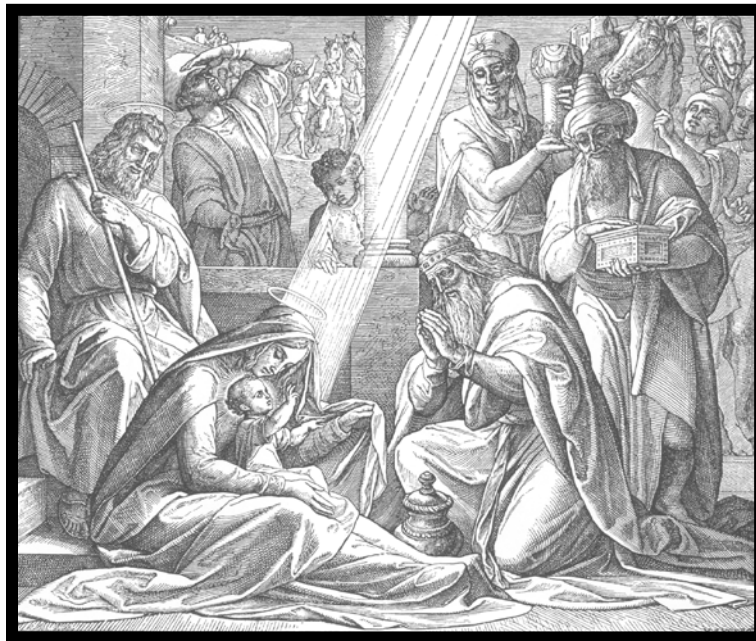




**A LITURGY PREPARATION AID  
FOR THE SEASONS OF  
ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS**



# A LITURGY PREPARATION AID FOR THE SEASONS OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

November 29, 2020 to January 10, 2021

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Prepared by Rita A. Thiron, M.A. on behalf of the  
Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions  
415 Michigan Avenue NE, Suite 70  
Washington, DC 20017  
202-635-6990 www.fdlc.org

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ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS  
IN THE MIDST OF A PANDEMIC

❖ FREQUENTLY-ASKED QUESTIONS ❖

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**Q. Am I obligated to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation this year?**

A. This determination is only made by your Bishop. Given the rate of Covid-19 cases in many parts of the United States, many Bishops have extended their dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass “until further notice” or “until the end of the calendar year.” But other areas of the country have not seen a spike in new cases, so this may not be the case in other dioceses. Please consult your diocesan chancery or Office of Worship for the Bishop’s directives in your (arch)diocese.

**Q. How early can we schedule Masses on Christmas Eve?**

A. Most regions in the United States are still under civil restrictions as to how many people can gather for church services. This impacts how a parish plans their Mass schedule. Certainly, Masses may be offered anytime of Christmas Day, but recent cultural preferences trend toward participating at Masses on Christmas Eve.

The Bishops’ Committee on Divine Worship (BCDW) consulted the Committee on Canonical Affairs and Church Governance on this matter. They replied that the commonly held opinion among canonists is that “evening” is defined as 4:00 p.m. or later. At the same time, they recalled that the Instruction *Eucharisticum mysterium* (May 25, 1967) affirmed that the scheduling of vigil Masses for the fulfillment of the Sunday obligation is within the competence of each local Ordinary to determine: “Mass may be celebrated only on Saturday evening, at hours to be determined by the local Ordinary” – a principle that, *mutatis mutandis*, might be applied to all holy days of obligation. As always, these considerations are made “for the spiritual good of the faithful.”

Again, this is solely the decision of your local Ordinary. Given the common interpretation of “evening” under normal circumstances, any permission given this year due to the pandemic should be considered exceptional.

**Q. Is our parish priest permitted to celebrate more than three Masses in a day?**

A. Usually, a priest does not celebrate more than one Mass a day except when the law permits it (cf. Canon 905 § 1). “If there is a shortage of priests, the local ordinary can allow priests to celebrate twice a day for a just cause, or if pastoral necessity requires it, even three times on Sundays or holy days of obligation” (Canon 905§2). Perhaps you have heard the term “binate” or “trinate” in reference to this practice. The diocesan Bishop must give permission for any priest to exceed this limit.

The commentary on this canon (as found in Beal, Coriden, and Green, editors, pp.1101-1102) suggests that the vigil is a separate calculation from the Masses of the day.

At this writing, the BCDW is still awaiting word as to whether a priest may celebrate more than three Masses on Christmas Eve or Day. Again, always consult your local Ordinary.

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## PASTORAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE SEASONS OF ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

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The following guidelines are not legislative. These are merely pastoral considerations which were gathered from among the members of the Federation who serve in various regions of the country. I offer particular thanks to the liturgical commission of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

The following comments are meant to aid conversations among diocesan and parish personnel. Your region may be experiencing different civil restrictions and pastoral realities. ■ RT

### IN GENERAL

- What we do and how we communicate it are equally important.
- There is no one plan that fits all. You may need a combination of strategies.
- Do your best. Nothing about this Christmas will be “normal” just as this entire year has not been normal.
- The Common Good should be valued above all else.
- Continue to follow all CDC and local guidelines for safety and cleaning.
- Adjust your plans as needed if/when your Bishop’s dispensation is lifted or civil restrictions change.
- Think of this as an opportunity for changing what might not have worked in the past. Perhaps change the Mass schedule, the placement of the Advent Wreath, etc.
- Focus on what is essential—enabling the faithful to celebrate Advent and the Nativity of Jesus -- whether it be online, at home, or in person.

### CONFESSIONS

- How can we safely schedule individual confessions? Every day at a specific time? Twice a week?
- Consider recording a Liturgy of the Word (or links to Scripture) along with the Examination of Conscience [see the Reconciliation Service herein]. Invite parishioners to view this on demand and to use this as preparation before they come to individual confession.
- Clearly advertise/post safety precautions such as mask-wearing and hand sanitation.
- Should we plan a communal reconciliation service? This should depend on the rate of the Covid-19 cases in your area and on the logistics of your worship space.
- How many confessors will be needed and where shall we place reconciliation stations?
- Some parishes planned to use school classrooms with a priest, screen, and chairs in each one.
- Some regions were still planning “drive-up confessions” (weather permitting).

### SCHEDULING MASSES

- Check (arch)diocesan guidelines for Vigil start times, canonically it should be 4:00, but some Bishops are granting earlier permissions.
- If church capacity is limited in your area, use an online sign-up so that you can manage crowds. This also allows people to choose a less crowded Mass.
- Don’t start out with a doubled Mass schedule; add after capacity is reached. (You might know this around December 12 or so.)
- Use multiple spaces around the parish campus (e.g., church and gym).
- Use all four Christmas Mass texts – Vigil Mass, Mass during the Night, Mass at Dawn, Mass during the Day. This is an opportunity to enlighten the faithful about this.

