



Office for Divine Worship

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Office for Divine Worship Newsletter

It is hoped that this almost monthly newsletter will be an aid to all who read it. The intention of the work is to keep before the mind current celebrations of which to be aware, reasonable looking forward so that celebrations yet to come will get the preparation they deserve, and constant reminders of items that require attention but may be overlooked when preparing celebrations.

All of us, coming together with Bishop Persico around the altar, make visible the Body of Christ. The celebration of the mysteries of faith deserve attention so we may be strengthened, encouraged, and sent out in service to our brothers and sisters.

First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 3, 2023

As we approach the beginning of another year of the Liturgical Calendar, please note the Lectionary cycles for 2024 are:

- Sunday Cycle – Year B
- Weekday Cycle – II

The Blessing of an Advent Wreath may take place at the conclusion of the Universal

Prayer on this Sunday: See Book of Blessings, Chapter 47, Order for the Blessing of an Advent Wreath. The Advent Wreath needs only to be blessed once, perhaps at the Anticipated Mass for the First Sunday of Advent.

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Friday, December 8, 2023

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the patronal feast of the United States of America, is always a Holy Day of Obligation, even if it falls on a Monday or Saturday.

Solemnity of the Nativity of our Lord, Christmas

Monday, December 25, 2023

The Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord is always a Holy Day of Obligation, even if it falls on a Monday or Saturday.

In 2023, Christmas Day falls on a Monday. To assist in planning reasonable Mass schedules please review the following directives from Bishop Persico:

1. Diocesan particular law allows the pastor himself to authorize the celebration of multiple Vigil Masses in the parish on Christmas Eve, in accord with the pastoral needs of the people. However, since parish priests have already celebrated Sunday Masses that morning, It has been decided to limit the number of Christmas Vigil Masses (Masses beginning before 10:00 pm) to two (2) in any parish or group of partnered parishes. No Vigil Mass is to begin prior to 4:00 pm without the express, written permission of the bishop or without an indult to celebrate Vigil Masses prior to 4:00 pm. The Christmas Eve Vigil Mass does not fulfill the Sunday Mass obligation this year, regardless of the time scheduled for the Vigil Mass.
2. Up to three (3) Christmas Day Masses per parish or group of partnered Parishes are allowed. These Masses include the Mass during the Night, Mass at Dawn and Mass during the Day celebrated at 10:00 pm or later December 24th, and on December 25.
3. Because January 1, 2024, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, falls on a Monday, the precept (obligation) to attend Mass is abrogated.

Colds and Flu

People feeling ill should avoid receiving Communion from the chalice. Priests are encouraged to use good pastoral common sense to calm the fears of the faithful during cold and flu season. An example of this might include reminding the faithful not to receive the Precious Blood if they are ill.

Christian Initiation of Adults

The Office for Divine Worship and the Office of Faith Formation work together to coordinate the Christian Initiation of Adults.

Full Sacramental Initiation—Baptism, Confirmation and the first Reception of Holy Communion—apart from the Easter Vigil, outside of the immediate danger of death, requires the permission of the bishop (see RCIA, no. 331) for someone 14 years of age or older.

Workshops for Liturgical Ministers

If any parish or institution would like a workshop for liturgical ministers, especially Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion or lectors, please contact the Office for Divine Worship. If a parish or institution conducts its own workshop for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, please remember to present candidates for this ministry to the Bishop when they are deemed prepared by the pastor or chaplain of said institution.

The following resource is available from the Liturgical Institute at Mundelein for the formation of parish liturgical ministers: <https://liturgy.teachable.com/p/instructions-for-liturgical-ministers>.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

- All Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, without exception, are to have a current appointment letter from the bishop.
- Candidates are to be fully initiated practicing Catholics, high school graduates, not in an invalid marriage, recognized for faith and devotion to the Holy Eucharist as well as for service in the parish/institution/school. Pastors/chaplains are reminded to be discerning in the invitation to members of the lay faithful to carry out this ministry.
- Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are appointed for a three-year term and for the place where they are commissioned. Terms may be renewed if agreeable to both the pastor/chaplain and the Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion.
- All records of active Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are maintained by the parish/institution/school.
- Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are commissioned after participation in a training session, according to the form found in the Book of Blessings, Chapter 63, "Order for the Commissioning of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion."
- Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion only serve in the parishes/institutions/schools for which they are commissioned.

Copyrights

According to the United States Copyright Office, if you reproduce, distribute, publicly display, or derive a new piece from a copyrighted work without the permission of the copyright owner, you may have infringed on copyright. That could include putting a poem or song on your website, printing an essay or column in your bulletin, or even streaming a service on your website, Facebook or YouTube that includes the performance of hymns from a hymnal you have purchased.

