# A Liturgical Preparation Aid
## For the Seasons of Advent and Christmas

**December 3, 2023 to January 8, 2024**

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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
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Homily
Examination of Conscience

The Rite of Reconciliation
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Concluding Prayer
Individual Confession and Absolution
Proclamation of Praise for God’s Mercy
Concluding Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Concluding Rites
Blessing
Dismissal
Closing Hymn
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.

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

LITURGICAL SONG  
see suggestions herein

GREETING

Presider:  Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and in love.

All:  And with your spirit.
In these or similar words...

Sometimes it all seems like too much. Nations are at war; politicians are constantly fighting; senseless gun violence steals innocent lives. Refugees flee danger in order to seek safe harbor and, instead, find more danger or closed borders. No place seems safe. Nothing seems to be in right relationship.

We are plagued, too, with the guilt of our sins. We especially desire to restore our relationship with God. 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. 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. Let us, again and still, remember his kindness and faithfulness, trust in God’s mercy, and rest in God’s peace.

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.

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.

Amen
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**  
Joel 2:12-19  
*Return to me with your whole heart.*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**  
Psalm 85:2-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 11-12, 13-14  
*Show us, O Lord, your mercy, and grant us your salvation.*

**SECOND READING**  
Ephesians 2:1-10  
*God, because of the great love he had for us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with Christ.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**  
John 14:23  
*Whoever loves me will keep my word, says the Lord, and my Father will love him and we will come to him.*

**GOSPEL**  
John 15:9-14  
*You are my friends if you do what I command you.*

**HOMILY**
EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

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?
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 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 32: 1-7, 10-11  Psalm 145:1, 9, 10-11, 12-13
Psalm 54  Psalm 146:2-10
Psalm 66  Tobit 13:1-8
Psalm 95  Isaiah 12: 1b-6
Psalm 100:1-5  Isaiah 61: 10-11
Psalm 103:1-4, 8-18  Jeremiah 31: 10-14
Psalm 100: 1-5  Daniel 3:52-57
Psalm 119: 1, 10-16, 18, 33, 105, 169-170, 174-175  Ephesians 1:3-10
Psalm 10: 1-5  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.
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.

DISMISSAL

Deacon or Minister: The Lord has forgiven your sins.  
Go in peace.
All: Thanks be to God.
FIRST READING

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Joel

Joel 2:12-19

Even now says the L ORD,
    return to me with your whole heart,
    with fasting, and weeping, and mourning;
Rend your hearts, not your garments,
    and return to the L ORD, your God.
For gracious and merciful is he,
    slow to anger, rich in kindness,
    and relenting in punishment.
Perhaps he will again relent
    and leave behind him a blessing,
Offerings and libations
    for the L ORD your God.

Blow the trumpet in Zion!
    proclaim a fast,
    call an assembly;
Gather the people,
    notify the congregation;
Assemble the elders,
    gather the children
    and the infants at the breast;
Let the bridegroom quit his room
    and the bride her chamber.
Between the porch and the altar
    let the priests, the ministers of the L ORD, weep,
And say “Spare, O L ORD, your people,
    and make not your heritage a reproach,
with the nations ruling over them!
Why should they say among the peoples,
    ‘Where is their God?’ ”

Then the L ORD was stirred with concern for his land
    and took pity on his people.
The L ORD answered and said to his people:
See I will send you
    grain, and wine, and oil,
    and you shall be filled with them;
No more will I make you a reproach among the nations.

The word of the Lord.
RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 85:2-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 11-12, 13-14

R: Show us, O Lord, your mercy, and grant us your salvation.

O Lord, you have favored your land,
and brought back the captives of Jacob.
You forgave the guilt of your people
and covered all their sins.
You averted all your rage;
you turned back the heat of your anger.

R: Show us, O Lord, your mercy, and grant us your salvation.

Bring us back, O God, our savior!
Put an end to your grievance against us.
Will you be angry with us forever?
Will your anger last from age to age?

R: Show us, O Lord, your mercy, and grant us your salvation.

Will you not restore again our life,
that your people may rejoice in you?
Show us, O Lord, your mercy,
and grant us your salvation.