## **COMMUNICATION**

- Get the word out early, widely, and consistently.
- Use postcards, letters, the parish website, Facebook, and/or e-mails (make all media sharable).
- Prepare a video message from the pastor and post it to the parish website or to social media. It might include “Welcome, we miss you...” or “Join us for Mass at...”
- Include Mass times, how to reserve a place at Masses, and various procedures which will be required (such as wearing face masks).
- Include a list of all Masses which will be live-streamed (either at your parish or the cathedral).

## **LITURGICAL MINISTRY**

- Recruit available priests from among deaneries, vicariates, or religious communities.
- Consider the number of required lay ministers. Since some older parishioners have been excused from their usual ministry due to age or compromised health issues, will you have enough ministers to serve additional Masses?
- Don't forget the ministry of the assembly! Prepare comprehensive, disposable worship aids. Also post PDF's of these worship aids on the website for those who might be viewing from home. As always, be aware of necessary copyright permissions.

## **MUSIC SELECTIONS AND MUSIC MINISTRY**

- Keep things familiar! Maintain a sense of normalcy!!!
- Include instrumental music, even if the assembly cannot/will not sing (familiar melodies will trigger sentiments and praise).
- Spread out available personnel. Perhaps assign single cantors or small ensembles to a Mass.
- Consider bell choirs or a small group of bell ringers. (Of course, they should be socially distant.)
- How many Masses are too many? Consider the workload on music ministers who will also be away from their families.

## **HOSPITALITY**

- What needs to be set up beforehand? How will pews or chairs be spaced?
- How will volunteers be easily identified? Will they wear a special vest or nametag?
- Utilize staff and volunteers throughout the seasons of Advent and Christmas.
- Parking is also hospitality; perhaps volunteers park further away; perhaps parking volunteers are needed outside.
- How will we execute a touchless greeting? How will greeters utilize social distance? How will we keep the narthex moving when it is cold outside? How many doors will be open?

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## THE DOMESTIC CHURCH – LITURGY AND CATECHESIS

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How can we enable our parishioners to fully celebrate the Advent and Christmas Seasons? Not everyone will be able to come to church. How will we minister to those who must stay home?

First of all, this needs to be a collaborative effort among clergy, liturgists, music directors, schools, and religious education departments. What liturgical formation – for adults and children – is required? What catechetical and liturgical resources can we distribute? [See samples on page 6 and 7.] What methods will we use to distribute them?

Often parishioners are mailed a letter with a Mass schedule and an envelope for flower donations. Would it be more important, this year, to include catechetical and prayer aids?

### RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN

- What websites have good information for school-aged children?
- Can we find simple craft projects for them to do to “welcome the Christ Child?”
- Always preview any website and supply only appropriate links.
- Clearly mark any projects as age-appropriate. Toddlers will have different needs than middle-schoolers or high-school youth.
- Perhaps create “packets” or “gift bags” with resources and a pack of crayons. Announce a time when these will be available for a “drive-through” pick-up in the parking lot.

### RESOURCES FOR ADULTS

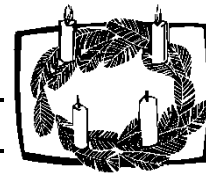
- Create a daily (or weekly) video message from a member of the parish staff. Post it to the parish website or social media account. Use a line from each day’s scripture.
- How can we invite the homebound join us via live-streaming?
- How can we share homilies? Can printed versions be uploaded onto a website?
- How can we facilitate private prayer at home?
- Invite parishioners to a nightly, fifteen-minute prayer service over Zoom. Perhaps use Evening Prayer or Night Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours.
- What can we post on the website that they can download at home?
- Again, preview websites and share appropriate links.
- What signage might we need outdoors to evangelize to the greater community?



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## ABOUT THE SEASON OF ADVENT

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The First Sunday of Advent marks the beginning of a new Liturgical Year! The season of Advent will always have four Sundays, but it may not have four full weeks, depending on which day December 25 may fall.

We live in a time when the “Christmas season” begins when the holiday decorations fill the stores and the songs fill the airwaves. But it is important that we Christians truly celebrate the Advent season in its fullness. Advent has a two-fold character – a season to prepare for Christmas -- when we celebrate that Christ first became flesh and dwelt among us -- and “as a season when that remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ’s Second Coming at the end of time” (*Universal Norms for the Liturgical Year and the General Roman Calendar*, 39).

The readings and prayers in the first weeks of Advent focus on preparation. We read from the prophet Isaiah and in the gospel we read about John the Baptist who is calling the people to repentance. After December 17, the readings focus on a more proximate preparation for the birth of Christ and we read about Mary and Joseph as they prepare to welcome God’s Son.

### THE ADVENT WREATH

Although the Advent Wreath is not an official part of the Church’s Sunday liturgies, it does enjoy the status of a venerable custom.

Originally, the wreath might have been a cart’s wheel, wound with greens and decorated with lights, strung up in the halls of the sun-worshiping tribes of Northern Europe. They may have done this to preserve the wheel from the rigors of winter weather or they may have “sacrificed” its use to appease their “hidden god” during the darkest winter days. Christians, preparing for their feast of light and life, the Nativity of the Lord, adapted this wreath to their purposes.

The wreath, without beginning or end, stands for eternity. The greens represent life and growth. The four candles (traditionally three purple and one rose) represent the ages sitting in darkness, each candle adding more light until Christmas and the dawn of the light of Christ. Ideally, the first candle to be lit is opposite the rose candle, since that will be lit on the Third Sunday of Advent. We also call that Sunday “*Gaudete* Sunday,” since the word “rejoice” is used in the opening antiphon for Mass that day (see Phil 4:4-5).

The blessing of the Advent Wreath takes place on the First Sunday of Advent (or its vigil Mass). On successive Sundays, the candles are lit before Mass or before the Opening Prayer without additional rites or prayers (cf. *Book of Blessings* nos. 1509-1514, 1519, 1526)

The Advent wreath may be displayed in the church or in the home. In a church, the wreath should be of sufficient size to be visible to the assembly. It may be suspended from the ceiling or placed on a stand. If it is placed in the sanctuary, it should not interfere with the movement of the liturgy nor should it obscure the altar nor ambo. In the home, the wreath may be placed on the dining table or other convenient place. Family members may take turns lighting the candles on successive Sundays. This prayer accompanies the lighting in church:

*Lord God,  
your Church joyfully awaits the coming of its Savior,  
who enlightens our hearts and dispels the darkness of ignorance and sin.  
Pour forth your blessings upon us as we light the candles of this wreath;  
may their light reflect the splendor of Christ who is Lord, for ever and ever. Amen.*

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## ABOUT THE JESSE TREE

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The Jesse Tree is an Advent tradition which recalls the family tree of Jesus Christ. The tree of Jesse was a common subject in medieval and early Renaissance art representing the royal genealogy of Christ from Jesse, the father of David. The image of the tree was taken from Isaiah 11:1, "But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse and from his roots a bud shall blossom." The shoot has been interpreted as the Blessed Virgin Mary and the blossom as her Son, Jesus Christ.

