

3 January

THE MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS

*Titular Feast of the Society of Jesus*

Solemnity

Ignatius of Loyola and his nine “friends in the Lord” from the University of Paris, called themselves “Company of Jesus” because they had pledged to follow Christ, their true leader, under the banner of the Cross, in loving service to the poor. Later, they adopted the same title for the Order they would found. In Pope Paul III’s Bull *Regimini Militantis Ecclesiae* (1540) approving the new religious Order, Company of Jesus was translated in Latin as *Societas Jesu* – Society of Jesus. The title is juxtaposed with the monogram IHS, the first three letters in Greek for JESUS, which is an integral symbol of Jesuit identity worldwide.

Entrance Antiphon (RM)

Phil 2: 10-11

At the name of Jesus every knee should bend,  
of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Gloria in excelsis (Glory to God in the highest) is said.

Collect

**Look, we pray, O merciful Father,  
upon this, your least Society,  
which is designated  
with the most holy Name of Jesus, your Son,  
and grant that we,  
enjoying his graciousness and strength in the present life,  
may rejoice in eternal happiness in our heavenly homeland.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.**

The Creed is said.

Prayer over the Offerings (RM)

**Bringing you these offerings  
from what your bounty bestows on us,  
we pray, O Lord,  
that, just as you have given to Christ,  
obedient even until death, the Name that saves,  
so you may grant us protection by its power.  
Through Christ our Lord.**

Preface: The Most Holy Name of Jesus

**V/. The Lord be with you.**

**R/. And with your spirit.**

**V/. Lift up your hearts.**

**R/. We lift them up to the Lord.**

**V/. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.**

**R/. It is right and just.**

**It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.**

**For you desired  
that your people share in the fruit of redemption,  
not only by the birth of your Only Begotten Son  
but especially by his passion and cross,  
restoring in him, the obedient servant,  
salvation for the human race,  
and giving him the Name,  
which is above every other name,  
so that every tongue may confess,  
that Jesus Christ is Lord to your glory.**

**Through him the host of Angels adores your majesty  
and rejoices in your presence for ever.**

**May our voices, we pray, join with theirs  
in one chorus of exultant praise, as we acclaim:**

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts ...**

**Communion Antiphon (RM)**

**Col 3: 17**

Whatever you do in word or deed,  
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
giving thanks to God the Father through him.

**Prayer after Communion**

**Having been made partakers  
of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, your Son,  
in whose Name you willed  
that all people find salvation,  
grant, O Father, that we may walk  
in a manner worthy of the vocation  
to which we have been called.  
Through Christ our Lord.**

**A formula of Solemn Blessing may be used: p. 123.**

## SOLEMN BLESSINGS

### 1. On the Solemnity of the Most Holy Name of Jesus

**May God, who through the incarnation of his Son  
has made you participants in his divine nature,  
enable you to be sharers in his own glory,  
as you celebrate the feast day of the Most Holy Name of Jesus.**

**R/. Amen.**

**May God, who has revealed the universal hope of salvation  
to those calling upon the most holy Name of Jesus,  
enable you to experience perfect redemption  
through his death and resurrection.**

**R/. Amen.**

**May God, who through baptism  
has bestowed on you the name of the redeemed,  
make your life a sign of blessing  
and enable you to be an image  
of his own mercy and peace.**

**R/. Amen.**

**And may the blessing of almighty God,  
the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit,  
come down on you and remain with you for ever.**

**R/. Amen.**