The safest thing a church can do is only to use copyrighted materials when you have the express written permission of the copyright owner. This is generally accomplished by purchasing the appropriate license. The majority of parishes use OneLicense.net

Time for Vigil Masses and Anticipated Masses

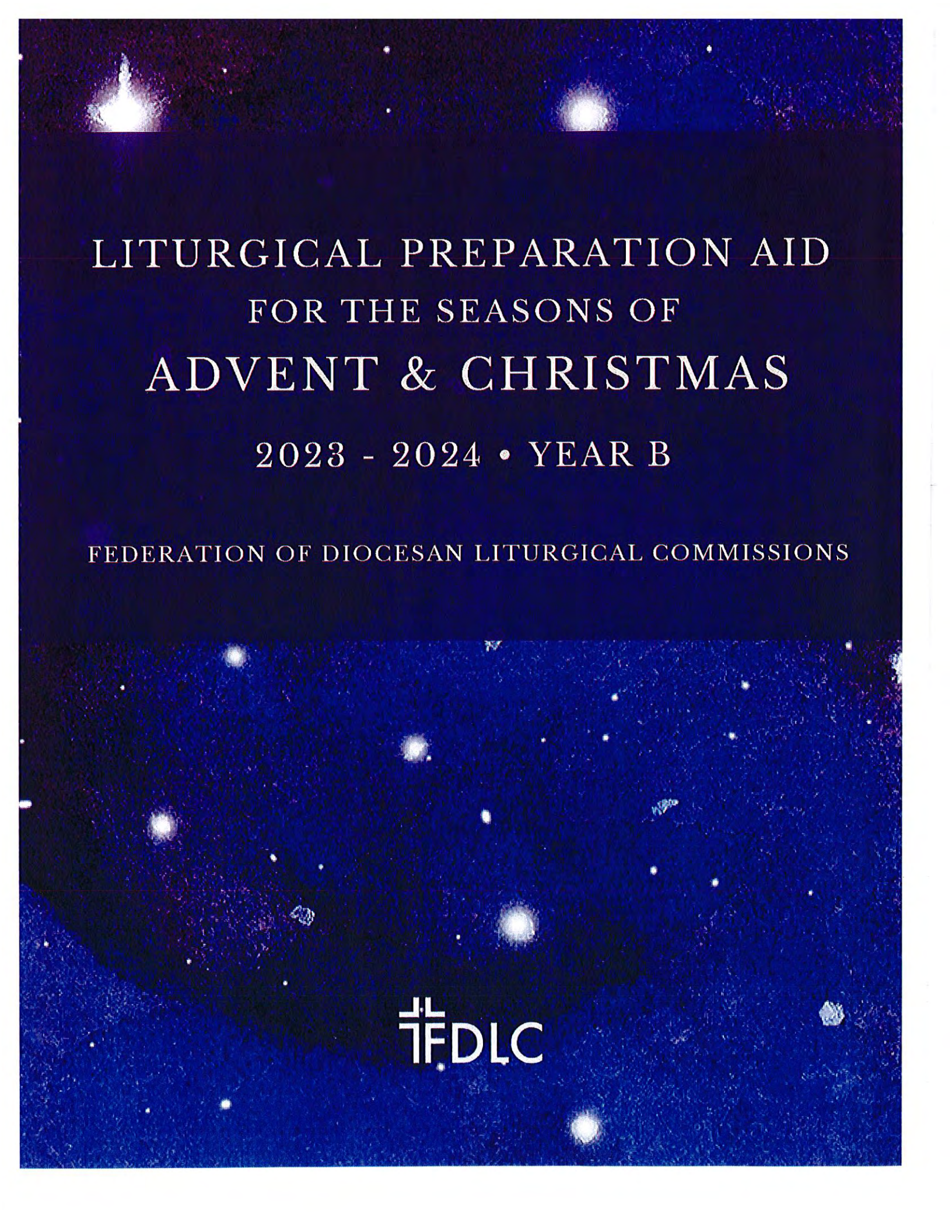
The time for Vigil Masses and Anticipated Masses in the Diocese of Erie is no earlier than 4:00 PM. This applies to Holy Days of Obligation as well, including Christmas.

Time of the Easter Vigil - 2024

The Easter Vigil is the first Mass of Easter Sunday and not in any way to be considered an Anticipated Mass for Easter Sunday. This is why the discipline of the Church insists that it should not begin before nightfall in any circumstance. It may be helpful to know that sunset, according to a variety of models, occurs approximately at 7:44 PM on March 30, 2024. This information is provided at this time to assist with calendar planning for 2023-2024. In general, given the variable date for Easter, it seems best to schedule the Easter Vigil each year for 8:30 PM or later.

