



**YEAR OF MERCY RESOURCES**  
**PART III:**  
**A LITURGY PREPARATION AID**  
**FOR THE**  
**SEASONS OF**  
**ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS**

**A LITURGY PREPARATION AID  
FOR THE SEASONS OF  
ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS  
2015  
YEAR C**

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## OFFICIAL RITES FOR THE OPENING OF THE HOLY DOOR AND THE CLOSING OF THE JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

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The Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization has released the official texts for 1) the “Rite of Opening of the Holy Door of Mercy in Local Churches;” 2) the “Opening of the Jubilee Year in Churches and Shrines Designated by the Diocesan Bishop;” and 3) the “Closing Celebration of the Extraordinary Jubilee in Local Churches.”

These were officially released through Our Sunday Visitor. While they are selling many printed resources, OSV has provided a free download on their website for the above-named rituals. It can be found at <https://www.osv.com/holydoor>. As a means of summary, please find my outlines for these rites below. -- RT

### RITE OF OPENING THE DOOR OF MERCY IN LOCAL CHURCHES

*On December 13, 2015 (Mass texts are from the Third Sunday of Advent, Year C)*

#### Rite of Introduction in the Stational Church

- Sign of the Cross
- Greeting
- Acclamation of Praise
- Exhortation
- Prayer (cf. MVNO, Reconciliation, 2)
- Proclamation of the Gospel (Luke 15:1-7)
- Silence
- Recitation of the Bull of Indiction (*Misericordiae Vultus*, 1-3)

#### Procession into the Cathedral

- Bishop places incense in thurible*
- Thurifer
- Deacon with decorated processional cross (with candle bearers)
- Deacon with Book of the Gospels
- Bishop
- Priests
- Faithful
- Meanwhile, the people and choir sing Antiphons, Psalm 25, 86, or Litany of the Saints*

#### Opening of Door

- Bishop stops at main door (sings/recites Ps 118:19)*
- Deacon hands Book of Gospels to Bishop*
- Antiphon (John 10:9)
- Bishop walks through with Book of Gospels*
- When Bishop reaches the altar, he places the Book of Gospels upon it*

Remembrance of Baptism and Renewal of Vows

Invitation

Blessing of Water (see Roman Missal, form 1)

Renewal of Vows

Sprinkling Rite (with antiphons)

Concluding Prayer

Collect

Liturgy of the Word

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Concluding Rites

Solemn Blessing for Advent

Concludes with *Salve Regina* or *Alma Redemptoris Mater*

**RITE OF OPENING OF THE JUBILEE YEAR  
IN CHURCHES AND SHRINES DESIGNATED BY THE DIOCESAN BISHOP**

*At the main door of the church*

Sign of Cross

Greeting

Prayer of Blessing (Book of Blessings 1229)

**CLOSING CELEBRATION OF THE EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE IN LOCAL CHURCHES**

*On November 13, 2016*

Mass texts: Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

OR Mass for Giving Thanks to God (MVNO #49)

At the Introductory Rites

Sign of the Cross

Greeting

Introduction

Silence

Penitential Act (Invocations provided)

Gloria

Collect

After the Prayer After Communion

Thanksgiving

Magnificat

Blessing (cf. Collect, 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Dismissal

# **HIS MERCY ENDURES FOREVER**



## **A PENANCE SERVICE FOR ADVENT 2015**

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

#### **Introductory Rites**

**Opening Hymn  
Greeting  
Introduction  
Opening Prayer**

#### **Celebration of the Word of God**

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

#### **Rite of Reconciliation**

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

#### **Concluding Rite**

**Blessing  
Dismissal  
Closing Hymn**

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## PREPARATION

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- 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 are included herein.)
- A Bible or Lectionary should be readied with the appropriate readings.
- Lighting may be subdued. Candle(s) should be lit at the ambo. The appropriate number of candles should be lit on the Advent Wreath.
- Stations for confessors should be prepared. Priests might stand or sit in isolated areas around the main body of the church to receive penitents. 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.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
through Christ our Lord.

