

# LITURGICAL PREPARATION AID FOR THE SEASONS OF ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

2025 - 2026 • YEAR A



FEDERATION OF DIOCESAN LITURGICAL COMMISSIONS

**A LITURGY PREPARATION AID  
FOR THE SEASONS OF  
ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS  
2025-2026  
YEAR A**

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For additional information about the seasons of Advent and Christmas, you are invited to view the recorded webinars offered by the FDLC.

HISTORY & THEOLOGY OF THE LITURGICAL YEAR

<https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/610836423>

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

<https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/610835252>



## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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*Spes non confundit*, The Bull of Indiction for the Jubilee Year of Hope from Pope Francis  
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## CONCLUDING THE JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE

On May 9, 2024, Pope Francis released a Papal Bull of Indiction which formally announced the Jubilee Year of Hope. The document was entitled *Spes non confundit* --“Hope does not disappoint” (Rom 5:5). In it, Pope Francis writes on the reasons for this theme for the Jubilee Year:

In the spirit of hope, the Apostle Paul addressed these words of encouragement to the Christian community of Rome. Hope is also the central message of the coming Jubilee that, in accordance with an ancient tradition, the Pope proclaims every twenty-five years.... For everyone, may the Jubilee be a moment of genuine, personal encounter with the Lord Jesus, the “door” (cf. *Jn* 10:7.9) of our salvation, whom the Church is charged to proclaim always, everywhere and to all as “our hope” (1 *Tim* 1:1).

Everyone knows what it is to hope. In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future may bring. Even so, uncertainty about the future may at times give rise to conflicting feelings, ranging from confident trust to apprehensiveness, from serenity to anxiety, from firm conviction to hesitation and doubt. Often we come across people who are discouraged, pessimistic and cynical about the future, as if nothing could possibly bring them happiness. For all of us, may the Jubilee be an opportunity to be renewed in hope. God’s word helps us find reasons for that hope. ... (1).

### IMPORTANT DATES

December 24, 2024	(Christmas Eve) Pope Francis opened the Holy Door at the Basilica of St Peter. thus inaugurating the Ordinary Jubilee.
December 29, 2024	(Feast of the Holy Family) Pope Francis opened the Holy Door of his cathedral, Saint John Lateran, which on November 9, 2024 celebrated the 1700 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of its dedication.
January 1, 2025	(Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God) Pope Francis opened the Holy Door of the Papal Basilica of Saint Mary Major.
January 5, 2025	(Epiphany) The Holy Father opened the Holy Door of the Papal Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls.
December 28, 2025	Pope Leo will close three Holy Doors on the Feast of the Holy Family -- St. John Lateran, St. Mary Major, St. Paul outside the Walls.
December 28, 2025	Bishops around the world will conclude the Holy Year in their cathedrals.
January 6, 2026	Pope Leo will conclude the Jubilee Year with the closing of the Holy Door at the Basilica of Saint Peter in the Vatican on the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord.

“During the Holy Year, may the light of Christian hope illumine every man and woman, as a message of God’s love addressed to all! And may the Church bear faithful witness to this message in every part of the world!” (*Spes non confundit*, 6).

For the full text of the Papal Bull, please visit:

[https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/bulls/documents/20240509\\_spes-non-confundit\\_bolla-giubileo2025.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/bulls/documents/20240509_spes-non-confundit_bolla-giubileo2025.html)

**GOD HAS RECONCILED THE WORLD  
TO HIMSELF THROUGH CHRIST**  
✠  
**A PENANCE SERVICE FOR ADVENT 2025**

**The Order of Reconciling Several Penitents  
with Individual Confession and Absolution**

**The Introductory Rites**

**Liturgical Song  
Greeting  
Introduction  
Prayer**

**The Celebration of the Word of God**

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

**The Rite of Reconciliation**

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

**The Concluding Rites**

**Blessing  
Dismissal  
Closing Hymn**

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## PREPARATION

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- *Hospitality Ministers should be recruited to welcome the assembly as they arrive and to distribute worship aids.*
- *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(s) should lead the assembly in song. Instrumental music may be played during individual confession. (A list of music suggestions is included herein.)*
- *A Bible -which is approved for liturgical use in the dioceses of the United States, i.e., NABRE -- 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. In this way, the communal nature of the rite is maintained. 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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## THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