FDLC Advent/Christmas Preparation Aid

In the appendix following this newsletter, please find a liturgical preparation aid from the FDLC (Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions) for the seasons of Advent and Christmas. It contains a full presider's text for *The Order of Reconciling Several Penitents with Individual Confession and Absolution*, readings, music suggestions and much more.



LITURGICAL PREPARATION AID
FOR THE SEASONS OF
ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

2023 - 2024 • YEAR B

FEDERATION OF DIOCESAN LITURGICAL COMMISSIONS

FDLC

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

December 3, 2023 to January 8, 2024

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GRACE, MERCY, AND PEACE TO YOU



**A PENANCE SERVICE
FOR ADVENT 2023**

**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**

PREPARATION

- *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.

INTRODUCTION

[SAMPLE]

Presider: *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.

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

THE CELEBRATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

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?**



THE RITE OF RECONCILIATION

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 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.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

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.

READINGS

FIRST READING

Joel 2:12-19

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Joel

Even now says the LORD,
return to me with your whole heart,
with fasting, and weeping, and mourning;

Rend your hearts, not your garments,
and return to the LORD, 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 LORD 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 LORD, weep,

And say "Spare, O LORD, 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 LORD was stirred with concern for his land
and took pity on his people.

The LORD 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

Ephesians 2:1-10

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 in 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

John 14:23

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.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE: ALTERNATIVE READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT

		<u>Cf. Lectionary #</u>
Isaiah 25:6-10a	The LORD will save us.	142
Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10	God will come to save us.	181
Isaiah 40:1-11	God consoles his people	182
Isaiah 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25	There is no just and saving God but me.	189
Isaiah 54: 1-10	The LORD calls you back.	190
Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7	O, that you would rend the heavens and come down	2
Jeremiah 7:21-26	Listen to my voice...I will be your God and you will be my people	240
Jeremiah 23:5-8	I will raise up a righteous shoot to David...	194
Zephaniah 3:14-18a	The Lord has removed judgment against you...the Lord is in your midst	572

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 25	Teach me your ways, O Lord.	3
Psalm 36:2-13	How precious is your unfailing love, O Lord.	398
Psalm 51: 3-21	Give back to me the joy of your salvation.	22
Psalm 72: 1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17	Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.	4
Psalm 103: 1-2, 3-4, 8, 10	The Lord is kind and merciful.	30
Psalm 130: 1-8	With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.	34
Psalm 145: 1, 9, 10-11, 12-13	The Lord is gracious and merciful; slow to anger and of great kindness.	54
Psalm 147:1-6	Blessed are all who wait for the LORD.	19

NEW TESTAMENT

Romans 3: 22-26	Justified by the gift of God, Christ Jesus	85
Romans 4:13-17, 20-25	Inheritance through faith	472
Romans 6:2-14	You must think of yourselves as dead to sin and living for God	949
Romans 12:1-2, 9-19	Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction...	802
2 Corinthians 5:17-21	God reconciled the world to himself through Christ.	33
Ephesians 1: 3-14	The Father's plan of salvation	104
Ephesians 4: 22-32	Forgiving one another as God has forgiven you in Christ	113ff
Philippians 1:4-11	Show yourself pure and blameless for the day of Christ	6
Philippians 4: 6-9	Have no anxiety at all	139
James 5:7-10	Make your hearts firm, the coming of the LORD is at hand	7
1 Peter 1:13-23	You have been redeemed...by the precious blood of Christ	OP 166
1 Peter 1:14-21	You were ransomed from your futile conduct	[46]
1 John 1:5 -2:2	If we acknowledge our sins he is faithful and just	OP 168

GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1-12	Reform your lives, the reign of God is at hand	4
Matthew 9:1-8	Have confidence, my son, your sins are forgiven.	380
Matthew 13:24-30	Weeds and wheat growing together	400
Matthew 18:12-14	The shepherd seeks one lost sheep	182
Matthew 21:28-32	A man had two sons... John came and sinners believed in him	136
Luke 7: 18b-23	Go tell John what you have seen and heard	189
Luke 19: 1-10	The Son of Man has come to search out and save what was lost	153
John 1:29-34	Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world	64
John 5:33-36	I have testimony greater than John's	191

PROCLAMATION OF PRAISE

Psalm 32: 1-7, 10-11	Rejoice in the Lord and sing for joy, friends of God	OP 206.1
Psalm 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13	The Lord is gracious and merciful; slow to anger and of great kindness.	54