There are many online sources for ornament templates. When making the tree, look for symbols that can represent important people or events in Christ's life or in the Old Testament. The tree can be made out of many things; you can use an actual tree limb, or it can be made on a piece of felt or fabric. All family members can help create the symbols. They can be placed all at once, or placed ceremoniously each day of Advent. It is suggested that you make them out of sturdy materials so that they can be used from year to year.

### SUGGESTED SYMBOLS

Serpent and Fruit	Promise given to Adam and Eve
Slain Lamb	Abel/ Christ
Ark	Noah
Ram	Promise given to Abraham
Ladder & Star	Promise given to Jacob
Scepter	Judah
Lion	Judah
Colorful coat	Joseph
Tables of Law	Moses
Star of David	David
Harp or Lyre	David
Hand	Isaiah
Cloud	Prophecies of Duetero-Isaiah
New Heart	Prophecies of Jeremiah
Broken Chain	Prophecy of Ezekiel
Whale	Jonah
Altar	Prophecy of Malachi
Hour Glass	Daniel
Bethlehem	Micah
Shell	John the Baptist
Carpenter's Square	Joseph, husband of Mary
Crown of Twelve Stars	Mary, Mother of Jesus
Chi-Rho	Jesus Christ





**REJOICE IN HOPE, ENDURE IN AFFLICTION**  
⌘  
**A PENANCE SERVICE**  
**FOR ADVENT 2020**

**Rite of Reconciliation of Several Penitents  
with Individual Confession and Absolution**

**Introductory Rites**

**Opening Hymn**  
**Greeting**  
**Introduction**  
**Opening Prayer**

**Celebration of the Word of God**

**First Reading**  
**Responsorial Psalm**  
**Second Reading**  
**Gospel Verse**  
**Gospel**  
**Homily**  
**Examination of Conscience**

**Rite of Reconciliation**

**General Confession of Sin**  
**Litany of Repentance**  
**Lord's Prayer**  
**Concluding Prayer**  
**Individual Confessions of Sin and Absolution**  
**Proclamation of Praise for God's Mercy**  
**Concluding Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Concluding Rite**

**Blessing**  
**Dismissal**  
**Closing Hymn**

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## PREPARATION

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- *Follow all local guidelines for social distancing and church capacity.*
- *If communal reconciliation services are permitted, hospitality ministers should be recruited to welcome the assembly, to seat them in designated areas, and to distribute worship aids. Masks should be worn by all.*
- *At least two readers should be appointed to proclaim the reading(s), to read the Examination of Conscience, and to lead the Litany of Repentance. They are to be seated in the assembly.*
- *A musician and cantor should lead the assembly in song. Instrumental music may be played during individual confession. (A list of music suggestions is included herein.)*
- *A Bible or Lectionary should be readied with the appropriate readings.*
- *Lighting may be subdued. Candle(s) should be lit at the ambo. The appropriate number of candles should be lit on the Advent Wreath.*
- *Stations for confessors should be prepared. Priests might stand or sit in isolated areas around the main body of the church to receive penitents. Stations should be set far apart. Candles may light these stations.*
- *For the sake of simplicity, the presider alone or the presider and preacher could participate in the procession. Other priests could be seated in the sanctuary or in a reserved area before the liturgy begins.*

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## INTRODUCTORY RITES

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### OPENING HYMN

*see suggestions herein*

### GREETING

**Presider:** **Grace to you and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ.**

**All:** **And with your spirit.**

## INTRODUCTION

**Presider:** *In these or similar words...*

**Sometimes it all seems like too much. Our nation and our world have been rocked by a pandemic. Scandals dominate the headlines. Refugees flee war zones in order to seek safe harbor and, instead, find more danger or closed borders. No place seems safe. No policy makes sense. What are we to do?**

**Tonight [today], let us be still and listen to the voice of God. Let us listen to words which give us clear direction for how we are to live. If our world seems dark and full of woe, let us listen for God's words of encouragement and hope. If our sinfulness has made God seem out of reach or out of sight, let us seek him and return to him.**

**Let us trust in God's mercy, remember his kindness, and be grateful for his faithfulness.**

**In this sacrament of reconciliation, let us be mindful of those times when we have failed to follow God's commandments and have contributed to strife and disunity. And let us resolve, once again, to cooperate in God's plan for our salvation.**

## OPENING PRAYER

**Presider:** **My brothers and sisters,  
God calls us to conversion;  
let us therefore ask him  
for the grace of sincere repentance.**

*Silent prayer*

**Father of mercies and God of all consolation,  
you do not wish the sinner to die  
but to be converted and live.  
Come to the aid of your people,  
that they may turn from their sins and live for you alone.  
May we be attentive to your word,  
confess our sins,  
receive your forgiveness,  
and always be grateful for your loving kindness.  
Help us to live the truth in love  
and grow into the fullness of Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you for ever and ever. Amen.**

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## CELEBRATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

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*The following are suggested readings. Alternative readings may be selected. The preacher may wish to use one, two, or three readings. If only one is chosen, it is preferable that it be the gospel.*

*For ease of rehearsal, the readings are printed elsewhere in this booklet. A Lectionary or Bible should be used during the liturgy.*

### FIRST READING

**Isaiah 40:1-11**  
*God consoles his people.*

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Psalm 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17**  
*Give back to me the joy of your salvation*

### SECOND READING

**Romans 12:1-2, 9-19**  
*Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Luke 3:4, 6**

*Alleluia, alleluia*

*Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all flesh shall see the salvation of God.*

*Alleluia, alleluia*

### GOSPEL

**Mark 1:1-8, 14-15**  
*Make straight the paths of the Lord.*

### HOMILY

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## EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

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*The assembly is now invited to make an examination of conscience. This can be done in silence or by using the examination below. One reader alone may read the questions or two readers might alternate. Allow a brief period of silence between each one.*

### **Reader #1: How have I failed to worship God in private and communal prayer?**

- **Do I receive the sacraments regularly?**
- **Do I keep Sundays and holy days sacred?**
- **Do I value the sacrament of reconciliation? Do I sincerely want to be set free from sin, to turn again to God and to begin a new life in deeper friendship with God?**
- **Have I tried to grow in my faith through prayer and the reading of the word of God?**
- **Do I pray daily?**
- **Do I trust God's goodness and providence, even in times of crisis and doubt?**

### **Reader #2: How have I failed to use the gifts of God in daily living?**

- **Do I respect my own body as a gift from God?**
- **Do I control my vices, including abuses of food and drink?**
- **Have I made good use of the gifts God has given me?**
- **Do I work too hard and too long? Do I neglect my family and health?**
- **Have I been lazy and given too much time to leisure or entertainment?**

### **Reader #1: How have I failed in my relationships with others?**

- **In my household, have I contributed to the well-being and happiness of the rest of my family? Am I patient? Am I loving?**
- **Do I treat my parents [children] with respect?**