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### LITURGICAL SONG

*see suggestions on pages 25-26*

### GREETING

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

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

## INTRODUCTION

[SAMPLE]

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

**Over the past year, the world has been celebrating a Jubilee Year of Hope. Its purpose was to help us focus on that virtue and on the One who gives us reason to hope – Jesus Christ.**

**Despite the times we live in -- the daily reports of war and violence, political divisions, and assaults on human dignity -- we must still have hope.**

**Despite what challenges we may encounter – with family strife, loss of a job, or economic uncertainty-- we must still have hope.**

**Despite our own failings and sinfulness, we must still have hope.**

**And we can boast of that hope because God sent his Son to reconcile us to the Father.**

**In this Sacrament of Reconciliation, let us be mindful of those times when we have failed to follow God's commandments. We come here tonight [today] to ask his forgiveness and to seek the grace to do better.**

**Especially in this Advent season, we are mindful of God's promises. They always give us hope. Let us, again and still, remember his kindness and faithfulness, trust in God's mercy, and rest in God's peace.**

## PRAYER

**Presider:** **Let us pray, brothers and sisters, that the Advent of the Lord, whose mystery we shall celebrate in the coming solemnities, will find us watching and prepared.**

*Silent prayer*

**We ask pardon for our offenses,  
O God, Creator of the heavens,  
so that, as we await the appearing of our Redeemer,  
we may be found worthy  
to receive forgiveness for our sins.  
Through Christ our Lord.**

**All:** **Amen**

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## THE 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 --which has been approved for liturgical use in the dioceses of the United States, i.e., NABRE - should be used during the liturgy.*

### FIRST READING

#### **Zephaniah 3:14-18**

The Lord will rejoice over you with gladness.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

#### **Psalm 130:1-8**

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

### SECOND READING

#### **2 Corinthians 5:17-21**

God reconciled the world to himself through Christ

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

#### **John 3:16**

*God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might have eternal life.*

### GOSPEL

#### **John 1:29-34**

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

### HOMILY

## **EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE**

*(An alternate form may be found on pages 17-18)*

The assembly is now invited to make an examination of conscience. This can be done in silence or by using the sample 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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## THE RITE OF RECONCILIATION

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### GENERAL CONFESSION OF SINS

At the invitation of the Deacon, or of another minister, all kneel or bow, and together say a general formula (e.g., *I confess to almighty God*) for confession. Then they stand and, if appropriate, use a litany or an appropriate liturgical song.

**Deacon or**

**Minister:** Brothers and sisters, confess your sins,  
and pray for one another that you may be saved.

**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;  
therefore 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

**Deacon or**

**Minister:** Let us humbly pray to Christ our Savior,  
whom we have as a righteous advocate with the Father,  
that he will forgive us our sins  
and cleanse us from all iniquity.

**Deacon or**

**Minister:** You were sent to bring good news to the poor  
and to heal the contrite of heart.

**All:** Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner.  
OR: Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon or**

**Minister:** You did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.

**All:** Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner.  
OR: Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon or**

**Minister:** You forgave much to the woman who loved much.

**All:** Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner.  
OR: Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon or**

**Minister:** **You did not refuse to sit at table with tax collectors and sinners.**

All: Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner.  
OR: Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon or**

**Minister:** **You carried the lost sheep on your shoulders back to the fold.**

All: Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner.  
OR: Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon or**

**Minister:** **You did not condemn the woman taken in adultery but told her to go in peace.**

All: Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner.  
OR: Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon or**

**Minister:** **You called Zacchaeus the tax collector to conversion and new life.**

All: Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner.  
OR: Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon or**

**Minister:** **You promised paradise to the repentant thief.**

All: Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner.  
OR: Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon or**

**Minister:** **You are seated at the right hand of the Father, and live for ever to intercede for us.**

All: Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner.  
OR: Lord, have mercy.