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	Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11
1 Corinthians 1:3-9	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11	2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
2 Peter 3:8-14	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

HYMNS

A Voice Cries Out	Michael Joncas	OCP
All You Who Are Thirsty	Michael Connelly	RS644
Amazing Grace	John Newton	various
Christ our Light	Genevieve Glen, OSB	Archdiocese of Cincinnati*
Christians, Let Us Love One Another	Foltz/Nigro	OCP
Clear the Voice	Hagan/Walker	OCP
Come to the Water	Grayson Brown	OCP
Come to Us, Emmanuel	Light/Tate	GIA
Come, Emmanuel	Light/Tate	WLP
Come, O Long Expected Jesus	Wesley/Witt	various
Come, Ye Thankful People, Come	Henry Alford	various
Comfort, Comfort, O My People	Olearius/Goudimel	various
Faith and Truth and Life Bestowing	Jones. Dudley-Smith	Hope
Find Us Ready	Tom Booth	GIA
Gift of God	Marty Haugen	GIA
God's Holy Mountain We Ascend	Omar Westendorf	WLP
Help Me, Lord	Jerry Galipeau	WLP
I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light	Kathleen Thomerson	various
I Will Be Your God	Gerard Chiusano	OCP
Lead Us to Your Light	Carol Browning	GIA
Let Desert Wasteland Now Rejoice	Delores Duffer	GIA
Let Justice Roll Like a River	Marty Haugen	GIA
Lift Up the Trumpet	Eurydice Osterman	GAI
Maranatha, Come	Francis P. O'Brien	GIA
My Soul in Stillness Waits	Marty Haugen	GIA
O Beauty, Ever Ancient	Roc O'Connor	OCP
On Jordan's Bank	Coffin/Wittwe	OCP, various
Our Darkness	Taize	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

*Bicentennial Hymn: [Christ Our Light - Archdiocese of Cincinnati \(catholicaoc.org\)](http://ChristOurLight-ArchdioceseofCincinnati.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

<i>Abranse los Cielos</i>	tradicional	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 & Canticles for Singing</i>
Those Who Seek Your Face	Christopher Walker	OCP, 7150

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

DAY	DATE	LITURGICAL DAY	RANK*	COMMENTS
Sunday	Dec 3	First Sunday of Advent – Year B	2	Lect #2 Pss I Funeral Mass not permitted
Monday	Dec 4	Monday of the First Week of Advent	13	Lect #175
Tuesday	Dec 5	Tuesday of the First Week of Advent	13	Lect #176
Wednesday	Dec 6	Wednesday of the First Week of Advent	13	Lect #177
Thursday	Dec 7	Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church	10	Lect #178 or 688
Friday	Dec 8	Solemnity of The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Patronal Feast of the USA)	3	Lect #689 Pss Proper Holy day of obligation Funeral Mass not permitted
Saturday	Dec 9	Saturday of the First Week of Advent	13	Lect #180
Sunday	Dec 10	Second Sunday of Advent	2	Lect #5 Pss II Funeral Mass not permitted
Monday	Dec 11	Monday of the Second Week of Advent	13	Lect # 181
Tuesday	Dec 12	Our Lady of Guadalupe USA	7	Lect #690A or 707-712
Wednesday	Dec 13	Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr	10	Lect #183 or 692
Thursday	Dec 14	Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church	10	Lect #184 or 693
Friday	Dec 15	Friday of the Second Week of Advent	13	Lect #185
Saturday	Dec 16	Saturday of the Second Week of Advent	13	Lect #186
Sunday	Dec 17	Third Sunday of Advent (<i>Gaudete Sunday</i>)	2	Lect # 8 Pss III Funeral Mass not permitted <i>O Antiphons begin</i>
Monday	Dec 18	December 18	9	Lect #194
Tuesday	Dec 19	December 19	9	Lect #195
Wednesday	Dec 20	December 20	9	Lect #196
Thursday	Dec 21	December 21	9	Lect #197
Friday	Dec 22	December 22	9	Lect #198
Saturday	Dec 23	December 23	9	Lect #199
Sunday	Dec 24	Fourth Sunday of Advent	2	Lect #11 Pss IV Funeral Mass not permitted