- **Am I ever angry with those I love?**
- **Have I been faithful in my relationships?**
- **Have I imposed my will on others without respecting their freedom and rights? Am I intolerant of other's ideas or needs?**
- **Have I perpetuated racism, prejudices and stereotypes?**
- **Do I treat people with disabilities with respect?**
- **Have I indulged in reading, conversation, or entertainments that are contrary to Christian decency and respect for human life?**

**Reader #2: Have I failed to share God's love with the world?**

- **Do I share my time and my treasure with others in need?**
- **When I saw someone hungry, did I give them food?**
- **When I saw someone thirsty, did I give them drink?**
- **When I saw someone needing clothing, did I clothe them?**
- **When I saw a stranger, did I welcome them?**
- **When someone was homebound or imprisoned, did I visit them?**
- **When someone was ill, did I care for them?**
- **Do I fail to speak out on behalf of the poor or the oppressed?**
- **Do I use the earth's resources wisely?**



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## RITE OF RECONCILIATION

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### GENERAL CONFESSION OF SINS

**Presider:** God who is infinitely merciful  
pardons all who are repentant  
and takes away their guilt.  
Confident in his goodness,  
let us ask him to forgive all our sins  
as we confess them with sincerity of heart.

**All:** I confess to almighty God  
and to you my brothers and sisters,  
that I have greatly sinned,  
in my thoughts and in my words,  
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,  
through my fault, through my fault,  
through my most grievous fault;  
and I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,  
all the Angels and Saints,  
and you, my brothers and sisters,  
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

### LITANY OF REPENTANCE

**Presider:** Let us turn to Christ with confidence and ask his mercy.

**Minister:** You came into the world to seek and save what was lost.  
**All:** Lord, have mercy.

**Minister:** You came to give us life, life in its fullness.  
**All:** Lord, have mercy.

**Minister:** You became the source of salvation for all who obey you.  
**All:** Lord, have mercy.

**Minister:** Once and for all you died for our sins,  
the innocent one for the guilty.  
**All:** Lord, have mercy.

**Minister:** In your mercy free us from the past  
and enable us to begin a new life of holiness.  
**All:** Lord, have mercy.

**Minister:** Make us a living sign of love for all to see:  
people reconciled with you and with each other.  
**All:** Lord, have mercy.

## LORD'S PRAYER

**Presider:** Now, in obedience to Christ himself,  
let us join in prayer to the Father,  
asking him to forgive us as we forgive others.  
Our Father, ...

## CONCLUDING PRAYER

**Presider:** Almighty and eternal God,  
you sent your only-begotten Son  
to reconcile the world to yourself.  
Lift from our hearts the oppressive gloom of sin,  
so that we may celebrate the approaching  
dawn of Christ's birth with fitting joy.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

## INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*The presider or other minister might tell the assembly where the confessors will be located. Some brief words regarding the manner of confession should be given. The people may be encouraged to accept one of the penances which are found in the worship aid or the confessors may give a penance suited to the individual. The assembly may be advised to remain in church if there is to be a common ending. Quiet instrumental music might be played during this time.*

## PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

**Confessor:** God, the Father of mercies,  
through the death and resurrection of his Son  
has reconciled the world to himself  
and sent the Holy Spirit among us  
for the forgiveness of sins;  
through the ministry of the Church,  
may God grant you pardon and peace,  
and I absolve you from your sins  
in the name of the Father  
and of the Son, ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

**Penitent:** Amen.



## PROCLAMATION OF PRAISE FOR GOD'S MERCY

**Psalm 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6**

*The Lord has remembered his kindness and his faithfulness.*

**R: The Lord has remembered his kindness and his faithfulness.**

Sing to the LORD a new song,  
for he has done wondrous deeds;  
his right hand has won victory for him,  
his holy arm.

**R: The Lord has remembered his kindness and his faithfulness.**

The LORD has made his salvation known:  
in the sight of the nations he has revealed his justice.  
He has remembered his kindness and faithfulness  
toward the house of Israel.

**R: The Lord has remembered his kindness and his faithfulness.**

All the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation by our God.  
Sing joyfully to the LORD, all you lands;  
break into song; sing praise.

**R: The Lord has remembered his kindness and his faithfulness.**

Sing praise to the LORD with the harp,  
with the harp and melodious song.  
With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
sing joyfully before the King, the LORD.

*ALTERNATES: The Magnificat, a hymn, litany or psalm may be prayed in acknowledgment of God's power and compassion. See the enclosed music suggestions or use one of the Scripture citations below.*

**Psalm 28:6-7**

**Psalm 32: 1-7, 10-11**

**Psalm 54**

**Psalm 66**

**Psalm 95**

**Psalm 100:1-5**

**Psalm 103:1-4, 8-18**

**Psalm 100: 1-5**

**Psalm 119: 1, 10-16, 18, 33, 105, 169-170, 174-175**

**Psalm 136: 1-9, 13-14, 16, 25-29**

**Psalm 145:1, 9, 10-11, 12-13**

**Psalm 146:2-10**

**Tobit 13:1-8**

**Isaiah 12: 1b-6**

**Isaiah 61: 10-11**

**Jeremiah 31: 10-14**

**Daniel 3:52-57**

**Ephesians 1:3-10**

**Revelation 15: 3-4**

## CONCLUDING PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**Presider:** Almighty and merciful God,  
how wonderfully you created man  
and still more wonderfully remade him.  
You do not abandon the sinner,  
but seek him out with a father's love.  
You sent your Son into the world  
to destroy sin and death by his Passion  
and to restore life and joy by his Resurrection.  
You sent the Holy Spirit into our hearts  
to make us your children and heirs of your kingdom.  
You constantly renew our spirit  
in the sacrament of your redeeming love,  
freeing us from the slavery of sin  
and transforming us ever more closely  
into the likeness of your beloved Son.  
We thank you for the wonders of your mercy,  
and with heart and hand and voice  
we join with the whole Church in a new song of praise:  
Glory to you through Christ  
in the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

**All:** Amen.

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## CONCLUDING RITE

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### BLESSING

**Presider:** May the Father bless us  
for we are his children, born to eternal life.

**All:** Amen.

**Presider:** May the Son show us his saving power,  
for he died and rose for us.

**All:** Amen.

**Presider:** May the Spirit give us his gift of holiness  
and lead us by the right path, for he dwells in our hearts.

**All:** Amen.

### DISMISSAL

**Presider:** The Lord has freed you from your sins. Go in peace.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

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## READINGS

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### FIRST READING

A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah.

**Is 40:1-11**

Comfort, give comfort to my people,  
says your God.  
Speak to the heart of Jerusalem, and proclaim to her  
that her service has ended,  
her guilt is expiated;  
Indeed, she has received from the hand of the LORD  
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:  
In the desert prepare the way of the LORD!  
Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!  
Every valley shall be filled in,  
every mountain and hill shall be made low;  
The rugged land shall be made a plain,  
the rough country, a broad valley.  
Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all the people shall see it together;  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

A voice says, "Cry out!"  
I answer, "What shall I cry out?"  
"All flesh is grass,  
and all their glory like the flower of the field.  
The grass withers, the flower wilts,  
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it."  
So then, the people is the grass.  
Though the grass withers and the flower wilts,  
the word of our God stands forever."

