendants;
Through God's covenant with them their family endures,
their posterity, for their sake.
And for all time their progeny will endure,
their glory will never be blotted out;
Their bodies are peacefully laid away,
but their name lives on and on.
At gatherings their wisdom is retold,
and the assembly proclaims their praise.

This is the Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 36 (37) 3-4; 11. 18. 39-40

R/. The heritage of the just will last for ever

If you trust in the Lord and do good,
Then you will live in the land of the Lord,
He will grant your heart's desire.

R/. The heritage of the just will last for ever

But the humble shall own the land
And enjoy the fulness of peace.
He protects the lives of the upright,
Their heritage will last for ever.

R/. The heritage of the just will last for ever

The salvation of the just comes from the Lord,
Their stronghold in time of distress.
The Lord helps them and delivers them
And saves them: for their refuge is in him.

R/. The heritage of the just will last for ever

Second Reading Eph. 4, 1-6; 15-16

A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians

I, then, a prisoner for the Lord,
urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received,
with all humility and gentleness, with patience,
bearing with one another through love,
striving to preserve the unity of the spirit
through the bond of peace:
one body and one Spirit,
as you were also called to the one hope of your call;
one Lord, one faith, one baptism;
one God and Father of all,
who is over all and through all and in all.
Rather, living the truth in love,
we should grow in every way into him who is the head,
Christ, from whom the whole body,
joined and held together by every supporting ligament,
with the proper functioning of each part,
brings about the body's growth and builds itself up in love.

This is the Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation outside Lent: Proverbs 4, 18

Alleluia, Alleluia!

The path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day.
Alleluia!

Gospel Acclamation In Lent Proverbs 4, 18

Glory and Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Glory and Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

The path of the righteous is like the light of dawn Which shines brighter and brighter until full day.
Glory and Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Gospel Reading

John 17, 20-24

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

(While they were at table, Jesus said)
“Father, I pray not only for them,
but also for those who will believe in me through their word,
so that they may all be one,
as you, Father, are in me and I in you,
that they also may be in us,
that the world may believe that you sent me.
And I have given them the glory you gave me,
so that they may be one, as we are one,
I in them and you in me,
that they may be brought to perfection as one,
that the world may know that you sent me,
and that you loved them even as you loved me.
Father, they are your gift to me.
I wish that where I am they also may be with me,
that they may see my glory that you gave me,
because you loved me before the foundation of the world.
Righteous Father,
the world also does not know you, but I know you,
and they know that you sent me.
I made known to them your name
and I will make it known,
that the love with which you loved me
may be in them and I in them.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Prayer over the Offerings

Lord,
send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts
to transform them into
the sacrament of your presence
and to fill us, like the Seven Holy Founders,
with your love.
(We ask this) through Christ our Lord.

PREFACE I

In a wondrous way He called them to the glorious service of the Mother of God

Father, all-powerful and ever-living God,
we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks,
to praise, bless and give you glory
on this solemnity (*or* as we celebrate the memory) of our holy Fathers.

It was you who wondrously called them

to the service of the glorious Mother of God,
that they might stand faithfully with her near the cross of Jesus,
and lead your people
to that abundant source of salvation
flowing from the wounds of Christ.
It was you who chose them,
because of the great love that bound them together,
to be ministers of unity and peace
so that, as the chains of strife were broken,
they might unite your faithful in a covenant of peace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels in heaven
we proclaim your glory
and join in their endless hymn of praise: Holy, Holy...

Communion Antiphon John 15: 16

It was I who chose you to go forth and bear fruit. Your fruit must endure.

Postcommunion Prayer

Let us pray Pause for silent prayer, if this has not preceded

Almighty God,
In this eucharist,
we have shared in the Lord's passion.
Through the intercession of
the Seven Holy Founders,
may we be devoted to Mary
and share in her suffering at the foot of the cross.
(We ask this) through Christ our Lord.

Solemn Blessing

Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.

May God, who made the Seven Holy Founders
an outstanding example of mutual love
fill you with fervent charity
by which you may be recognized
as true disciples of Christ. Amen.

Through the intercession of the Seven Holy Founders
whose memory you have celebrated with joy,
may you be steadfast in the following of Christ
and faithful in your service to the Blessed Virgin. Amen.

As you patiently bear the burdens of this life,
may you come to share the rewards of heaven
in the company of the Seven Holy Founders. Amen.

May Almighty God bless you,
Father + Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Shorter Blessing:

Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.

Fill with your grace, Lord,
the people you have gathered together to celebrate
the solemnity of the Seven Holy Founders.
May the joy that they have experienced in this
celebration lead them
to a more authentic Christian witness.