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

ADVENT

DAY	DATE	LITURGICAL DAY	RANK*	COMMENTS
Sunday and Monday	Dec 24 and Dec 25	The Nativity of the Lord/ Christmas	2	Holy day of obligation Funeral Mass not permitted Genuflect at " <i>and by the Holy Spirit...became man.</i> " Vigil: Lect #13 Midnight: Lect #14 Dawn: Lect #15 Day: Lect #16
Tuesday	Dec 26	Saint Stephen, The First Martyr	7	Lect #696
Wednesday	Dec 27	Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist	7	Lect #697
Thursday	Dec 28	The Holy Innocents, Martyrs	7	Lect 698
Friday	Dec 29	Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord	9	Lect #202
Saturday	Dec 30	Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord	9	Lect #203
Sunday	Dec 31	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph	7	Lect #17
Monday	Jan 1, 2024	Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord:	3	Lect #18 Not a holy day of obligation
Tuesday	Jan 2	Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church	10	Lect #205 or 510
Wednesday	Jan 3	Christmas Weekday	13	Lect # 206
Thursday	Jan 4	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious USA	10	Lect #207 OR Lect #510A
Friday	Jan 5	St. John Neumann, Bishop USA	10	Lect #208 or 510B
Saturday	Jan 6	Christmas Weekday	13	Lect #209
Sunday	Jan 7	The Epiphany of the Lord	3	Vigil or Mass During Day, Lect #20, Proper Preface, Epiphany Proclamation Funeral Mass not permitted
Monday	Jan 8	The Baptism of the Lord	5	Lect #21, Proper Preface

CHRISTMAS TIME

LECTIONARY -- YEAR B

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

Lectionary #2

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

Lectionary #689

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

Lectionary #5

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 Luke 1: 26-38 or Luke 1: 39-47

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

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

Lectionary #8

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

Lectionary #11

The Nativity of the Lord – Vigil Mass **Lectionary #13, ABC**
First Reading Isaiah 62:1-5
Responsorial Psalm Psalm 89: 4-5, 16-17, 27, 29
Second Reading Acts 13: 16-17, 22-25
Gospel Matthew 1: 1-25 [or 1: 18-25]

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

The Nativity of the Lord – Mass at Dawn **Lectionary #15, ABC**
First Reading Isaiah 62: 11-12
Responsorial Psalm Psalm 97: 1, 6, 11-12
Second Reading Titus 3: 4-7
Gospel Luke 2: 15-20

The Nativity of the Lord – Mass During the Day **Lectionary #16 ABC**
First Reading Isaiah 52: 7-10
Responsorial Psalm Psalm 98: 1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6
Second Reading Hebrews 1: 1-6
Gospel John 1: 1-18 [or John 1: 1-5, 9-14]

Feast of The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph **Lectionary # 17 B [17A]**
(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
Gospel Luke 2:22-40 or Luke 2:22, 39-40

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God **Lectionary #18, ABC**
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) **Lectionary #20 ABC**
First Reading Isaiah 60: 1-6
Responsorial Psalm Psalm 72: 1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13
Second Reading Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
Gospel Matthew 2:1-12

The Baptism of the Lord (Monday, January 8, 2024) **Lectionary #21 B [21ABC]**
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 CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

