

1<sup>st</sup> Week of Ordinary Time. 1/13/2021

## **A day in the life of Jesus**

We hear today about a day in the life of Jesus. It is full of purpose, with a lot happening. As we look closely, we can identify four parts in his day, which we are invited to imitate.

The first thing we hear is that Jesus went to the synagogue, so we can tell this is a Sabbath day. This is the first part. We don't hear much detail of his visit to the synagogue, but we know that he gathered with the community and listened to the Sacred Scriptures. For us, this is going to Mass. It is our weekly, or if possible daily gathering. We come before God with the community of faith, the Church, where the Pascal mystery of Christ will

be made present. We thank God for his work of creation and for his work of salvation. We worship him. We get nourished by God's Word, and by the body and blood of Christ. Out of all we do in a typical week, going to Mass is what is most distinctively Catholic. This is the first part: The Mass.

After leaving the synagogue, Jesus goes to the house of Simon and Andrew, accompanied by James and John.

Simon and Andrew are grown up brothers and they live in the same house. Close proximity of the extended family was customary for the Jewish people at the time. And it is still common in some parts of the world today. As they come to the house, they find Simon's mother-in-law, who is sick with fever. Jesus heals her. This is one of many

works of healing that Jesus performed, but this one happens in the house, in a more private setting.

As the fever leaves her, she waits on them. This is the second part: the sharing together of family and close friends. Family is part of the divine plan for men and women. The life-long bonds of family give us a means to grow in virtue and in faith. We are to nurture these bonds in the love of Christ. This is the first part: Family and friends.

The Sabbath ends at sunset, the day of rest is over, and Sunday starts. And we hear that it is at that time that they brought to Jesus all who were sick or possessed by demons. We hear that the whole town was gathered at the door. And Jesus cured many who were sick, and he

drove out many demons. We can see this as a time of opening up for service to the broader community, helping those who are in need. This is the third part: Our acts of service for others, beyond our family and our community of faith. We may not have the whole town gather at our door, but our acts of charity are a means for the love of God to enter the lives of others. This is the third part: Acts of charity.

And finally the fourth part. Jesus rose very early, before dawn, before others could see him, and he went off to a deserted place to pray. He has been spending time in community, now it is time to spend time alone with God in prayer. We don't hear how long Jesus was in prayer by himself, but at various times in the Gospel we hear of Jesus going off to pray at night. This is the one-on-one

time with God, which we need to develop and deepen our relationship with him. This is the fourth part: Prayer.

Each of us will find the best time for personal prayer. It

often works well to rise early, when the house is in

silence, and share in friendship, spending time alone with

the one we know loves us.