May Almighty God bless you,
Father + Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE SEVEN HOLY FOUNDERS

*First Fathers of the Order of Servants of Mary
Solemnity - Second Mass Texts*

Entrance Antiphon Sirach 44,1, 13b

Now will I praise these godly men, our ancestors, each in his own time:
for all time their progeny will endure, their glory will never be blotted out.

Prayer of the Assembly

Almighty God,
origin and source of unity and peace,
you willed that the Seven Holy Founders
of the Order of Servants of Mary
might be shining examples
of fraternal love and service of Our Lady.
Grant that, following their example,
we may be mediators
of peace and ministers of reconciliation.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
your Son, who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever.

First Reading Isaiah 2, 2-5

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

In days to come,
The mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest mountain
and raised above the hills.
All nations shall stream toward it;
many peoples shall come and say:
"Come, let us climb the LORD's mountain,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
That he may instruct us in his ways,
and we may walk in his paths."
For from Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
He shall judge between the nations,
and impose terms on many peoples.
They shall beat their swords into ploughshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
One nation shall not raise the sword against another,
nor shall they train for war again.
O house of Jacob, come,
let us walk in the light of the LORD!

This is the Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 22 (23) 1-6

R/. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell, for ever and ever

The Lord is my shepherd; *
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures *
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me, *
to revive my drooping spirit.

R/. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell, for ever and ever

He guides me along the right path; *
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness *
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff; *
with these you give me comfort.

R/. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell, for ever and ever

You have prepared a banquet for me *
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil; *
my cup is overflowing.

R/. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell, for ever and ever

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me *
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell *
for ever and ever.

R/. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell, for ever and ever

2nd Reading Acts 2, 42. 44-48

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Those [who were baptised] remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers. And everyone was filled with awe; the apostles worked many signs and miracles. And all who shared the faith owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and distributed the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed.

Each day, with one heart, they regularly went to the Temple but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

This is the Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation outside of Lent

Proverbs 4, 18

Alleluia, Alleluia! The path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day. Alleluia!

Gospel Acclamation In Lent: Proverbs 4, 18

Glory and Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Glory and Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

The path of the righteous is like the light of dawn

Which shines brighter and brighter until full day.

Glory and Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel Reading Matthew 20, 25-28

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus summoned the disciples and said,

“You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and the great ones make their authority over them felt.

But it shall not be so among you.

Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you shall be your servant;

whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave.

Just so, the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

This is the Gospel

Prayer over the Offerings

Lord,

Send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts to transform them into

the sacrament of your presence

and to fill us, like the Seven Holy Founders, with your love.

(We ask this) through Christ our Lord.

PREFACE II

Our Seven Fathers, disciples and servants of the Virgin Mary

Father all-powerful and ever-living God, we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks through Jesus Christ our Lord.

In your wisdom and love,

you called our Seven Holy Fathers to the service of the Blessed Virgin.

From your faithful handmaid they learned

to open their hearts to the Word of life,

to faithfully respond to the call of the Holy Spirit

and to serve you in their brothers and sisters.

In deepening their understanding of Mary,

who was united in the work of your Son,

they learned how to bind the wounds of those who suffer,

to offer solace to those who mourn,
and to support with compassion those who have fallen.
Moved by the goodness of your gifts,
and joining with the angels of heaven,
we raise our voices in praise, as we say: Holy, Holy...

Communion Antiphon John 15, 16

It was I who chose you to go forth and bear fruit. Your fruit must endure.

Postcommunion Prayer

Let us pray ¶ Pause for silent prayer, if this has not preceded

Almighty God,
In this Eucharist, we have shared in the Lord's passion.
Through the intercession of
the Seven Holy Founders,
may we be devoted to Mary
and share in her suffering at the foot of the cross.
(We ask this) through Christ our Lord

Solemn Blessing

Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.

May God, who made the Seven Holy Founders
one in heart and soul
make you of one mind in seeking the Reign of God. Amen.

May the Lord preserve you in faith
and fill you with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

May God make you faithful disciples of Christ and devoted servants of his Mother. Amen.
May Almighty God bless you,
Father + Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Shorter Blessing

Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.

Lord God,
bestow the gifts of your love
upon the faithful who honour
the Seven Holy Founders.
Give them health of mind and body,
the fullness of love for each other
and the joy of following Christ,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

May Almighty God bless you,
Father + Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Note: Some biblical texts are taken from: The New American Bible <http://www.vatican.va/archives/>