

WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY CENACLE

January 15 & 29, 2026

Notes

Today we will be taking a brief look at the feast of the Most Holy Name of Jesus which we celebrated on January 3.

Christ's own teachings.

The Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus is an ancient feast in the Church. It began with Jesus Himself. At various times throughout his ministry, he preached that those who called upon his name would be heard by him and His Father in Heaven.

Jesus told his apostles in John 14:13-14 "And whatever you ask in my name, I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything of me in my name, I will do it."

He further says in John 16:23-24, "I give you my assurance, whatever you ask the Father, He will give you in my name. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you shall receive, that your joy may be full."

At the Ascension he said, "... in my name they will cast out demons, they will speak in new tongues, they will pick up serpents, and know if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them, they will lay their hands on the sick and they will recover." (Mark 16: 17-19).

Apostolic Era

The Apostles seem to have understood Jesus very clearly because once Jesus returned to his Father at His Ascension, the Apostles began calling upon the name of Jesus in their teaching and interceding for those who were sick and in need of healing beginning with Pentecost. After the

Holy Spirit had come upon the Apostles & Mary, they went to the Temple to preach, when Peter & John came across a crippled man who was begging. Peter told him “I have neither silver nor gold but what I have I give you! In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazorean, walk! And the cripple began to walk. (Acts 3: 1-10)

In the course of Peter’s speech in the Temple on Pentecost, Peter taught that “... and it shall be that everyone shall be saved who calls on the name of the Lord.” (Acts 2:21)

Peter also called upon the name of Jesus to cure Aeneas. In Acts, Peter was passing through Lydda where he found a man named Aeneas who had been confined to bed for 8 years due to being paralyzed. “Peter said to him, “Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and make your bed.” He got up at once.” (Acts 9: 32-34)

St. Paul his writings, urges people to call upon the Name of the Lord and treat it with respect. Paul points out that calling upon the name of the Lord, Jesus Christ is an act of faith which can be salvific if done in faith, truth, and sincerity of heart.

In Philippians 2: 9-11, he states, “Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, that 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.”

In Romans 10:12-13, Paul wrote, “For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, enriching all who call upon him. For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”” And again in 2 Thessalonians 1: 12, “...that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you and you in him, in accord with the grace of our God and Lord Jesus Christ.”

Advantages of Praying to the Holy Name of Jesus

1. Praying with reverence and calling upon Jesus' most holy name is begging for his divine assistance.
2. Praying in Jesus' name helps us during spiritual difficulties.
3. Praying in the name of Jesus protects us against Satan and his temptations.
4. We receive all graces and blessings through the Holy Name of Jesus.

Church History

In the 1300 & 1400's, St. Bernadine of Siena and St. John of Capistrano promoted devotion to the Most Holy Name of Jesus. In the course of their teaching, they carried a monogram of the holy name surrounded by rays (IHS) with which they blessed the people, calling upon the name of the Lord bringing about many miracles.

In 1427, Pope Martin V, approved the veneration of the Holy Name and requested that the cross be added to the monogram IHS.

In 1455 St. John of Capistrano, at the request of Pope Callistus III, led a crusade against the Turkish Moslems who were attempting to take over Europe by invoking the Holy Name of Jesus. Victory was won at the Battle of Belgrade in 1456. St. John died in battle.

In 1530, Pope Clement VII allowed the Franciscans to celebrate the Holy Name of Jesus as a feast day in their calendar.

Pope Sixtus V in 1597, granted an indulgence to anyone who reverently prayed the words, "Praise be Jesus Christ!"

Pope Innocent XIII extended the celebration of this feast to the whole church in 1721. The feast day was to be celebrated on the Sunday between January 1 and January 6, or other wise on January 2nd.

In 1862, Pope Pius approved the Litany of the Holy Name of Jesus which was later approved for general use by the whole church by Pope Leo XIII in January 1886.

Unfortunately, this feast day was dropped from the universal liturgical calendar with the revision of the calendar in 1969 by Pope Paul VI.

However, Pope John Paul II reinstated the celebration of the Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus to the General Roman Calendar in 2002 which is to be celebrated on January 3.

A good prayer to the Most Holy Name of Jesus is the Golden Arrow Prayer which I included in your Agenda.

**May the glorious name of Jesus be adored and praised,
now and forever!!**

Sources: Rev. Saunders, William P. What is the origin of the Holy Name of Jesus, January 3? Catholic Straight Answers. 2026. catholicstraightanswers.com.