

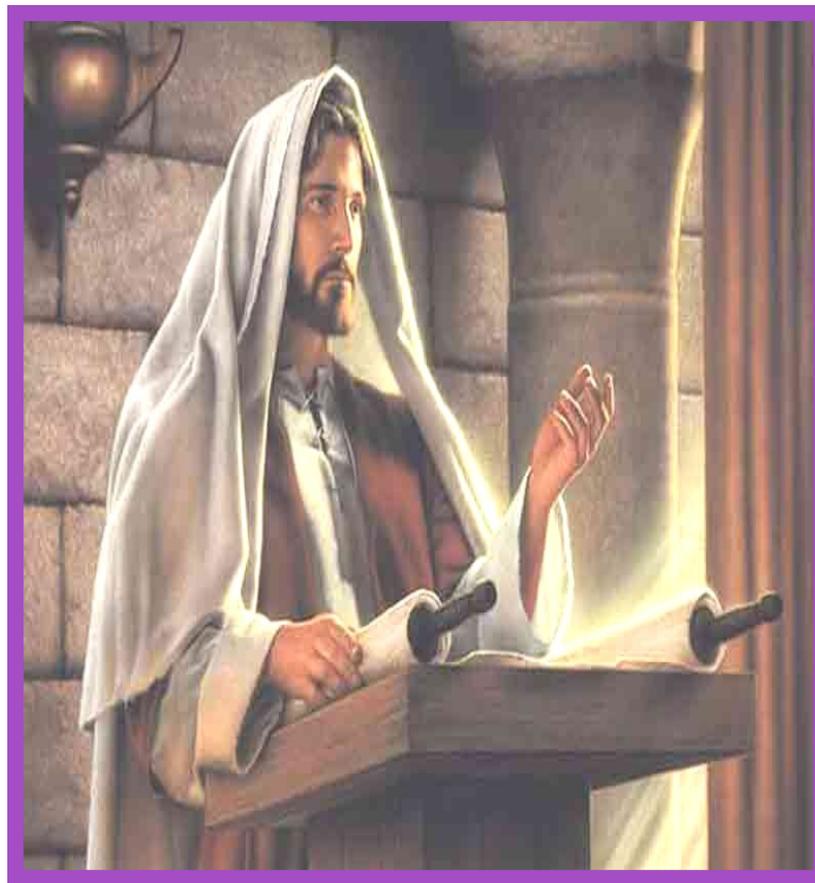
According to Thy Name, so also is Thy praise (Ps. xlvii. 11). By this Name was the whole world changed, tyranny laid low, the devil trodden under foot, the heavens thrown open. What do I say: the heavens? We by this name are born again. If this has happened to us, we are already glorified! This name makes both martyrs and Confessors; let us hold fast to it, as to a great gift, that we may live in glory, and that we may be pleasing to God, and be held worthy of the good things that are promised to those who love Him in grace and generosity of heart, through Jesus Christ Our Lord, to Whom be honor and glory, now and for ever.

*The Infant Jesus,
Patron of the Holy Name Society*



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**SERMON ON
ON THE HOLY NAME
FROM THE FATHER'S OF THE CHURCH
131 - 1**



JESUS, OUR FIRST PREACHER!

**SUNDAY OUTSIDE THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS,
AND FEAST OF THE HOLY NAME**

Based on the Divine Office-Douay-Rheims Version

Volume 1 - Pages 1268 (1962 edition)

Commentary on the Gospel of Luke 2: 21

by: Saint John Chrysostom , Bishop and Doctor

All whatsoever you do in word or in work, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks to God and the Father by him (Col. iii. 17).

If we do this, there will indeed be nothing of evil, nothing impure, in our invoking of the Sacred Name. If you eat, if you drink, should you marry, if you set out on a journey, do all in the name of Jesus; that is calling upon Him to help you. And having in all that you do invoke Him, then apply yourself to the thing in hand. Should you wish to speak concerning any business, do this beforehand. For this reason do we also place the name of the Lord at the head of all our epistles. Wherever there is the Lord's name, everything will be well. For if the names of the consuls are affixed to documents, to insure that they are authentic, how much more the name of Jesus.

Again, the Apostle likewise means: say and do everything as is right and fitting in relation to God. But do not bring in the angels. Do you eat? Offer thanks to God, both before you eat, and afterwards. Do you sleep? Give thanks to God, both before and after. Are you going out among people? Do the same; not some worldly thing. Do everything in the name of the Lord, and all that you do will bring you happiness. Wherever the Name of the Lord is set up, all things prosper. If it has power to drive away demons, if it can banish illness, much more will it aid your own actions.

And what does he mean when he says: *whatever you do in word or in deed*. Whether you pray, or whether you do anything else whatever. Recall how Abraham sent his servant in the Name of God. And David in the Name of the Lord slew Goliath; great and wonderful is His name. Again Jacob sends to his sons, saying: and may my Almighty God make him favorable to you (Gen. xliii. 14).

He who does this has God for his helper; without Whom he can do nothing. And the Lord, accepting the honor of being called upon, returns the honor by making possible what we strive to do. Invoke the Son, give thanks to the Father. For invoking the Son, we invoke the Father; and giving thanks to the Father, we give thanks also to the Son. Let us learn these things, but not restricting ourselves merely to the words, but fulfilling them in our deeds. Nothing is so great as this Name, that in every place is wondrous. *Thy name is oil poured out* (Cant. i. 3). He who speaks it is filled with its fragrance. *And no man can say the Lord Jesus Christ, but by the Holy Ghost* (1 Cor. xii. 4).

So many are the wonders wrought by this Name! If you say with faith; in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, you have done what is asked. See what great things you *have* done; for you have created within you a man, a new man, as well as the other effects that also follow from baptism. So likewise in commanding the sick this is a name of power. For this reason the devil, envying the honor given to us, has brought in the use of the name of angels. These are incantations of the demons. Even if it should be an angel, even an archangel, or even the very Cherubim, do not suffer it. For these very Powers will not hearken, but turn away, when they have seen that it is but an affront to the Lord.

I have honored thee, He says, and I have said, *Call upon Me*; and dost thou offend Him with dishonor? If you chant this hymn with praise, you will put to flight both demons and infirmities: and if you banish not sickness, this happens, not from want of power, but because it is not expedient for you.