Go up onto a high mountain,  
Zion, herald of glad tidings;  
Cry out at the top of your voice,  
Jerusalem, herald of good news!  
Fear not to cry out  
and say to the cities of Judah:  
Here is your God!  
Here comes with power  
the Lord GOD,  
who rules by his strong arm;  
Here is his reward with him,  
his recompense before him.

**Like a shepherd he feeds his flock;  
in his arms he gathers the lambs,  
Carrying them in his bosom,  
leading the ewes with care.**

**The word of the Lord.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**Psalm 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17**

**R: *Give back to me the joy of your salvation***

Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness;  
in the greatness of your compassion wipe out my offense.  
Thoroughly wash me from my guilt;  
and of my sin cleanse me.

**R: *Give back to me the joy of your salvation***

For I acknowledge my offense,  
and my sin is before me always:  
“Against you only have I sinned,  
and done what is evil in your sight.”

**R: *Give back to me the joy of your salvation***

A clean heart create for me, O God;  
And a steadfast spirit renew within me.  
Cast me not out from your presence  
and your Holy Spirit take not from me.

**R: *Give back to me the joy of your salvation***

Give me back the joy of your salvation  
and a willing spirit sustain in me.  
Lord, open my lips;  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

**R: *Give back to me the joy of your salvation***

**A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans**

**I urge you therefore, brothers and sisters by the mercies of God,  
to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice,  
holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship.  
Do not conform yourselves to this age  
but be transformed by the renewal of your mind,  
that you may discern what is the will of God,  
what is good and pleasing and perfect.**

**Let love be sincere;  
hate what is evil,  
hold on to what is good;  
love one another with mutual affection;  
anticipate one another in showing honor.**

**Do not grow slack in zeal,  
be fervent in spirit,  
serve the Lord.**

**Rejoice in hope,  
endure in affliction,  
persevere in prayer.**

**Contribute to the needs of the holy ones,  
exercise hospitality.**

**Bless those who persecute you,  
bless and do not curse them.**

**Rejoice with those who rejoice,  
weep with those who weep.**

**Have the same regard for one another;  
do not be haughty but associate with the lowly;  
do not be wise in your own estimation.**

**Do not repay anyone evil for evil;  
be concerned for what is noble in the sight of all.**

**If possible, on your part, live at peace with all.**

**The word of the Lord.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Luke 3:4, 6**

**Alleluia, alleluia  
Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:  
all flesh shall see the salvation of God.  
Alleluia, alleluia**

**GOSPEL**

**Mark 1:1-8, 14-15**

**✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark**

**The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God.**

**As it is written in Isaiah the prophet:**

***Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you;  
he will prepare your way.***

***A voice of one crying in the desert:***

***“Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight his paths.”***

**John the Baptist appeared in the desert**

**proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.**

**People of the whole Judean countryside**

**and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem**

**were going out to him**

**and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River**

**as they acknowledged their sins.**

**John was clothed in camel’s hair,**

**with a leather belt around his waist.**

**He fed on locusts and wild honey.**

**And this is what he proclaimed:**

**“One mightier than I is coming after me.**

**I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals.**

**I have baptized you with water;**

**he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.**

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

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## **ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE: ALTERNATIVE READINGS**

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### **OLD TESTAMENT**

Isaiah 25:6-10a	The LORD will save us.
Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10	God will come to save us.
Isaiah 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25	There is no just and saving God but me.
Isaiah 54: 1-10	The LORD calls you back.
Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7	O, that you would rend the heavens and come down
Jeremiah 7:21-26	Listen to my voice...I will be your God and you will be my people
Jeremiah 23:5-8	I will raise up a righteous shoot to David...
Joel 2: 12-18	For gracious and merciful is he, slow to anger, rich in kindness
Zephaniah 3:14-18a	The Lord has removed judgment against you...the Lord is in your midst

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Psalms 25	Teach me your ways, O Lord.
Psalms 36:2-13	How precious is your unfailing love, O Lord.
Psalms 72: 1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17	Justice shall flourish in his time and fullness of peace for ever.
Psalms 85:9ab, 10, 11-12, 13-14	Lord, let us see your kindness.
Psalms 103: 1-2, 3-4, 8, 10	The Lord is kind and merciful.
Psalms 130: 1-8	With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption
Psalms 145: 1, 9, 10-11, 12-13	The Lord is gracious and merciful; slow to anger and of great kindness.
Psalms 147:1-6	Blessed are all who wait for the LORD.

### **NEW TESTAMENT**

Romans 3: 22-26	Justified by the gift of God, Christ Jesus
Romans 4:13-17, 20-25	Inheritance through faith
Romans 6:2-14	You must think of yourselves as dead to sin and living for God
2 Corinthians 5:17-21	God reconciled the world to himself through Christ.
Ephesians 1: 3-14	The Father's plan of salvation
Ephesians 2:1-10	But God who is rich in mercy brought us to life with Christ
Ephesians 4: 22-32	Forgiving one another as God has forgiven you in Christ
Philippians 1:4-11	Show yourself pure and blameless for the day of Christ
Philippians 4: 6-9	Have no anxiety at all
James 5:7-10	Make your hearts firm, the coming of the LORD is at hand
1 Peter 1: 13-23	You have been redeemed...by the precious blood of Christ
1 Peter 1: 14-21	You were ransomed from your futile conduct
1 John 1:5 –2:2	If we acknowledge our sins he is faithful and just

### **GOSPEL**

Matthew 3:1-12	Reform your lives, the reign of God is at hand
Matthew 9:1-8	Have confidence, my son, your sins are forgiven.
Matthew 13:24-30	Weeds and wheat growing together
Matthew 18:12-14	The shepherd seeks one lost sheep
Matthew 21:28-32	A man had two sons... John came and sinners believed in him
Luke 7: 18b-23	Go tell John what you have seen and heard
Luke 19: 1-10	The Son of Man has come to search out and save what was lost
John 1:29-34	Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world
John 5:33-36	I have testimony greater than John's
John 15: 9-14	You will live in my love, if you keep my commandments

### **PROCLAMATION OF PRAISE**

Psalms 32: 1-7, 10-11	Rejoice in the Lord and sing for joy, friends of God
Psalms 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13	The Lord is gracious and merciful; slow to anger and of great kindness.