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**Deacon or**

**Minister:** **Let us now pray together to the Father as Christ himself commanded us, that, as we forgive one another our trespasses, he will forgive us our sins:**

**Our Father ...**

## PRAYER

**Priest:** Almighty and eternal God,  
who by the Incarnation of your Only Begotten Son  
mercifully reconciled the world to your majesty,  
grant, we pray,  
that the clouds of sin may flee from hearts made tranquil  
and that, as the light grows stronger,  
the mysteries of the Lord's Nativity  
may always be celebrated with unsullied 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 poured out the Holy Spirit 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, 2-3b, 3c-4, 5-6, 7-9b, 9cd

**R: The Lord has remembered his merciful love.**

O sing a new song to the LORD,  
for he has worked wonders.  
His right hand and his holy arm  
have brought salvation.

**R: The Lord has remembered his merciful love.**

The LORD has made known his salvation,  
has shown his deliverance to the nations.  
He has remembered his merciful love  
and his truth for the house of Israel.

**R: The Lord has remembered his merciful love.**

All the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation of our God.  
Shout to the LORD, all the earth;  
break forth into joyous song,  
and sing out your praise.

**R: The Lord has remembered his merciful love.**

Sing psalms to the LORD with the harp,  
with the harp and the sound of song.  
With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
raise a shout before the King, the LORD.

**R: The Lord has remembered his merciful love.**

Let the sea and all within it thunder;  
the world, and those who dwell in it.  
Let the rivers clap their hands,  
and the hills ring out their joy  
at the presence of the LORD, for he comes,  
he comes to judge the earth.

**R: The Lord has remembered his merciful love.**

He will judge the world with justice,  
and the peoples with faithfulness.

**R: The Lord has remembered his merciful love.**

*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,  
who wonderfully created human nature,  
and still more wonderfully restored it,  
you do not abandon sinners,  
but pursue them with a father's love;  
you sent your Son into the world  
to destroy sin and death by his Passion  
and restore life and joy by the Resurrection;  
you poured the Holy Spirit into our hearts  
that we might be your children and heirs;  
you constantly renew us by the Sacraments of salvation,  
that we may be freed from slavery to sin  
and be transformed more fully day by day  
into the image of your beloved Son.**

**We give you thanks for the wonders of your mercy  
and praise you with the whole Church,  
singing to you a new song  
with voice, heart, and deed.  
To you be glory, through Christ, in the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever.**

**All: Amen.**

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## THE CONCLUDING RITES

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### GREETING

**Presider:** The Lord be with you.

**All:** And with your spirit.

**Deacon:** Bow down for the blessing

### BLESSING

**Presider:** May the Father,  
who has given us birth to eternal life, bless us.

**All:** Amen.

**Presider:** May the Son,  
who died for us and rose again, grant us salvation.

**All:** Amen.

**Presider:** May the Spirit,  
who has been poured into our hearts  
and has lead us back onto the right path, sanctify us.

**All:** Amen.

**Presider:** And may almighty God bless you,  
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

**All:** Amen.

### DISMISSAL

**Deacon or  
Minister:** The Lord has forgiven your sins.  
Go in peace.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

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## OPTION B: AN EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE IN LIGHT OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

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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. Two readers might alternate. Allow a brief period of silence between each question or phrase.*

### Life and Dignity of the Human Person

- ❖ Do I respect the life and dignity of every human person from conception through natural death?
- ❖ Do I recognize the face of Christ reflected in all others around me whatever their race, class, age, or abilities?
- ❖ Do I work to protect the dignity of others when it is being threatened?
- ❖ Am I committed to both protecting human life and to ensuring that every human being is able to live in dignity?