For all the oracles of the prophets foretold him,  
the Virgin Mother longed for him  
with love beyond all telling,  
John the Baptist sang of his coming  
and proclaimed his presence when he came.

It is by his gift that we already rejoice  
at the mystery of his Nativity,  
so that he might find us watchful in prayer  
and exultant in his praise...

~ Preface II of Advent  
The twofold expectation of Christ

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## INTRODUCTORY RITES

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### OPENING HYMN

*See suggestions herein*

### GREETING

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

**All:** And with your spirit.

### INTRODUCTION

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

Brothers and sisters,  
We gather here tonight [today] because we are conscious of our  
sinfulness. We are sinners. But we also gather here with the  
confidence that our God is a merciful God. He has given us this  
sacrament of Reconciliation in order that we might experience that  
mercy through the ministry of the Church.

As you may know, Pope Francis has declared a “Year of Mercy.” In the  
next twelve months, he has asked us to contemplate more deeply on  
the mystery of God’s abundant mercy – “the bridge that connects God  
and man, opening our hearts to the hope of being loved forever  
despite our sinfulness” (*Misericordiae Vultus*, 2).

Jesus Christ is the face of the Father’s mercy. In this Advent season--  
during which we prepare to celebrate his coming to earth and as we  
anticipate the time when he will come again -- let us better appreciate  
the salvation which his Death and Resurrection has won for us. Let us  
reflect more deeply on his Gospel of compassion and mercy. And may  
we, his disciples, bring that message of mercy and reconciliation to a  
world in need of it.

## OPENING PRAYER

**Presider:** My brothers and sisters,  
We look forward to celebrating the mystery  
of Christ's incarnation.  
Let us pray that when he comes again,  
he may find us awake and ready to receive him.

*Silent prayer*

**Almighty and merciful God,  
you have brought us together in the name of your Son  
to receive your mercy and grace in our time of need.  
Open our eyes to see the evil we have done.  
Touch our hearts and convert us to yourself.  
Where sin has divided and scattered,  
may your love make us one again;  
where sin has brought weakness,  
may your power heal and strengthen;  
where sin has brought death,  
may your Spirit raise us to new life.**

**Give us a heart to love you,  
so that our lives may reflect the image of your Son.  
May the world see the glory of Christ  
revealed in your Church,  
and come to know that he is the One whom you have sent,  
Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.**

**All:** Amen.

Stir up your power, O Lord,  
and come to our help with mighty strength,  
that what our sins may impede  
the grace of your mercy may hasten.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God for ever and ever. Amen.

Collect  
Thursday of the First Week of Advent

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## CELEBRATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

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

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

### FIRST READING

#### **Isaiah 55:9-11**

...turn to the LORD for mercy;  
to our God who is generous in forgiving.  
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

#### **Psalm 100: 1b-2, 3, 4, 5**

The Lord is loving and kind: his mercy is forever.

### SECOND READING

#### **Romans 8:31b-39**

What will separate us from the love of Christ?

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Verse: Come, O Lord, do not delay;  
forgive the sins of your people.**

### GOSPEL

#### **Luke 7:36-50**

Her many sins have been forgiven:  
hence she has shown great love.

### HOMILY

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## EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE: OPTION A

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*On December 22, 2014 Pope Francis met with the behind-the-scenes Vatican employees. After thanking them for their dedication, he encouraged them to examine areas of their lives. The following words are adapted from his remarks.*

**“Care for your spiritual life, your relationship with God.”**

- **Am I a Christian who is not nourished by prayer and the sacraments?**
- **Do I study the Word of God?**



**“Care for your family life...”**

- **Do I give my family time, attention, and love?**
- **Do I care for their daily needs?**

**“Heal the wounds of the heart with the oil of forgiveness...”**

- **Have I forgiven others who have hurt me?**
- **Have I said “I’m sorry” to those whom I have hurt and have I tried to make amends?**

**“Watch how you speak...”**

- **Do I need to purify my everyday language from offensive words, vulgarities, and phrases used in the worldly decadence?**
- **Do I gossip about others or tell false truths?**

