



Racine Dominicans  
Committed to Truth + Compelled to Justice

# PRAY, PONDER, PREACH AND PRACTICE THE WORD OF GOD

*Facilitated by Racine Dominican Preaching Committee*    *January 2026*

## Turn Up the Light

*By S. Carla Mae Streeter*

Yes, that is what this time after Christmas is doing. Check it out. Mary is the first to know that the Savior is coming, and the Light makes a home in her. Then Joseph gets in on the news. Next comes the shepherds...they are told the Light is in a manger in a cow shed and they go to see. Then the Magi come with their gifts, and now the Light extends to the whole non-Jewish world. John the Baptist then announces him to the whole Jewish world. Finally, the apostles and we stand in wonder as the Light works its first miracle: water becomes intoxicating wine at the wedding of Cana. With us as new wine, the Light now widens out publicly for all to see. Little by little the Light widens and reaches out. Watch for it as the readings unfold these January days.

The coming of the Light in this season sets the stage for Mystagogy. This is the process of formation in discipleship for the baptized, and that means each one of us. The liturgy of the Church is really a school of formation in the Word as we live day to day learning to be a follower of Christ Jesus. Yes, it is at liturgy that we all sit together, priests and people, and learn anew what the Word is forming in us and among us. This first short period of Ordinary Time begins this process: we are to become Lightsome women and men of the Word...so... turn up the Light!

*You're here...!*

*Not with a suitcase to stay a while and go, but for keeps.  
You've decided to stay and see us through this life-journey.*

*Your Light would blind us, so...*

*You veil Yourself in faith to keep us safe  
from your very beauty.*

*Give me just as much of Yourself as I can bear  
before I run off like a frightened sheep.*

*Tuck me in your arm against your heart  
so I can feel your heartbeat in the dark,*

*Sweet ever-present Light...*



Thank you to Associate Lisa Marie Duffield for this month's reflections.

### **The Epiphany of the Lord | January 4, 2026**

“And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.” Joseph dreams that he must take Mary as his wife. He dreams that the young family must go to Egypt. Then again that they should return. Another dream sends them to Nazareth, outside of Judah. And here the Magi have received a dream that protects both them and the Holy Family. And they do what their dreams instruct and foretell. In these days of unrest in our nation, the first miracle would be just having a dream. Then we need enough rest, trust in God to communicate and care for us, faith in the message that we receive, and the bravery to act upon it. *My God, teach me in my dreams, and help me have the trust, the faith, and the bravery to follow your will in all that I do.*

### **Baptism of the Lord | January 11, 2026**

“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me...In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him.” There are many things about each one of us that make us special, qualities and experiences that make us uniquely...us. Our nation, our race, our culture, our faith practice, our knowledge, our skills, our wealth, our simplicity, our service, our mission, all of the things that make us who we are as a person and also as a community. But none of those things give us any preferential treatment in the Kingdom of God. *My God, where does my pride prevent me from accepting the Spirit of God in Life. Show me the Spirit of God in others.*

### **Second Sunday in Ordinary Time | January 18, 2026**

“It is too little, the LORD says, for you to be my servant.” The candle when first lit, barely lights up a little corner of the room. But soon the flame is strong, and the light has spread around the room and also from person to person. But then the walls are toppled, and the light can spread even further, from one small corner to the ends of the earth. In all of this, the candle is the candle. Our acts of service are enough; it is our constancy and our willingness to share what gifts we have that spreads the light. *My God, what do I need to do to help the light of my own Baptism to shine forth into our world?*

### **Third Sunday in Ordinary Time | January 25, 2026**

“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” When a goal is weeks or months or years away, we prepare many things. We make lists, we form committees, we try to cover every possible angle. But when the day comes where the sense of urgency rises up, suddenly our path forward becomes clearer. We need both of these stages. We need to turn back and make final decisions, but there would be no path if we had not been doing trail maintenance along the way. *My God, help me to be grateful for all the ways that you have prepared me for this moment, and help me now to joyfully embrace your call to serve.*