### Call to Family, Community, and Participation

- ❖ Do I try to make positive contributions in my family and in my community?
- ❖ Are my beliefs, attitudes, and choices such that they strengthen or undermine the institution of the family?
- ❖ Am I aware of problems facing my local community and involved in efforts to find solutions? Do I stay informed and make my voice heard when needed?
- ❖ Do I support the efforts of poor persons to work for change in their neighborhoods and communities? Do my attitudes and interactions empower or disempower others?

### Rights and Responsibilities

- ❖ Do I recognize and respect the economic, social, political, and cultural rights of others?
- ❖ Do I live in material comfort and excess while remaining insensitive to the needs of others whose rights are unfulfilled?
- ❖ Do I take seriously my responsibility to ensure that the rights of persons in need are realized?
- ❖ Do I urge those in power to implement programs and policies that give priority to the human dignity and rights of all, especially the vulnerable?

### Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

- ❖ Do I give special attention to the needs of the poor and vulnerable in my community and in the world?
- ❖ Am I disproportionately concerned for my own good at the expense of others?
- ❖ Do I engage in service and advocacy work that protects the dignity of poor and vulnerable persons?

## The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

- ❖ As a worker, do I give my employer a fair day's work for my wages? As an owner, do I treat workers fairly?
- ❖ Do I treat all workers with whom I interact with respect, no matter their position or class?
- ❖ Do I support the rights of all workers to adequate wages, health insurance, vacation and sick leave? Do I affirm their right to form or join unions or worker associations?
- ❖ Do my purchases take into account the hands involved in the production of what I buy? When possible, do I buy products produced by workers whose rights and dignity were respected?

## Solidarity

- ❖ Does the way I spend my time reflect a genuine concern for others?
- ❖ Is solidarity incorporated into my prayer and spirituality? Do I lift up vulnerable people throughout the world in my prayer, or is it reserved for only my personal concerns?
- ❖ Am I attentive only to my local neighbors or also those across the globe?
- ❖ Do I see all members of the human family as my brothers and sisters?

## Care for God's Creation

- ❖ Do I live out my responsibility to care for God's creation?
- ❖ Do I see my care for creation as connected to my concern for poor persons, who are most at risk from environmental problems?
- ❖ Do I litter? Live wastefully? Use energy too freely? Are there ways I could reduce consumption in my life?
- ❖ Are there ways I could change my daily practices and those of my family, school, workplace, or community to better conserve the earth's resources for future generations?

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## READINGS

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### FIRST READING

Zephaniah 3:14-18a

**A reading from the Book of the Prophet Zephaniah**

**Shout for joy, O daughter Zion!**

**Sing joyfully, O Israel!**

**Be glad and exult with all your heart,**

**O daughter Jerusalem!**

**The LORD has removed judgment against you**

**he has turned away your enemies;**

**The King of Israel, the LORD is in your midst,**

**you have no misfortune to fear.**

**On that day it shall be said of Jerusalem:**

**Fear not, O Zion, be not discouraged!**

**The LORD, your God is in your midst,**

**a mighty savior;**

**He will rejoice over you with gladness,**

**and renew you in his love,**

**He will sing joyfully because of you**

**as one sings at festivals.**

**The word of the Lord.**

**With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.**

**Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;  
LORD, hear my voice!  
Let your ears be attentive  
to my voice in supplication.**

**With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.**

**If you, O LORD, mark iniquities,  
LORD, who could stand?  
But with you is forgiveness,  
that you may be revered.**

**With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.**

**I trust in the LORD;  
my soul trusts in his word.  
More than sentinels wait for the dawn,  
let Israel wait for the LORD.**

**With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.**

**For with the LORD there is kindness  
and with him is plenteous redemption;  
and he will redeem Israel  
from all their iniquities.**