**“Care for your work...”**

- **Do I work with enthusiasm and passion?**
- **Am I humble enough to thank the Lord for my accomplishments?**
- **Do I use my God-given skills and talents in the service of others?**

**“Avoid envy, lust, hatred, and negative feelings...”**

- **Are my thoughts and actions destructive toward my relationships, especially with those whom I love?**
- **Do my thoughts destroy my inner peace?**
- **Do I say insulting things when it would be better to remain silent?**
- **Do I surround myself with angry or destructive people?**

**“Reach out to those who need you... this is how you will be judged.”**

- **Do I assist the weak, the elderly, the sick?**
- **Do I stand up for foreigners or for those who are oppressed?**
- **Do I feed the hungry and shelter the homeless?**

**“Let go of...”**

- **“The bitterness that brings us to revenge”**
- **“The laziness that leads to existential euthanasia”**
- **“The finger-pointing that leads to pride”**
- **“The complaining that leads to despair”**

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## EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE: OPTION B

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*The assembly is now invited to make an examination of conscience. This can be done in silence or by using the examination below. Two readers might alternate. Allow a brief period of silence between each question or phrase.*

**Presider:** The following examination of conscience is based upon the Confiteor. Please reflect quietly as each part is read.

### **I CONFESS TO ALMIGHTY GOD**

- Do I sincerely want to be set free from sin and turn again to God?
- Do I seek a deeper relationship with God in this sacrament of reconciliation?

### **AND TO YOU MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS**

- Do I have a genuine love for my family and friends, neighbors and co-workers, or fellow students?
- Have I contributed to the well being and happiness of others at home?
- Am I aware of my global relationship to those suffering and dying in other parts of the world?
- Am I committed to seek peace and promote justice for every person?

### **THAT I HAVE SINNED THROUGH MY OWN FAULT**

- Do I blame others for my wrongdoing or for the misfortune that befalls me?
- Do I accept responsibility for the commitments I have made to others – my spouse? my parents? my children? my parish?
- Do I accept that society's evils are within my power to change?

### **IN MY THOUGHT AND IN MY WORDS**

- Have ever harbored ill thoughts against another person?
- Have my addictions affected my judgment or behavior?
- Have my fears or prejudices prevented me from speaking out on behalf of the poor, the unborn, or people of other races?
- Have my words caused others hurt? Has my silence caused others harm?

### **IN WHAT I HAVE DONE**

- Do I seek to be the center of attention? Have I imposed my will on others without respecting their needs or freedoms?
- Am I focused on my needs to the detriment of the needs of others?
- Am I obsessed with having the perfect body, making more money, or having the latest technology?
- Do I need to be in control of all people and all situations?
- Do I work more than is healthy for my mind or body?

### **IN WHAT I HAVE FAILED TO DO**

- **Have I neglected by responsibilities to my family?**
- **Have I neglected my health?**
- **Have I neglected my prayer life?**
- **Do I use the earth's resources wisely?**

### **AND I ASK BLESSED MARY, EVER VIRGIN AND ALL THE SAINTS**

- **Do I appreciate the great gift of the Eucharist?**
- **Do I worship with my Community each Sunday?**
- **Do I reflect often on what God is calling me to do?**

### **AND YOU MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS**

- **Am I so independent that I refuse to ask for help or let others assist me?**
- **Do I support and defend other members of my family?**
- **Do I give others the opportunity to share their gifts and talents?**
- **Do I treat those who wait on me or who work with me with the dignity they deserve as fellow human beings?**

### **TO PRAY FOR ME TO THE LORD OUR GOD**

- **Do I promise prayers for people and situations and not follow through?**
- **Do I remember to pray for others in my parish, especially for those who are preparing to receive the sacraments?**
- **Do I pray for the living and the dead?**



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## EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE: OPTION C

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*Provided by the Diocese of Camden, NJ*