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## **SAMPLE PENANCES**

**Choose one of the following penances as a way of accepting God's mercy.**

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### **◆ SUGGESTED PENANCES FOR ADULTS ◆**

- **Pray Psalm 51, 63, 72, 80, 122, 145, or 146 and reflect on its meaning in your life.**
- **Plan a visit or make a call to someone who is ill or alone.**
- **During the next week, spend an hour in prayer for those who are the victims of gun violence. Read Matthew 25: 31-46.**
- **Make a commitment to bring food to the parish food bank.**
- **As a family, prepare a basket of food or toiletries and give it to a family in need.**
- **Skip a meal at your favorite restaurant. Use the money to purchase a Christmas gift for a person served by a parish organization or local charity.**
- **Identify a person whom you have offended since your last confession and pray for them each day for a week.**
- **Pray the Our Father once a day for a month in thanksgiving for the joy of reconciliation.**
- **Reflect on one of the following Advent readings:**

<b>Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7</b>	<b>Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11</b>
<b>1 Corinthians 1:3-9</b>	<b>1 Thessalonians 5:16-24</b>
<b>Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11</b>	<b>2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16</b>
<b>2 Peter 3:8-14</b>	<b>Romans 16:25-27</b>

### **◆ SUGGESTED PENANCES FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS ◆**

- **Every morning until Christmas, say a Hail Mary for peace.**
- **Reach out to a lonely person at school. Invite him or her to sit with you and your friends.**
- **Donate your next babysitting wages to the poor.**
- **For one whole week, do the dishes or set the table without being asked.**
- **Donate the money you would have spent on a video game to a local shelter. Send it anonymously.**
- **Share some of your Christmas treats with a schoolmate you find difficult to like.**
- **Give up some leisure time to shovel an elderly neighbor's driveway.**



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## MUSIC SUGGESTIONS FOR THE ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE 2020

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### HYMNS

A Voice Cries Out	Michael Joncas	OCP
All You Who Are Thirsty	Michael Connelly	RS644
Amazing Grace	John Newton	various
Christians, Let Us Love One Another	Foltz/Nigro	OCP
Clear the Voice	Hagan/Walker	OCP
Come to the Water	Grayson Brown	OCP
Come to Us, Emmanuel	Light/Tate	GIA
Come, Emmanuel	Light/Tate	WLP
Come, O Long Expected Jesus	Wesley/Witt	various
Come, Ye Thankful People, Come	Henry Alford	various
Comfort, Comfort, O My People	Olearius/Goudimel	various
Faith and Truth and Life Bestowing	Jones. Dudley-Smith	Hope
Find Us Ready	Tom Booth	GIA
Gift of God	Marty Haugen	GIA
God's Holy Mountain We Ascend	Omar Westendorf	WLP
Help Me, Lord	Jerry Galipeau	WLP
I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light	Kathleen Thomerson	various
I Will Be Your God	Gerard Chiusano	OCP
Lead Us to Your Light	Carol Browning	GIA
Let Desert Wasteland Now Rejoice	Delores Duffer	GIA
Let Justice Roll Like a River	Marty Haugen	GIA
Lift Up the Trumpet	Eurydice Osterman	GAI
Maranatha, Come	Francis P. O'Brien	GIA
My Soul in Stillness Waits	Marty Haugen	GIA
O Beauty, Ever Ancient	Roc O'Connor	OCP
On Jordan's Bank	Coffin/Wittwe	OCP, various
Our Darkness	Taizé	GIA
Our Father, We Have Wandered	Kevin Nichols/ICEL	OCP
Patience, People	John Foley	OCP
Praise the Lord, My Soul	Tom Parker	GIA
Ready the Way	Bob Hurd	OCP
Seek the Lord	Roc O'Connor	various
Sion, Sing	Lucien Deiss	WLP
The Advent of Our God	Coffin/Mercer	WLP
The King of Love My Shepherd Is	Henry W. Baker	various
The Master Came to Bring Good News	Ralph Finn	GIA; various hymnals
The Reign of God	Delores Dufner	GIA
The Trumpet in the Morning	Rory Cooney	GIA
There's a Wideness in God's Mercy	Frederick Faber	various
This is My Will	Henry James	GIA; various
Though the Mountains May Fall	Dan Schutte	OCP
Treasures Out of Darkness/ <i>Tesoros Oscultos</i>	Alan Revering	WLP
Tree of Life	Aaron Thompson	WLP
Turn to Me	John Foley	OCP
Wait on the Lord	Willis Barnett	GIA
Wait While the Seed is Planted	Delores Dufner	GIA
Walk in the Reign	Rory Cooney	GIA
We Are God's Work of Art	Marty Haugen	GIA
When Jesus Passed Through Jericho	Herman Stuempfle	GIA, various

When John Baptized by Jordan's River	Timothy Dudley-Smith	OCP, various
When the King Shall Come Again	Christopher Idle	GIA, various
Where Charity and Love Prevail	Benoit	various
Wild and Lone the Prophets Voice	Carl P. Daw	Hope, GIA

**OTHER SPANISH-LANGUAGE HYMNS**

<i>Abranse los Cielos</i>	tradicional	OCP, various
<i>Amanecerá el Señor</i>	Mariano Fuertes	San Pablo, OCP
<i>Levántate</i>	Cesareo Gabarin	OCP
<i>Oh Ven, Oh Ven, Emmanuel</i>	tr. Johnson/Martinez	OCP
<i>Preparen el Camino</i>	Carlos Rosas	OCP
<i>Tiempo de Esperanza</i>	Emilio Vicente Matéu	OCP
<i>Toda la Tierra</i>	Rogelio Zelada/Rodriguez	OCP

**LITANIES**

Gather Us in Mercy, Lord	Huck/trad chant	GIA
Gift of God	Marty Haugen	GIA
Litany of the Word	Bernadette Farrell	OCP
<i>Letania de Adviento</i>	Jaime Cortez	OCP

**PROCLAMATIONS OF PRAISE**

Cry out with Joy and Gladness	Paul Tate	WLP, 007381
Cry out with Joy and Gladness	Rudy Borkowski	WLP, 006272
I Turn to You	Joe Mattingly	WLP, 003679
I Turn to You, Lord	Craig and Kristen Colson	OCP, 20267 Z2
I Turn to You, O Lord	Jeremy Young	GIA, G-2896
Isaiah 12	Robert Batastini	GIA, G-2443
Let Us Sing to the Lord/ <i>Cantemos al Señor</i>	Alonso/Mahler	GIA, G-6129
Psalm 32	Isele, Westminster	<i>Psalms &amp; Canticles for Singing</i>
Those Who Seek Your Face	Christopher Walker	OCP, 7150

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**A LITURGICAL YEAR CALENDAR ADVISORY  
FOR THE SEASONS OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS**