**With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.**

**A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians**

**Brothers and sisters:**

**Whoever is in Christ is a new creation:**

**the old things have passed away;**

**behold, new things have come.**

**All this is from God,**

**who has reconciled us to himself through Christ**

**and given us the ministry of reconciliation,**

**namely, God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ,**

**not counting their trespasses against them**

**and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.**

**So we are ambassadors for Christ,**

**as if God were appealing through us.**

**We implore you on behalf of Christ,**

**be reconciled to God.**

**For our sake he made him to be sin who did not know sin,**

**so that we might become the righteousness of God in him.**

**The word of the Lord.**

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

**God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,**

**so that everyone who believes in him might have eternal life.**

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.**

**John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said,**

**“Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.**

**He is the one of whom I said,**

**‘A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me  
because he existed before me.’**

**I did not know him,**

**but the reason why I came baptizing with water  
was that he might be made known to Israel.”**

**John testified further, saying,**

**“I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from heaven  
and remain upon him.**

**I did not know him,**

**but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me,  
‘On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain,  
he is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’**

**Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God.”**

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

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## 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 himself will come to save us.
Isaiah 40:1-11	God consoles his people
Isaiah 45: 6c-8, 18, 21c-25	Let the clouds rain down
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...
Hosea 2:16-25	I will make a covenant for you that day
Joel 2:12-18	For gracious and merciful is he, slow to anger and rich in kindness
Malachi 3:17a	Who will endure the day of his coming?

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Psalm 25	Teach me your ways, O Lord
Psalm 32:1-2, 5, 7-11	Lord, forgive the wrong I have done.
Psalm 36:2-13	How precious is your unfailing love, O Lord.
Psalm 51: 3-21	Give back to me the joy of your salvation.
Psalm 72: 1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17	Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.
Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19	Lord, make us turn to you and we shall be saved
Psalm 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14	Our God will come and save us.
Psalm 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5	The Lord is loving and kind: his mercy endures forever.
Psalm 103: 1-2, 3-4, 8, 10	The Lord is kind and merciful
Psalm 145:1and9, 10-11, 12-13	The Lord is gracious and merciful; slow to anger and of great kindness
Psalm 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 6:2-14	You must think of yourselves as dead to sin and living for God
Romans 12:1-2,9-18	Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction.
1 Corinthians 1:3-9	God is faithful
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
1 Thessalonians 3:12 – 4:2	May the Lord strengthen your hearts for the coming of the Lord.
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 3:1-6 (or 3:1-12)	Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand.
Matthew 9:1-8	Have confidence, my son, your sins are forgiven.
Matthew 18:12-14	The shepherd seeks one lost sheep.
Matthew 21:28-32	Man had two sons... John came and sinners believed in him
Luke 3:3-17	All flesh shall see the salvation of God.
Luke 7:36-50	Her many sins have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love.
Luke 19:1-10	The Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost.
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

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## SAMPLE PENANCES

CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING PENANCES AS A WAY OF ACCEPTING GOD'S MERCY.

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- During the next week, spend an hour in prayer for those who are the victims of abuse or neglect. Read Matthew 25:31-46.
- 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.
- Think of someone you have been especially uncharitable towards and send a Christmas card with a note of kindness attached to it.
- Work at a soup kitchen or food pantry during Advent for a couple of hours.
- Reflect on the Beatitudes.....find someone who meets one of those needs, such as one who mourns, and send them a note or visit them during Advent.
- Speak a word of affirmation to each member of your household this week. Make an effort to lift a burden from one of your friends or family members.
- Offer to share something you have - or something you're doing - with someone who would appreciate it.
- Make time for prayer (ten minutes or so) and ask God if there is something He would like to say to you... and LISTEN.
- Call or write a note to someone who may be lonely or in need of "comfort and joy".
- Gather your family members for a reading of the "Christmas Story" from the Gospel of Matthew or Luke. Discuss what it means to them and to you.
- Include a weekday Mass in your plans during Advent.
- 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.
- Prayerfully pray Psalm 51.
- For one whole week, do the dishes or set the table without being asked.
- Give up some leisure time to shovel an elderly neighbor's driveway.