- Presider:** Let us listen on the words of Pope Francis as he calls us to reflect on God's mercy in our lives and see how we have failed to allow that mercy to permeate our being.
- Reader 1:** God's mercy breaks through the dimension of space and time, inserting everything into the eternal mystery of love. It is as if to say that not only in history, but for all eternity, we will always be under the merciful gaze of the Father. *(Misericordiae Vultus 7)*
- Reader 2:** Have I avoided the mercy of God, neglecting prayer and worship? *(pause)*
- Have I listened for God's voice, looking for signs of God's merciful love and action in the persons and circumstances around me? *(pause)*
- Have I trusted in the mercy of God, or have I left my own unworthiness stand in the way of hope? *(short period of silence)*
- Reader 1:** With our eyes fixed on Jesus and his merciful gaze, we experience the love of the Most Holy Trinity. The mission Jesus received from the Father was that of revealing the mystery of divine love in its fullness. "God is love." *(Misericordiae Vultus 8)*
- Reader 2:** Is my image of God in harmony with the way Jesus describes God? *(pause)*
- Am I open to the mercy of God in my life? *(pause)*
- Am I willing to let go of all my preconceived notions of God and let God transform my mind and heart? *(short period of silence)*
- Reader 1:** When faced with sin, God responds with the fullness of mercy. Mercy will always be greater than any sin, and now one can place limits on the love of God who is ever ready to forgive. *(Misericordiae Vultus 3)*
- Reader 2:** What stands in the way of my responding fully to the mercy of God in my life? *(pause)*
- What circumstances in my life are most difficult for me now? Can I let God's mercy into these places? *(pause)*
- Am I allowing God's merciful love to reach out to others through me? *(silence)*
- Presider:** Let us reflect on the areas in our own lives in need of forgiveness so that we can bring them to God's sacrament of mercy. *(longer pause)*

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## RITE OF RECONCILIATION

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### GENERAL CONFESSION OF SINS

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

**All:** I confess to almighty God  
and to you, my brothers and sisters,  
that I have greatly sinned,  
in my thoughts and in my words,  
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,  
through my fault, through my fault,  
through my most grievous fault;  
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 OF REPENTANCE

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

**Minister:** You came into the world to seek and save what was lost.

**All:** Lord, have mercy.

**Minister:** You came to give us life, life in its fullness.

**All:** Lord, have mercy.

**Minister:** You became the source of salvation for all who obey you.

**All:** Lord, have mercy.

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

**All:** Lord, have mercy.

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

**All:** Lord, have mercy.

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

**All:** Lord, have mercy.

## LORD'S PRAYER

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

**All:** Our Father, ...

## CONCLUDING PRAYER

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

**All:** Amen.

## INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

## PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

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

**Penitent:** Amen.

**PROCLAMATION OF PRAISE FOR GOD'S MERCY**

**Psalm 136:1-9, 16, 24-26**

**Give thanks to the LORD for he is good,  
for his mercy endures forever;  
Give thanks to the God of gods,  
for his mercy endures forever;  
Give thanks to the LORD of lords,  
for his mercy endures forever;**

**Who alone does great wonders,  
for his mercy endures forever;  
Who made the heavens in wisdom,  
for his mercy endures forever;  
Who spread out the earth upon the waters,  
for his mercy endures forever;**

**Who made the great lights.  
for his mercy endures forever;  
The sun to rule over the day,  
for his mercy endures forever;  
The moon and the stars to rule over the night,  
for his mercy endures forever;  
Who led his people through the wilderness,  
for his mercy endures forever;**

**Who freed us from our foes,  
for his mercy endures forever;  
Who gives food to all flesh,  
for his mercy endures forever;  
Give thanks to the God of heaven,  
for his mercy endures forever;**

*Another psalm, hymn, or litany 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 98: 1-9**

**Psalm 100: 1-5**

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

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

**Psalm 145: 1-21**

**Psalm 146: 2-10**

**Isaiah 12: 1b-6**

**Isaiah 61: 10-11**

**Jeremiah 31: 10-14**

**Daniel 3:52-57**

**Luke 1:46-55**

**Ephesians 1:3-10**

**Revelation 15: 3-4**

## CONCLUDING PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**Presider:** Lord God,  
Creator and ruler of your kingdom of light,  
in your great love for this world  
you gave up your only Son for our salvation.  
His cross has redeemed us,  
his death has given us life,  
his resurrection has raised us to glory.  
Through him we ask you  
to be always present among your family.  
Teach us to be reverent in the presence of your glory;  
fill our hearts with faith,  
our days with good works,  
our lives with your love.  
May your truth be on our lips  
and your wisdom in all our actions,  
that we may receive the reward of everlasting life.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