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.**



ADVENT ALLELUIA VERSES & THE O ANTIPHONS



**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!**



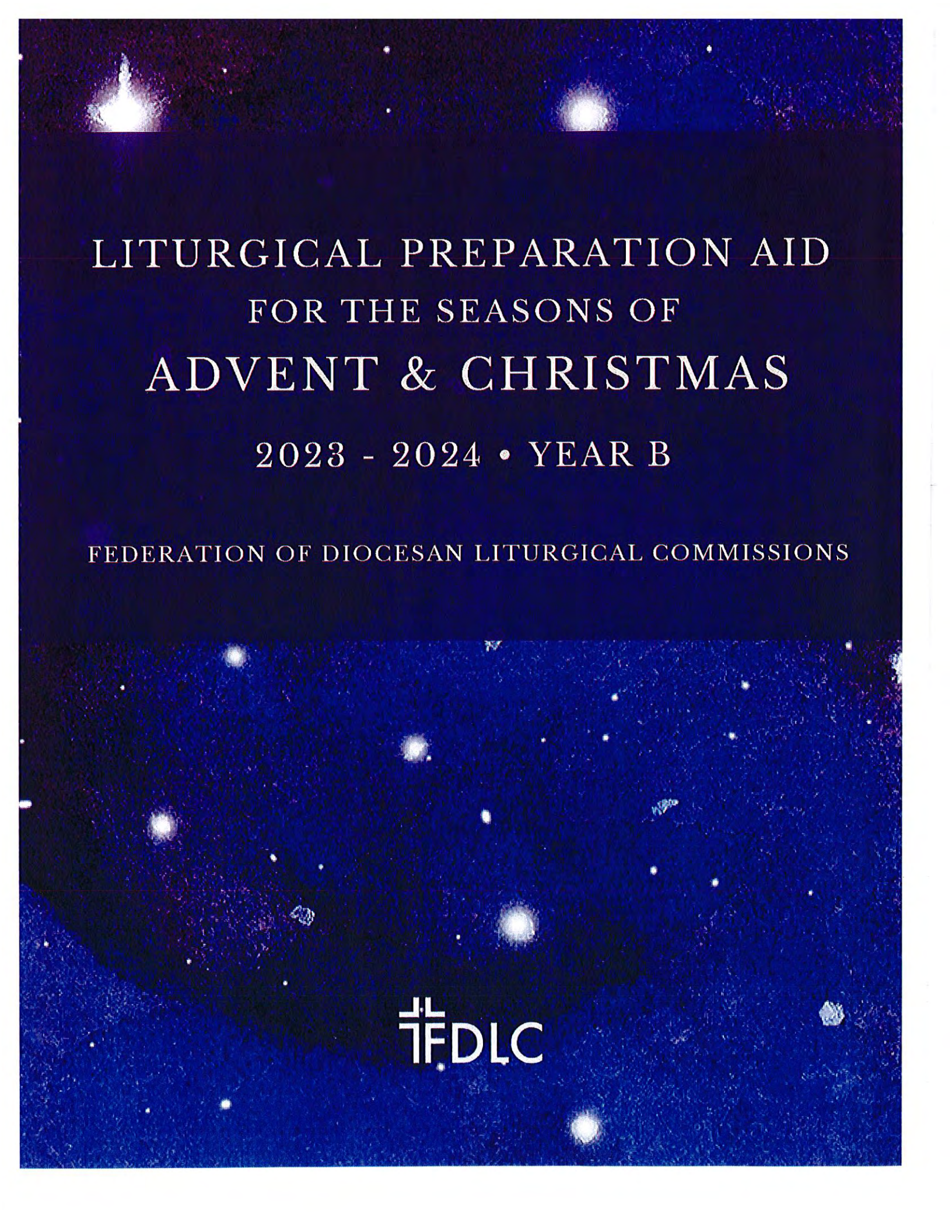
**O Radiant Dawn,
splendor of eternal light, sun of justice:
come and shine on those who dwell in darkness
and in the shadow of death.**



**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!**



LITURGICAL PREPARATION AID
FOR THE SEASONS OF
ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

2023 - 2024 • YEAR B

FEDERATION OF DIOCESAN LITURGICAL COMMISSIONS


FDLC

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

December 3, 2023 to January 8, 2024

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GRACE, MERCY, AND PEACE TO YOU



**A PENANCE SERVICE
FOR ADVENT 2023**

**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**

PREPARATION

- *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.

INTRODUCTION

[SAMPLE]

Presider: *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.

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

THE CELEBRATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

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?**



THE RITE OF RECONCILIATION

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 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.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

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.

READINGS

FIRST READING

Joel 2:12-19

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Joel

Even now says the LORD,
return to me with your whole heart,
with fasting, and weeping, and mourning;

Rend your hearts, not your garments,
and return to the LORD, 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 LORD 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 LORD, weep,

And say "Spare, O LORD, 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 LORD was stirred with concern for his land
and took pity on his people.

The LORD 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

Ephesians 2:1-10

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 in 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

John 14:23

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.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE: ALTERNATIVE READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT

		<u>Cf. Lectionary #</u>
Isaiah 25:6-10a	The LORD will save us.	142
Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10	God will come to save us.	181
Isaiah 40:1-11	God consoles his people	182
Isaiah 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25	There is no just and saving God but me.	189
Isaiah 54: 1-10	The LORD calls you back.	190
Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7	O, that you would rend the heavens and come down	2
Jeremiah 7:21-26	Listen to my voice...I will be your God and you will be my people	240
Jeremiah 23:5-8	I will raise up a righteous shoot to David...	194
Zephaniah 3:14-18a	The Lord has removed judgment against you...the Lord is in your midst	572

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 25	Teach me your ways, O Lord.	3
Psalm 36:2-13	How precious is your unfailing love, O Lord.	398
Psalm 51: 3-21	Give back to me the joy of your salvation.	22
Psalm 72: 1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17	Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.	4
Psalm 103: 1-2, 3-4, 8, 10	The Lord is kind and merciful.	30
Psalm 130: 1-8	With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.	34
Psalm 145: 1, 9, 10-11, 12-13	The Lord is gracious and merciful; slow to anger and of great kindness.	54
Psalm 147:1-6	Blessed are all who wait for the LORD.	19