## MUSIC SUGGESTIONS FOR THE ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE 2025

### **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	GIA
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
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 Ocultos</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 Prophet's Voice	Carl P. Daw	Hope, GIA

### **OTHER SPANISH-LANGUAGE HYMNS**

<i>Abranse los Cielos</i>	<i>tradicional</i>	OCP, various
<i>Amanecerá el Señor</i>	Mariano Fuertes	San Pablo, 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</i> <i>for Singing</i>
Those Who Seek Your Face	Christopher Walker	OCP, 7150

## A LITURGICAL CALENDAR ADVISORY FOR THE SEASON OF ADVENT – YEAR A

DAY	DATE	LITURGICAL DAY	RANK*	COMMENTS
Sunday	Nov 30, '25	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR A	2	Lect #1, Preface I of Advent [Blessing of Wreath BB Ch. 47]
Monday	Dec 1	Monday of the First Week of Advent	13	Lect #175
Tuesday	Dec 2	Tuesday of the First Week of advent	13	Lect #176
Wednesday	Dec 3	Saint Francis Xavier, Priest	10	Lect #177 or 685
Thursday	Dec 4	Thursday of the First Week of Advent	13	Lect #178
Friday	Dec 5	Friday of the First Week of Advent	13	Lect #179
Saturday	Dec 6	Saturday of the First Week of Advent	13	Lect #180
Sunday	Dec 7	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	2	Lect #4
Monday	Dec 8	The Immaculate Conception of the BVM <i>Patronal feast of the United States of America</i>	3	Lect #689; holy day of obligation, Funeral Mass not permitted
Tuesday	Dec 9	Tuesday of the Second Week of Advent	13	Lect #182
Wednesday	Dec 10	Wednesday of the Second Week of Advent	13	Lect #183
Thursday	Dec 11	Thursday of the Second Week of Advent	13	Lect #184
Friday	Dec 12	Our Lady of Guadalupe (USA)	7	Lect #690A or 707-712
Saturday	Dec 13	Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr	10	Lect #186 or 692
Sunday	Dec 14	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	2	Lect #7
Monday	Dec 15	Monday of the Third Week of Advent	13	Lect # 187
Tuesday	Dec 16	Tuesday of the Third Week of Advent	13	Lect #188
Wednesday	Dec 17	December 17 – Advent Weekday	9	Lect #193 Preface II of Advent <i>O Antiphons begin</i>
Thursday	Dec 18	December 18 – Advent Weekday	9	Lect #194
Friday	Dec 19	December 19 – Advent Weekday	9	Lect # 195
Saturday	Dec 20	December 20 – Advent Weekday	9	Lect #196
Sunday	Dec 21	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	2	Lect #10
Monday	Dec 22	December 22 – Advent Weekday	9	Lect #198
Tuesday	Dec 23	December 23 – Advent Weekday	9	Lect # 199
Wednesday	Dec 24	December 24 [morning]	9	Lect #200

\*Cf. *General Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar*, no. 59

# ADVENT

## A LITURGICAL YEAR CALENDAR ADVISORY FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

Wednesday/ Thursday	Dec 24/ Dec 25	THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (Christmas)	2	Holy day of obligation Funeral Mass not permitted Genuflect at “and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.” Preface I, II or III of Christmas Vigil: Lect #13 Midnight: Lect #14 Dawn: Lect #15 Day: Lect #16
Friday	Dec 26	Saint Stephen, The First Martyr	7	Lect #696
Saturday	Dec 27	Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist	7	Lect #697
Sunday	Dec 28	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, Joseph	5	Lect #17 Preface I-III of Christmas
Monday	Dec 29	Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord	9	Lect #202
Tuesday	Dec 30	Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord	9	Lect #203
Wednesday	Dec 31	Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord	9	Lect #204
Thursday	Jan 1, 2026	SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord	3	Lect #18; holy day of obligation
Friday	Jan 2	Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church	10	Lect #205 or 510
Saturday	Jan 3	Christmas Weekday	13	Lect #206
Sunday	Jan 4	THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	2	Lect #20
Monday	Jan 5	Saint John Neumann, Bishop	10	Lect #212
Tuesday	Jan 6	Christmas Weekday	13	Lect #213
Wednesday	Jan 7	Christmas Weekday	13	Lect #214
Thursday	Jan 8	Christmas Weekday	13	Lect #215
Friday	Jan 9	Christmas Weekday	13	Lect #216
Saturday	Jan 10	Christmas Weekday	13	Lect #217
Sunday	Jan 11	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	5	Lect #21 A, Proper Preface