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## CONCLUDING RITE

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### BLESSING

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

**All:** Amen.

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

**All:** Amen.

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

**All:** Amen.

### DISMISSAL

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

**All:** Thanks be to God.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:1-11

A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the LORD:  
All you who are thirsty,  
    come to the water!  
You who have no money,  
    come, receive grain and eat;  
come, without paying and without cost,  
    drink wine and milk!  
Why spend your money for what is not bread,  
    your wages for what fails to satisfy?  
Heed me, and you shall eat well,  
    you shall delight in rich fare.  
Come to me heedfully,  
    listen, that you may have life.  
I will renew with you the everlasting covenant,  
    the benefits assured to David.  
As I made him a witness to the peoples,  
    a leader and commander of nations,  
so shall you summon a nation you knew not,  
    and nations that knew you not shall run to you,  
because of the LORD, your God,  
    the Holy One of Israel, who has glorified you.

Seek the LORD while he may be found,  
    call him while he is near.  
Let the scoundrel forsake his way,  
    and the wicked man his thoughts;  
let him turn to the LORD for mercy;  
    to our God, who is generous in forgiving.  
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
    nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.  
As high as the heavens are above the earth  
    so high are my ways above your ways  
    and my thoughts above your thoughts.

For just as from the heavens  
    the rain and snow come down  
and do not return there  
    till they have watered the earth,  
    making it fertile and fruitful,  
giving seed to the one who sows

**and bread to the one who eats,  
so shall my word be  
that goes forth from my mouth;  
my word shall not return to me void,  
but shall do my will,  
achieving the end for which I sent it.**

**The word of the Lord.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**Psalm 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5**

**R: The Lord is loving and kind: his mercy is for ever.**

**Sing joyfully to the LORD, all you lands;  
serve the LORD with gladness;  
come before him with joyful song.**

**R: The Lord is loving and kind: his mercy is for ever.**

**Know that the LORD is God;  
he made us, his we are;  
his people, the flock he tends.**

**R: The Lord is loving and kind: his mercy is for ever.**

**Enter his gates with thanksgiving,  
his courts with praise;  
give thanks to him, bless his name.**

**R: The Lord is loving and kind: his mercy is for ever.**

**The LORD is good:  
his kindness endures forever,  
and his faithfulness, to all generations.**

**R: The Lord is loving and kind: his mercy is for ever.**

**SECOND READING**

**Romans 8:31b-39**

**Brothers and sisters:**

**If God is for us, who can be against us?**

**He did not spare his own Son**

**but handed him over for us all,**

**how will he not also give us everything else along with him?**

**Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones?**

**It is God who acquits us.**

**Who will condemn?**

**It is Christ Jesus who died, rather, was raised,**

**who also is at the right hand of God,**

**who indeed intercedes for us.**

**What will separate us from the love of Christ?**

**Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine,**

**or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?**

**As it is written:**

*For your sake we are being slain all the day;  
we are looked upon as sheep to be slaughtered.*

**No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly  
through him who loved us.**

**For I am convinced that neither death, nor life,**

**nor angels, nor principalities,**

**nor present things, nor future things,**

**nor powers, nor height, nor depth,**

**nor any other creature will be able to separate us**

**from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**The word of the Lord.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Verse:           Come, O Lord, do not delay;  
forgive the sins of your people.**