R: Show us, O Lord, your mercy, and grant us your salvation.

I will hear what the Lord God speaks;
he speaks of peace to his people and his faithful,
and those who turn their hearts to him.
His salvation is near for those who fear him,
and his glory will dwell in our land.

R: Show us, O Lord, your mercy, and grant us your salvation.

Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have kissed.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth,
and justice look down from heaven.

R: Show us, O Lord, your mercy, and grant us your salvation.

Also the Lord will bestow his bounty
and our earth shall yield its increase.
Righteousness will march before him,
and guide his steps on the way.

R: Show us, O Lord, your mercy, and grant us your salvation.
SECOND READING

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians.

Brothers and sisters:
You were dead in your transgressions and sins
in which you once lived following the age of this world,
following the ruler of the power of the air,
the spirit that is now at work in the disobedient.

All of us once lived among them in the desires of our flesh,
following the wishes of the flesh and the impulses,
and we were by nature children of wrath, like the rest.

But God, who is rich in mercy,
because of the great love he had for us,
even when we were dead in our transgressions,
brought us to life in Christ (by grace you have been saved),
raised us up with him,
and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus,
that in the ages to come
he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace
in his kindness to us is Christ Jesus.

For by grace you have been saved through faith,
and this is not from you; it is the gift of God;
it is not from works, so no one may boast.

For we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for good works
that God has prepared in advance,
that we should live in them.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia.

Whoever loves me will keep my word, says the Lord,
and my Father will love him and we will come to him.

Alleluia, alleluia.
A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples:
“As the Father loves me, so I love you.
Remain in my love.
If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love,
   just as I have kept my Father’s commandments
   and remain in his love.

“I have told you this so that my joy might be in you
   and your joy might be complete.
This is my commandment: love one another as I love you.
No one has greater love than this,
   to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.
You are my friends if you do what I command you.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
### OLD TESTAMENT

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<td>Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10</td>
<td>God will come to save us.</td>
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<td>O, that you would rend the heavens and come down</td>
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<td>Jeremiah 7:21-26</td>
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<td>Jeremiah 23:5-8</td>
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<td>Zephaniah 3:14-18a</td>
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### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

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<td>Teach me your ways, O Lord.</td>
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<td>36:2-13</td>
<td>How precious is your unfailing love, O Lord.</td>
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<td>51:3-21</td>
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<td>72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17</td>
<td>Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.</td>
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<td>103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10</td>
<td>The Lord is kind and merciful.</td>
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<td>130:1-8</td>
<td>With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.</td>
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<td>145:1, 9, 10-11, 12-13</td>
<td>The Lord is gracious and merciful; slow to anger and of great kindness.</td>
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<td>147:1-6</td>
<td>Blessed are all who wait for the LORD.</td>
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### NEW TESTAMENT

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<td>Romans 3:22-26</td>
<td>Justified by the gift of God, Christ Jesus</td>
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<td>Romans 6:2-14</td>
<td>You must think of yourselves as dead to sin and living for God</td>
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<td>Romans 12:1-2, 9-19</td>
<td>Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction...</td>
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<td>2 Corinthians 5:17-21</td>
<td>God reconciled the world to himself through Christ.</td>
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<td>Ephesians 1:1-14</td>
<td>The Father’s plan of salvation</td>
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<td>Ephesians 4:22-32</td>
<td>Forgiving one another as God has forgiven you in Christ</td>
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<td>Philippians 1:4-11</td>
<td>Show yourself pure and blameless for the day of Christ</td>
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<td>Philippians 4:6-9</td>
<td>Have no anxiety at all</td>
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<td>James 5:7-10</td>
<td>Make your hearts firm, the coming of the LORD is at hand</td>
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<td>1 Peter 1:13-23</td>
<td>You have been redeemed...by the precious blood of Christ</td>
<td>OP 166</td>
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<td>1 Peter 1:14-21</td>
<td>You were ransomed from your futile conduct</td>
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<td>1 John 1:5 –2:2</td>
<td>If we acknowledge our sins he is faithful and just</td>
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### GOSPEL

