

August 18  
Feast of Saint Jane Frances de Chantal  
Religious

*Opening Prayer*

Loving God, you chose Saint Jane Frances to serve you both in marriage and religious life. By her prayers help us to be faithful in our vocation and to be sources of light in the lives of others. 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. Amen.

*Prayer over the Gifts*

God of generosity, you called Jane de Chantal to imitate the example of your Son through the practice of ordinary, everyday virtues. May her life inspire us to recognize and make good use of the opportunities that you offer us each day to do good for others. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

*Prayer after Communion*

All-powerful God, may the sacrament we have celebrated and received help us to imitate the example of Jane de Chantal in love and in service. May the blessings that you shower upon us enable us to give glory to your name through our efforts to be blessing in the lives of others. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

*First Reading*

**A reading from the book of Deuteronomy (16: 3-9)**

**Hear then, Israel, and be careful to observe them, that you may grow and prosper the more, in keeping with the promise of the LORD, the God of your fathers, to give you a land flowing with milk and honey.**

**Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone! Therefore, you shall love the LORD, your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength.**

**Take to heart these words which I enjoin on you today. Drill them into your children. Speak of them at home and abroad, whether you are busy or at rest. Bind them at your wrist as a sign and let them be as a pendant on your forehead. Write them on the doorposts of your houses and on your gates.**

**Word of the Lord.**

*Responsorial Psalm*

*(R) Happy those who take refuge in the Lord.*

I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall ever be in my mouth. Let my soul glory in the Lord; the lowly will hear me and be glad.

*(R) Happy those who take refuge in the Lord.*

Glorify the Lord with me; let us together extol his name. Look to him that you may be radiant with joy, and your faces may not blush with shame.

*(R) Happy those who take refuge in the Lord.*

Taste and see how good the Lord is; happy the man who takes refuge in him. Come children, hear me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

*(R) Happy those who take refuge in the Lord.*

Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking guile; turn from evil and do good; seek peace and follow after it.

*(R) Happy those who take refuge in the Lord.*

*Second Reading*

**A reading from the first Letter of Peter (4: 7-11)**

**The end of all things is at hand. Therefore, be serious and sober for prayers.**

**Above all, let your love for one another be intense, because love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace.**

**Whoever preaches, let it be with the words of God; whoever serves, let it be with the strength that God supplies, so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.**

**Word of the Lord.**

*Gospel Acclamation*

Matthew 18: 3-4

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. Those who humble themselves like this child are the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

*Gospel*

+ A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew (13: 44-46)

The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls. When he finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells all that he has and buys it.

The Gospel of the Lord.