A certain Pharisee invited Jesus to dine with him,  
and he entered the Pharisee's house and reclined at table.  
Now there was a sinful woman in the city  
who learned that he was at table in the house of the Pharisee.  
Bringing an alabaster flask of ointment,  
she stood behind him at his feet weeping  
and began to bathe his feet with her tears.  
Then she wiped them with her hair,  
kissed them, and anointed them with the ointment.  
When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this he said to himself,  
"If this man were a prophet,  
he would know who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him,  
that she is a sinner."  
Jesus said to him in reply,  
"Simon, I have something to say to you."  
"Tell me, teacher," he said.  
"Two people were in debt to a certain creditor;  
one owed five hundred days' wages and the other owed fifty.  
Since they were unable to repay the debt, he forgave it for both.  
Which of them will love him more?"  
Simon said in reply,  
"The one, I suppose, whose larger debt was forgiven."  
He said to him, "You have judged rightly."  
Then he turned to the woman and said to Simon,  
"Do you see this woman?  
When I entered your house, you did not give me water for my feet,  
but she has bathed them with her tears  
and wiped them with her hair.  
You did not give me a kiss,  
but she has not ceased kissing my feet since the time I entered.  
You did not anoint my head with oil,  
but she anointed my feet with ointment.  
So I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven;  
hence, she has shown great love.  
But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little."  
He said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."  
The others at table said to themselves,  
"Who is this who even forgives sins?"  
But he said to the woman,  
"Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

The gospel of the Lord.

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## RECONCILIATION SERVICE: ALTERNATIVE READINGS

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### **OLD TESTAMENT**

Isaiah 25:6-10a	The Lord will save us.
Isaiah 35: 1-6a, 10	God himself will come to save us.
Isaiah 40:1-11	God consoles his people
Isaiah 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25	There is no just and saving God but me.
Isaiah 54: 1-10	The Lord calls you back.
Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7	O, that you would rend the heavens and come down
Jeremiah 7:21-26	Listen to my voice...I will be your God and you will be my people
Jeremiah 23:5-8	I will raise up a righteous shoot to David...
Hosea 2:16-25	I will make a covenant for you that day
Joel 2: 12-18	For gracious and merciful is he, slow to anger, rich in kindness
Zephaniah 3:14-18a	The Lord has removed judgment against you...the Lord is in your midst

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Psalm 25	Teach me your ways, O Lord
Psalm 36:2-13	How precious is your unfailing love, O Lord.
Psalm 51: 3-21	Give back to me the joy of your salvation.
Psalm 72: 1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17	Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.
Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19	Lord, make us turn to you and we will be saved.
Psalm 85: 9ab,10, 11-12, 13-14	Our God will come and save us.
Psalm 103: 1-2, 3-4, 8, 10	The Lord is kind and merciful
Psalm 130: 1-8	With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption
Psalm 145:1and9, 10-11, 12-13	The Lord is gracious and merciful; slow to anger and of great kindness
Psalm 147:1-6	Blessed are all who wait for the Lord.

### **NEW TESTAMENT**

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

### **GOSPEL**

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

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## **SAMPLE PENANCES**

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

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- **During the next week, spend an hour in prayer for those who are the victims of abuse or neglect. Read Matthew 25: 31-46.**
- **As a family, prepare a basket of food or toiletries and give it to a family in need.**
- **Skip a meal at your favorite restaurant. Use the money to purchase a Christmas gift for a person served by a parish organization or local charity.**
- **Identify a person whom you have offended since your last confession and pray for them each day for a week.**
- **Think of someone you have been especially uncharitable towards and send a Christmas card with a note of kindness attached to it.**
- **Work at a soup kitchen or food pantry during Advent for a couple of hours.**
- **Reflect on the Beatitudes.....find someone who meets one of those needs, such as one who mourns, and send them a note or visit them during Advent.**
- **Speak a word of affirmation to each member of your household this week. Make an effort to "help carry someone's burden" among your friends or family members.**
- **Offer to share something you have - or something you're doing - with someone who would appreciate it.**
- **Take a "prayer time" of ten minutes or so... and ask God if there is something God would like to say to you... and LISTEN.**
- **Call or write a note to someone who may be lonely or in need of "comfort and joy".**
- **Gather your family members for a reading of the "Christmas Story" from the Gospel of Matthew or Luke. Discuss what it means to them and to you.**
- **Include a weekday Mass in your plans during Advent.**
- **Every morning until Christmas, say a Hail Mary for peace.**
- **Reach out to a lonely person at school. Invite him or her to sit with you and your friends.**
- **Prayerfully pray Psalm 51.**
- **For one whole week, do the dishes or set the table without being asked.**
- **Give up some leisure time to shovel an elderly neighbor's driveway.**