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DAY	DATE	LITURGICAL DAY	RANK*	COMMENTS
Sunday	Nov 29	First Sunday of Advent – Year B	2	Lect #2 Pss I
Monday	Nov 30	Saint Andrew, Apostle	7	Lect #684
Tuesday	Dec 1	Tuesday of the First Week of Advent	13	Lect #176
Wednesday	Dec 2	Wednesday of the First Week of Advent	13	Lect #177
Thursday	Dec 3	Saint Francis Xavier, Priest	10	Lect #178 or 685
Friday	Dec 4	Friday of the First Week of Advent	13	Lect #179
Saturday	Dec 5	Saturday of the First Week of Advent	13	Lect #687
Sunday	Dec 6	Second Sunday of Advent	2	Lect #5 Pss II
Monday	Dec 7	St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church	10	Lect #181 or 688
Tuesday	Dec 8	Solemnity of The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Patronal Feast of the USA)	3	Lect #689 Pss Proper Holy day of obligation Funeral Mass not permitted
Wednesday	Dec 9	Wednesday of the Second Week of Advent	13	Lect #183
Thursday	Dec 10	Thursday of the Second Week of Advent	13	Lect #184
Friday	Dec 11	Friday of the Second Week of Advent	13	Lect #185
Saturday	Dec 12	Our Lady of Guadalupe	7	Lect #690A or 707-712
Sunday	Dec 13	Third Sunday of Advent ( <i>Gaudete Sunday</i> )	2	Lect # 8 Pss III <i>O Antiphons begin</i>
Monday	Dec 14	Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church	10	Lect #187 or 693
Tuesday	Dec 15	Tuesday of the Third Week of Advent	9	Lect #188
Wednesday	Dec 16	Wednesday of the Third Week of Advent	9	Lect #189
Thursday	Dec 17	Thursday of the Third Week of Advent	9	Lect #193 <i>O Antiphons begin</i>
Friday	Dec 18	Friday of the Third Week of Advent	9	Lect #194
Saturday	Dec 19	Saturday of the Third Week of Advent	9	Lect #195
Sunday	Dec 20	Fourth Sunday of Advent	2	Lect #11 Pss IV
Monday	Dec 21	Monday of the Fourth Week of Advent	9	Lect #197
Tuesday	Dec 22	Tuesday of the Fourth Week of Advent	9	Lect #198
Wednesday	Dec 23	Wednesday of the Fourth Week of Advent	9	Lect #199
Thursday	Dec 24	Thursday of the Fourth Week of Advent	9	Lect #200 (Morning)

\*Cf. *Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the General Roman Calendar*, no. 59

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DAY	DATE	LITURGICAL DAY	RANK*	COMMENTS
Thursday and Friday	Dec 24 and Dec 25	The Nativity of the Lord/ Christmas	2	Holy day of obligation Funeral Mass not permitted Genuflect at “ <i>and by the Holy Spirit...became man.</i> ” Vigil: Lect #13 Midnight: Lect #14 Dawn: Lect #15 Day: Lect #16
Saturday	Dec 26	St. Stephen, The First Martyr	7	Lect #696
Sunday	Dec 27	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph	7	Lect #17
Monday	Dec 28	The Holy Innocents, Martyrs	7	Lect 698
Tuesday	Dec 29	Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord	9	Lect #202
Wednesday	Dec 30	Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord	9	Lect #203
Thursday	Dec 31	Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord	9	Lect #204
Friday	Jan 1, 2021	Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord:	3	Lect #18 Holy day of obligation
Saturday	Jan 2	St. Basil the Great and St. Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church	10	Lect #205 or 510
Sunday	Jan 3	The Epiphany of the Lord	3	Vigil or Mass During Day, Lect #20, Proper Preface, Epiphany Proclamation
Monday	Jan 4	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious	10	Lect #510A Com of HMW
Tuesday	Jan 5	St. John Neumann, Bishop (USA)	10	Lect #213 or 510B
Wednesday	Jan 6	Christmas Weekday	13	Lect #214
Thursday	Jan 7	Christmas Weekday	13	Lect #215
Friday	Jan 8	Christmas Weekday	13	Lect #216
Saturday	Jan 9	Christmas Weekday	13	Lect #217
Sunday	Jan 10	The Baptism of the Lord	5	Lect #21, Proper Preface

# CHRISTMAS TIME

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## LECTIONARY -- YEAR B

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### **First Sunday of Advent (November 29, 2020)**

First Reading                    Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7  
Psalm                                Psalm 80: 2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4)  
Second Reading                1 Corinthians 1:3-9  
Gospel                                Mark 13:33-37

**Lectionary #2**

### **Second Sunday of Advent (December 6, 2020)**

First Reading                    Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11  
Psalm                                Psalm 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 (8)  
Second Reading                2 Peter 3:8-14  
Gospel                                Mark 1:1-8

**Lectionary #5**

### **Solemnity: The Immaculate Conception of the BVM (Tuesday, December 8, 2020)**

First Reading                    Genesis 3: 9-15, 20  
Responsorial Psalm                Psalm 98: 1, 2-3, 3-4  
Second Reading                Ephesians 1: 3-6, 11-12  
Gospel                                Luke 1: 26-38

**Lectionary #689**

### **Feast: Our Lady of Guadalupe (Saturday, December 12, 2020)**

First Reading                    Zechariah 2: 14-17 or Revelation 11: 19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab  
Responsorial Psalm                Judith 13: 18bcde, 19  
Gospel                                Luke 1: 26-38 or Luke 1: 39-47

**Lectionary #690 A or  
Common of BVM 707-712**

### **Third Sunday of Advent (December 13, 2020)**

First Reading                    Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11  
Responsorial Psalm                Psalm 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54  
Second Reading                1 Thessalonians 5:16-24  
Gospel                                John 1:6-8, 19-28

**Lectionary #8**

### **Fourth Sunday of Advent (December 20, 2020)**

First Reading                    2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16  
Responsorial Psalm                Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 (2a)  
Second Reading                Romans 16:25-27  
Gospel                                Luke 1:26-38

**Lectionary #11**

**The Nativity of the Lord – Vigil Mass****Lectionary #13, ABC**

First Reading Isaiah 62:1-5  
Responsorial Psalm Psalm 89: 4-5, 16-17, 27, 29  
Second Reading Acts 13: 16-17, 22-25  
Gospel Matthew 1: 1-25 [or 1: 18-25]

**The Nativity of the Lord – Mass during the Night****Lectionary #14, ABC**

First Reading Isaiah 9: 1-6  
Responsorial Psalm Psalm 96: 1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13  
Second Reading Titus 2: 11-14  
Gospel Luke 2: 1-14

**The Nativity of the Lord – Mass at Dawn****Lectionary #15, ABC**

First Reading Isaiah 62: 11-12  
Responsorial Psalm Psalm 97: 1, 6, 11-12  
Second Reading Titus 3: 4-7  
Gospel Luke 2: 15-20

**The Nativity of the Lord – Mass During the Day****Lectionary #16 ABC**

First Reading Isaiah 52: 7-10  
Responsorial Psalm Psalm 98: 1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6  
Second Reading Hebrews 1: 1-6  
Gospel John 1: 1-18 [or John 1: 1-5, 9-14]

**Feast of The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph  
(Sunday, December 27, 2020)****Lectionary # 17 B**