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<td>Reform your lives, the reign of God is at hand</td>
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<td>Matthew 9:1-8</td>
<td>Have confidence, my son, your sins are forgiven.</td>
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<td>Matthew 13:24-30</td>
<td>Weeds and wheat growing together</td>
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<td>Matthew 18:12-14</td>
<td>The shepherd seeks one lost sheep</td>
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<td>Matthew 21:28-32</td>
<td>A man had two sons... John came and sinners believed in him</td>
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<td>Luke 19:1-10</td>
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<td>John 1:29-34</td>
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<td>John 5:33-36</td>
<td>I have testimony greater than John’s</td>
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### PROCLAMATION OF PRAISE

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Psalm 32:1-7, 10-11</td>
<td>Rejoice in the Lord and sing for joy, friends of God</td>
<td>OP 206.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psalm 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13</td>
<td>The Lord is gracious and merciful; slow to anger and of great kindness.</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SAMPLE PENANCES
Choose one of the following penances as a way of accepting God’s mercy.

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

◆ 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.
## MUSIC SUGGESTIONS FOR THE ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE 2023

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

*Bicentennial Hymn: Christ Our Light - Archdiocese of Cincinnati (catholicaoc.org)
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
Abranse los Cielos     tradicional    OCP, various
Amanecerá el Señor      Mariano Fuertes San Pablo, OCP
Oh Ven, Oh Ven, Emmanuel   tr. Johnson/Martinez  OCP
Preparen el Camino  Carlos Rosas    OCP
Tiempo de Esperanza  Emilio Vicente Matéu OCP
Toda la Tierra    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
Letania de Adviento  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/ Cantemos al Señor  Alonso/Mahler  GIA, G-6129
Psalm 32    Isele, Westminster  Psalms & Canticles for Singing
Those Who Seek Your Face  Christopher Walker  OCP, 7150
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>LITURGICAL DAY</th>
<th>RANK*</th>
<th>COMMENTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Dec 3</td>
<td>First Sunday of Advent – Year B</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Lect #2   Pss I Funeral Mass not permitted</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Dec 4</td>
<td>Monday of the First Week of Advent</td>
<td>13</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
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<td>Tuesday of the First Week of Advent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Dec 6</td>
<td>Wednesday of the First Week of Advent</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Lect #177</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Dec 7</td>
<td>Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Lect #178 or 688</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Dec 8</td>
<td>Solemnity of The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Patronal Feast of the USA)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Lect #689 Pss Proper Holy day of obligation Funeral Mass not permitted</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
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<td>Saturday of the First Week of Advent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Dec 10</td>
<td>Second Sunday of Advent</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Lect #5   Pss II Funeral Mass not permitted</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>Dec 11</td>
<td>Monday of the Second Week of Advent</td>
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<td>Lect #181</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Dec 12</td>
<td>Our Lady of Guadalupe USA</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Lect #690A or 707-712</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Dec 13</td>
<td>Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr</td>
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<td>Lect #183 or 692</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
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<td>Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church</td>
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<td>Friday of the Second Week of Advent</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Dec 17</td>
<td>Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)</td>
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<td>Lect # 8   Pss III Funeral Mass not permitted O Antiphons begin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Dec 18</td>
<td>December 18</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Lect #194</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Lect #199</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Dec 24</td>
<td>Fourth Sunday of Advent</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Lect #11   Pss IV Funeral Mass not permitted</td>
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*Cf. Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the General Roman Calendar, no. 59
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY</th>
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<th>LITURGICAL DAY</th>
<th>RANK*</th>
<th>COMMENTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday and Monday</td>
<td>Dec 24 and Dec 25</td>
<td>The Nativity of the Lord/ Christmas</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Holy day of obligation&lt;br&gt;Funeral Mass not permitted&lt;br&gt;Genuflect at “and by the Holy Spirit...became man.”&lt;br&gt;Vigil: Lect #13&lt;br&gt;Midnight: Lect #14&lt;br&gt;Dawn: Lect #15&lt;br&gt;Day: Lect #16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Dec 26</td>
<td>Saint Stephen, The First Martyr</td>
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<td>Lect #696</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Dec 27</td>
<td>Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist</td>
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<td>Lect #697</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Dec 28</td>
<td>The Holy Innocents, Martyrs</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Lect 698</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Dec 29</td>
<td>Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
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<td>Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Dec 31</td>
<td>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Lect #17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Jan 1, 2024</td>
<td>Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God&lt;br&gt;The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord:</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Lect #18 Not a holy day of obligation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
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<td>Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church</td>
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<td>Lect #205 or 510</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Jan 3</td>
<td>Christmas Weekday</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Jan 4</td>
<td>St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious USA</td>
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<td>Lect #207 OR Lect #510A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Jan 5</td>
<td>St. John Neumann, Bishop USA</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Lect #208 or 510B</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Jan 6</td>
<td>Christmas Weekday</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Lect #209</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Jan 7</td>
<td>The Epiphany of the Lord</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Vigil or Mass During Day, Lect #20, Proper Preface, Epiphany Proclamation&lt;br&gt;Funeral Mass not permitted</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Jan 8</td>
<td>The Baptism of the Lord</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Lect #21, Proper Preface</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### First Sunday of Advent (December 3, 2023)  
**First Reading**  
Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7  
**Psalm**  
Psalm 80: 2-3, 15-16, 18-19  
**Second Reading**  
1 Corinthians 1:3-9  
**Gospel**  
Mark 13:33-37