## LECTIONARY FOR MASS – YEAR A

### **First Sunday of Advent (November 30, 2025)**

**Lectionary #1**

First Reading	Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalm	Psalm 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9
Second Reading	Romans 13:11-14a
Gospel	Matthew 24:37-44

### **Second Sunday of Advent (December 7, 2025)**

**Lectionary #4**

First Reading	Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm	Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17
Second Reading	Romans 15:4-9
Gospel	Matthew 3:1-12

### **Solemnity: The Immaculate Conception of the BVM (Monday, December 8, 2025)**

**Lectionary #689**

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

### **Our Lady of Guadalupe [Feast] (Dec. 12, 2025) Lect # 690 A or Common of BVM 707-712**

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

### **Third Sunday of Advent (December 14, 2025)**

**Lectionary #7**

First Reading	Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10
Responsorial Psalm	Psalm 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10
Second Reading	James 5:7-10
Gospel	Matthew 11:2-11

### **Fourth Sunday of Advent (December 21, 2025)**

**Lectionary #10**

First Reading	Isaiah 7:10-14
Responsorial Psalm	Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6
Second Reading	Romans 1:1-7
Gospel	Matthew 1:18-24

**The Nativity of the Lord – Vigil Mass**

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]

**Lectionary #13, ABC****The Nativity of the Lord - Mass at Night**

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

**Lectionary #14, ABC****The Nativity of the Lord – Mass at Dawn**

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

**Lectionary #15, ABC****The Nativity of the Lord – Mass During the Day**

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]

**Lectionary #16 ABC****The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph  
(Sunday, December 28, 2025)**

First Reading Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14  
Responsorial Psalm Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5  
Second Reading Colossians 3:12-21 [or 3:12-17]  
Gospel Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

**Lectionary # 17 A****Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God (January 1, 2026)  
The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord**

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

**Lectionary #18, ABC****The Epiphany of the Lord (Sunday, January 4, 2026)**

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

**Lectionary #20 ABC****The Baptism of the Lord (Sunday, January 11, 2026)**

First Reading Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7  
Responsorial Psalm Psalm 29:1a, 2, 3ac-4, 3b, 9b-10  
Second Reading Acts 10:34-38  
Gospel Matthew 3:13-17

**Lectionary #21 A**

## THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

“The announcement of the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord from the *Roman Martyrology* 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 this announcement help pastorally to situate the birth of Jesus in the context of salvation history” (*The Roman Missal*, Appendix I).

“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 [following the introductory verse and preceding the hymn]. 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” (*ibid.*).

It may be sung or recited at the ambo by a deacon, cantor, or reader. -- RT

*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.**

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

*From the Roman Martyrology - see Roman Missal, third edition (page 1450-1452, USCCB edition)*

*This proclamation is chanted or recited on December 24 during the Liturgy of the Hours or before the beginning of Midnight Mass. 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 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.**



## THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF EASTER AND THE MOVEABLE FEASTS

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, page 1448-1449 (USCCB edition).

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

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

**On the fourteenth day of May, (On the seventeenth day of May,)\*  
will be the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

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

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

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

\*The Ascension of the Lord will be celebrated on Thursday, May 14, in five provinces of the United States. In all other dioceses, the Ascension will be celebrated on Sunday, May 17.



## 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. Our mission remains 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 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 routinely provide opportunities for liturgical formation. In recent years, these have included free online webinars on the Liturgical Books, the Liturgical Year, the parts of the Mass, the History of the Liturgical Reform, the newly-translated *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults*, and the adoration and exposition of the Holy Eucharist outside Mass.

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