NEW TESTAMENT

Romans 3: 22-26	Justified by the gift of God, Christ Jesus	85
Romans 4:13-17, 20-25	Inheritance through faith	472
Romans 6:2-14	You must think of yourselves as dead to sin and living for God	949
Romans 12:1-2, 9-19	Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction...	802
2 Corinthians 5:17-21	God reconciled the world to himself through Christ.	33
Ephesians 1: 3-14	The Father's plan of salvation	104
Ephesians 4: 22-32	Forgiving one another as God has forgiven you in Christ	113ff
Philippians 1:4-11	Show yourself pure and blameless for the day of Christ	6
Philippians 4: 6-9	Have no anxiety at all	139
James 5:7-10	Make your hearts firm, the coming of the LORD is at hand	7
1 Peter 1:13-23	You have been redeemed...by the precious blood of Christ	OP 166
1 Peter 1:14-21	You were ransomed from your futile conduct	[46]
1 John 1:5 -2:2	If we acknowledge our sins he is faithful and just	OP 168

GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1-12	Reform your lives, the reign of God is at hand	4
Matthew 9:1-8	Have confidence, my son, your sins are forgiven.	380
Matthew 13:24-30	Weeds and wheat growing together	400
Matthew 18:12-14	The shepherd seeks one lost sheep	182
Matthew 21:28-32	A man had two sons... John came and sinners believed in him	136
Luke 7: 18b-23	Go tell John what you have seen and heard	189
Luke 19: 1-10	The Son of Man has come to search out and save what was lost	153
John 1:29-34	Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world	64
John 5:33-36	I have testimony greater than John's	191

PROCLAMATION OF PRAISE

Psalm 32: 1-7, 10-11	Rejoice in the Lord and sing for joy, friends of God	OP 206.1
Psalm 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13	The Lord is gracious and merciful; slow to anger and of great kindness.	54

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	Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11
1 Corinthians 1:3-9	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11	2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
2 Peter 3:8-14	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

HYMNS

A Voice Cries Out	Michael Joncas	OCP
All You Who Are Thirsty	Michael Connelly	RS644
Amazing Grace	John Newton	various
Christ our Light	Genevieve Glen, OSB	Archdiocese of Cincinnati*
Christians, Let Us Love One Another	Foltz/Nigro	OCP
Clear the Voice	Hagan/Walker	OCP
Come to the Water	Grayson Brown	OCP
Come to Us, Emmanuel	Light/Tate	GIA
Come, Emmanuel	Light/Tate	WLP
Come, O Long Expected Jesus	Wesley/Witt	various
Come, Ye Thankful People, Come	Henry Alford	various
Comfort, Comfort, O My People	Olearius/Goudimel	various
Faith and Truth and Life Bestowing	Jones. Dudley-Smith	Hope
Find Us Ready	Tom Booth	GIA
Gift of God	Marty Haugen	GIA
God's Holy Mountain We Ascend	Omar Westendorf	WLP
Help Me, Lord	Jerry Galipeau	WLP
I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light	Kathleen Thomerson	various
I Will Be Your God	Gerard Chiusano	OCP
Lead Us to Your Light	Carol Browning	GIA
Let Desert Wasteland Now Rejoice	Delores Duffer	GIA
Let Justice Roll Like a River	Marty Haugen	GIA
Lift Up the Trumpet	Eurydice Osterman	GAI
Maranatha, Come	Francis P. O'Brien	GIA
My Soul in Stillness Waits	Marty Haugen	GIA
O Beauty, Ever Ancient	Roc O'Connor	OCP
On Jordan's Bank	Coffin/Wittwe	OCP, various
Our Darkness	Taize	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

*[Bicentennial Hymn: Christ Our Light - Archdiocese of Cincinnati \(catholicaoc.org\)](http://BicentennialHymn:ChristOurLight-ArchdioceseofCincinnati.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

<i>Abranse los Cielos</i>	tradicional	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 & Canticles for Singing</i>
Those Who Seek Your Face	Christopher Walker	OCP, 7150