### Solemnity: The Immaculate Conception of the BVM  
(Friday, December 8, 2023)  
**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

### Second Sunday of Advent (December 10, 2023)  
**First Reading**  
Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11  
**Psalm**  
Psalm 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14  
**Second Reading**  
2 Peter 3:8-14  
**Gospel**  
Mark 1:1-8

### Feast: Our Lady of Guadalupe  
(Tuesday, December 12, 2023)  
**First Reading**  
Zechariah 2: 14-17 or Revelation 11: 19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab  
**Responsorial Psalm**  
Judith 13: 18bcde, 19  
**Gospel**  

### Third Sunday of Advent (December 17, 2023)  
**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

### Fourth Sunday of Advent  
(December 24, 2023)  
**First Reading**  
2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16  
**Responsorial Psalm**  
Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29  
**Second Reading**  
Romans 16:25-27  
**Gospel**  
Luke 1:26-38
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]

The Nativity of the Lord – Mass during the Night
First Reading Isaiah 9: 1-6
Responsorial Psalm Psalm 96: 1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13
Second Reading Titus 2: 11-14

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

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]

Feast of The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph (Sunday, December 31, 2023)
First Reading Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 or Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3
Responsorial Psalm Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Psalm 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9
Second Reading Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord (Monday, January 1, 2024)
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 7, 2024)
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 (Monday, January 8, 2024)
First Reading Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 or Isaiah 55:1-11
or Acts 10:34-38 or 1 John 5:1-9
Responsorial Psalm Isaiah 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 or Psalm 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10
Gospel Mark 1:7-11
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. A sample introduction follows.*

**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. Please see the Roman Missal Appendix I (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.
The Announcement of Easter and the Moveable Feasts

This proclamation may 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 I, pages 1448-1449.

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

On the thirty-first day of March, you will celebrate with joy Easter Day,
the Paschal feast of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the twelfth [ninth] day of May will be the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the nineteenth day of May, the feast of Pentecost.

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

On the first day of December,
the First Sunday of Advent of our Lord Jesus Christ,
to whom is honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.
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-four 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.

We routinely provide online opportunities for liturgical formation. The series of thirty-eight webinars on the OCIA was offered from August 2022 to February 2023. Over 3000 participated in the English series; over 800 participated in the Spanish counterpart. In Lent 2023, the five-part webinar series, “The Work of Our Redemption” provided insights into the Order of Mass. In June 2023, “The History of the Liturgical Reform” led by Rev. Gilbert Ostdiek, OFM offered a three hour look at liturgical history. In October 2023, the FDLC co-sponsored a two-part webinar on the “The Divine Office Hymnal” with the Secretariat of Divine Worship of the USCCB. For other series, please visit 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.

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