First Reading Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3 or Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14  
Responsorial Psalm Psalm 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 (7a, 8a) or Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5  
Second Reading Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 or Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17  
Gospel Luke 2:22-40 or Luke 2:22, 39, 40

**The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord:****Mary, the Holy Mother of God (Friday, January 1, 2021)****Lectionary #18, ABC**

First Reading Numbers 6: 22-27  
Responsorial Psalm Psalm 67: 2-3, 5, 6, 8  
Second Reading Galatians 4: 4-7  
Gospel Luke 2: 16-21

**The Epiphany of the Lord (Sunday, January 3, 2021)****Lectionary #20 ABC**

First Reading Isaiah 60: 1-6  
Responsorial Psalm Psalm 72: 1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13  
Second Reading Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6  
Gospel Matthew 2:1-12

**The Baptism of the Lord (Sunday, January 10, 2021)****Lectionary #21 B**

First Reading Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 or Isaiah 55:1-11  
Responsorial Psalm Psalm 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 or Isaiah 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 (3)  
Second Reading Acts 10:34-38 or 1 John 5:1-9  
Gospel Mark 1:7-11

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## THE CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

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The *Roman Martyrology* for December 24 contains a formal announcement of the birth of Christ in the style of a proclamation. The announcement of the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord draws upon Sacred Scripture to declare in a formal way the birth of Christ. It begins with creation and relates the birth of the Lord to the major events and personages of sacred and secular history. The particular events contained in the announcement help pastorally to situate the birth of Jesus in the context of salvation history.

In 1994, a new translation was approved for use in the dioceses of the United States by the USCCB. Later that year, it was confirmed by the Apostolic See. It was published in the 2004 *Sacramentary Supplement*. The translation that appears in the Roman Missal's third edition returns to the original and it is found on the following page.

This text, *The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ*, may be chanted or recited most appropriately on December 24, during the celebration of the Liturgy of the Hours. It may also be chanted or recited before the beginning of Christmas Mass during the Night. It may not replace any part of the Mass.

*After the greeting, the presider may introduce the Mass and the proclamation in these or similar words:*

**Presider:** Throughout the season of Advent,  
the Church reflected on God's promises,  
so often spoken by the prophets,  
to send a savior to the people of Israel who would be Emmanuel,  
that is, God with us.  
In the fullness of time, those promises were fulfilled.  
With hearts full of joy,  
let us listen to the proclamation of our Savior's birth.



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## THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST (THE CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION)

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*From the Roman Martyrology Please see the Roman Missal Appendix (p. 1450 USCCB edition)*

*This proclamation is chanted or recited on December 24 during the Liturgy of the Hours or before the beginning of the Mass during the Night. It may not replace any part of the Mass. The underlines are provided here to assist the minister who will chant it.*

**The Twenty-fifth Day of December,**  
**when ages beyond number**  
**had run their course from the creation of the world,**  
**when God in the beginning created heaven and earth**  
**and formed man in his own likeness;**  
**when century upon century had passed**  
**since the Almighty set his bow in the clouds after the Great Flood,**  
**as a sign of covenant and peace;**  
**in the twenty-first century since Abraham, our father in faith,**  
**came out of the Ur of the Chaldees;**  
**in the thirteenth century since the People of Israel**  
**were led by Moses**  
**in the Exodus from Egypt;**  
**around the thousandth year since David was anointed King;**  
**in the sixty-fifth week of the prophecy of Daniel;**  
**in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;**  
**in the year seven hundred and fifty-two**  
**since the foundation of the City of Rome;**  
**in the forty-second year of the reign of Caesar Octavian Augustus;**  
**the whole world being at peace,**  
**JESUS CHRIST, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father,**  
**desiring to consecrate the world by his most loving presence,**  
**was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**  
**and when nine months had passed since his conception,**  
**was born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judah,**  
**and was made man:**  
**The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh.**





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## PROCLAMATION OF THE DATE OF EASTER

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*This proclamation is to be sung on the Solemnity of the Epiphany.  
After the singing of the Gospel, the deacon or cantor may chant the following.  
For chant notation, please see the Roman Missal, Appendix, pages 1448-1449.*

### THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF EASTER AND THE MOVABLE FEASTS

**Know, dear brethren, [brothers and sisters],  
that as we have rejoiced at the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
so by leave of God's mercy  
we announce to you also the joy of his Resurrection,  
who is our Savior.**

**On the seventeenth day of February will fall Ash Wednesday,  
and the beginning of the fast of the most sacred Lenten season.**

**On the fourth day of April, you will celebrate with joy Easter Day,  
the Paschal feast of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**On the sixteenth [thirteenth] day of May will be the Ascension of our Lord Jesus  
Christ.**

**On the twenty-third day of May, the feast of Pentecost.**

**On the sixth day of June, the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.**

**On the twenty-eighth day of November,  
the First Sunday of Advent of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
to whom is honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.**



ADVENT



CHRISTMAS



TRIDUUM



ORDINARY

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## ADVENT ALLELUIA VERSES & THE O ANTIPHONS

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**O Wisdom of our God Most High,  
guiding creation with power and love:  
come to teach us the path of knowledge!**



**O Leader of the House of Israel,  
giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai:  
come to rescue us with your mighty power!**



**O Root of Jesse's stem,  
sign of God's love for all his people  
come to save us without delay!**



**O Key of David,  
opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom:  
come and free the prisoners of darkness!**



**O Radiant Dawn,  
splendor of eternal light, sun of justice:  
come and shine on those who dwell in darkness  
and in the shadow of death!**



**O King of all nations and keystone of the Church:  
come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!**



**O Emmanuel, our King, and Giver of Law:  
come to save us, Lord our God!**



## ABOUT THE FEDERATION OF DIOCESAN LITURGICAL COMMISSIONS

The Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions was founded in 1969 by the then Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy in order to assist with the implementation of the *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* and the revised liturgical books. For over fifty years, our mission has remained the same. The members of our Federation continue to serve bishops, clergy, and parish liturgists in our roles as directors of Offices of Worship and as members of diocesan liturgical commissions.

We hope this free resource will be of benefit to you and to your parish. Other publications -- including books, pamphlets, and downloadable bulletin inserts -- are available at [www.fdlc.org](http://www.fdlc.org).

We also provide opportunities for liturgical formation. For example, we have conducted nationwide workshops on the revised *Rite of Celebrating Matrimony*, on the *Misal Romano, tercero edición*, and on the *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults*. You are invited to participate in our new online webinars as well. The current series focuses on the liturgical books. [www.fdlc.org/formation](http://www.fdlc.org/formation)

Associate Members are entitled to online resources, discounts on publications, and discounts to national meetings. For more information on Associate Membership, please visit [www.fdlc.org/membership](http://www.fdlc.org/membership).

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415 MICHIGAN AVENUE, NE SUITE 70  
WASHINGTON, DC 20017  
202-635-6990 | WWW.FDLC.ORG