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

DAY	DATE	LITURGICAL DAY	RANK*	COMMENTS
Sunday	Dec 3	First Sunday of Advent – Year B	2	Lect #2 Pss I Funeral Mass not permitted
Monday	Dec 4	Monday of the First Week of Advent	13	Lect #175
Tuesday	Dec 5	Tuesday of the First Week of Advent	13	Lect #176
Wednesday	Dec 6	Wednesday of the First Week of Advent	13	Lect #177
Thursday	Dec 7	Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church	10	Lect #178 or 688
Friday	Dec 8	Solemnity of The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Patronal Feast of the USA)	3	Lect #689 Pss Proper Holy day of obligation Funeral Mass not permitted
Saturday	Dec 9	Saturday of the First Week of Advent	13	Lect #180
Sunday	Dec 10	Second Sunday of Advent	2	Lect #5 Pss II Funeral Mass not permitted
Monday	Dec 11	Monday of the Second Week of Advent	13	Lect # 181
Tuesday	Dec 12	Our Lady of Guadalupe USA	7	Lect #690A or 707-712
Wednesday	Dec 13	Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr	10	Lect #183 or 692
Thursday	Dec 14	Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church	10	Lect #184 or 693
Friday	Dec 15	Friday of the Second Week of Advent	13	Lect #185
Saturday	Dec 16	Saturday of the Second Week of Advent	13	Lect #186
Sunday	Dec 17	Third Sunday of Advent (<i>Gaudete Sunday</i>)	2	Lect # 8 Pss III Funeral Mass not permitted <i>O Antiphons begin</i>
Monday	Dec 18	December 18	9	Lect #194
Tuesday	Dec 19	December 19	9	Lect #195
Wednesday	Dec 20	December 20	9	Lect #196
Thursday	Dec 21	December 21	9	Lect #197
Friday	Dec 22	December 22	9	Lect #198
Saturday	Dec 23	December 23	9	Lect #199
Sunday	Dec 24	Fourth Sunday of Advent	2	Lect #11 Pss IV Funeral Mass not permitted

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

ADVENT

DAY	DATE	LITURGICAL DAY	RANK*	COMMENTS
Sunday and Monday	Dec 24 and Dec 25	The Nativity of the Lord/ Christmas	2	Holy day of obligation Funeral Mass not permitted Genuflect at " <i>and by the Holy Spirit...became man.</i> " Vigil: Lect #13 Midnight: Lect #14 Dawn: Lect #15 Day: Lect #16
Tuesday	Dec 26	Saint Stephen, The First Martyr	7	Lect #696
Wednesday	Dec 27	Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist	7	Lect #697
Thursday	Dec 28	The Holy Innocents, Martyrs	7	Lect 698
Friday	Dec 29	Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord	9	Lect #202
Saturday	Dec 30	Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord	9	Lect #203
Sunday	Dec 31	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph	7	Lect #17
Monday	Jan 1, 2024	Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord:	3	Lect #18 Not a holy day of obligation
Tuesday	Jan 2	Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church	10	Lect #205 or 510
Wednesday	Jan 3	Christmas Weekday	13	Lect # 206
Thursday	Jan 4	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious USA	10	Lect #207 OR Lect #510A
Friday	Jan 5	St. John Neumann, Bishop USA	10	Lect #208 or 510B
Saturday	Jan 6	Christmas Weekday	13	Lect #209
Sunday	Jan 7	The Epiphany of the Lord	3	Vigil or Mass During Day, Lect #20, Proper Preface, Epiphany Proclamation Funeral Mass not permitted
Monday	Jan 8	The Baptism of the Lord	5	Lect #21, Proper Preface

CHRISTMAS TIME

LECTIONARY -- YEAR B

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

Lectionary #2

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

Lectionary #689

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

Lectionary #5

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 Luke 1: 26-38 or Luke 1: 39-47

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

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

Lectionary #8

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

Lectionary #11

The Nativity of the Lord – Vigil Mass **Lectionary #13, ABC**
First Reading Isaiah 62:1-5
Responsorial Psalm Psalm 89: 4-5, 16-17, 27, 29
Second Reading Acts 13: 16-17, 22-25
Gospel Matthew 1: 1-25 [or 1: 18-25]

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

The Nativity of the Lord – Mass at Dawn **Lectionary #15, ABC**
First Reading Isaiah 62: 11-12
Responsorial Psalm Psalm 97: 1, 6, 11-12
Second Reading Titus 3: 4-7
Gospel Luke 2: 15-20

The Nativity of the Lord – Mass During the Day **Lectionary #16 ABC**
First Reading Isaiah 52: 7-10
Responsorial Psalm Psalm 98: 1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6
Second Reading Hebrews 1: 1-6
Gospel John 1: 1-18 [or John 1: 1-5, 9-14]

Feast of The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph **Lectionary # 17 B [17A]**
(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
Gospel Luke 2:22-40 or Luke 2:22, 39-40

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God **Lectionary #18, ABC**
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) **Lectionary #20 ABC**
First Reading Isaiah 60: 1-6
Responsorial Psalm Psalm 72: 1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13
Second Reading Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
Gospel Matthew 2:1-12

The Baptism of the Lord (Monday, January 8, 2024) **Lectionary #21 B [21ABC]**
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 CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

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.**



ADVENT ALLELUIA VERSES & THE O ANTIPHONS



**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!**