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## MUSIC SUGGESTIONS FOR THE ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE 2015

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### **HYMNODY**

Amazing Grace	Newton (various)
Clear the Voice	Hagan (OCP)
Come, O Long Expected Jesus	Wesley (various)
Comfort, Comfort, O My People	Winkworth (tr.) (OCP)
Cry out with Joy and Gladness	Paul Tate (WLP, 007381)
Cry out with Joy and Gladness	Rudy Borkowski (WLP, 006272)
Find Us Ready	Tom Booth (GIA)
Lead Us to Your Light	Carol Browning (GIA)
Let Us Sing to the Lord/ <i>Cantemos al Señor</i>	Alonso/Mahler (GIA, G-6129 [collection])
My Soul in Stillness Waits	Marty Haugen (GIA)
Sion, Sing	Lucien Deiss (WLP)
The Advent of Our God	Coffin/Chandler (WLP; various hymnals)
There's a Wideness in God's Mercy	Faber (various)
When the King Shall Come Again	Christopher Idle (various)

### **HYMNODY AND RELATED SCRIPTURE**

(Is. 25) Praise the Lord, My Soul	Tom Parker (GIA)
(Is. 25) God's Holy Mountain We Ascend	(WLP)
(Is. 35) Walk in the Reign	Rory Cooney (GIA)
(Is. 35) Ready the Way	Bob Hurd (OCP)
(Is. 35) Come, Emmanuel	Light/Tate (WLP)
(Is. 35) Let Desert Wasteland Now Rejoice	Delores Duffer (GIA)
(Is. 40) Comfort, Comfort, O My People	(various)
(Is. 40) A Voice Cries Out	Michael Joncas (GIA)
(Is. 40) Treasures Out of Darkness/ <i>Tesoros Ocultos</i>	Alan Revering (WLP)
(Joel 2) Let Justice Roll Like a River	Marty Haugen (GIA)
(Rom. 6) I Know That My Redeemer Lives	(various)
(Rom 6) We Know That Christ is Raised	(various)
(Rom. 12) Christians, Let Us Love One Another	Foltz/Nigro (OCP)
(2 Cor.) Where Charity and Love Prevail	Benoit (various)
(Eph. 1) Ephesians 1:3-10	Eugene Englert (GIA; WIII)
(Eph. 4) Where Charity and Love Prevail	Benoit (various)
(1 John 1) I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light	Kathleen Thomerson (various)
(1 John 1) Our Darkness	Taize (GIA)
(1 John 1) God is Love	David Haas (GIA)
(Matt. 3) Wild and Lone the Prophets Voice	(GIA; Hymns for the Gospel)
(Matt. 3) When John Baptized by River Jordan	(GIA; various hymnals)
(Matt. 13) Come, Ye Thankful People, Come	(various)
(Matt. 13) Faith and Truth and Life Bestowing	(GIA; Hymns for the Gospel)
(Matt. 13) The Reign of God	Delores Duffer (GIA)
(John 15) Where Charity and Love Prevail	Benoit (various)
(John 15) No Greater Love	Michael Joncas (GIA)
(John 15) The Master Came to Bring Good News	Ralph Finn (GIA; various hymnals)

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

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DAY	DATE	LITURGICAL DAY	RANK	COMMENTS
Sunday	Nov 29	First Sunday of Advent – Year C	2	Lect #3, Preface I of Advent
Monday	Nov 30	Saint Andrew, Apostle	7	Lect #684
Tuesday	Dec 1	Tuesday of the First Week of Advent	13	Lect #176
Wednesday	Dec 2	Wednesday of the First Week of Advent	13	Lect #177
Thursday	Dec 3	Saint. Francis Xavier, Priest	10	Lect #685
Friday	Dec 4	Friday of First Week of Advent	13	Lect #179
Saturday	Dec 5	Saturday of the First Week of Advent	13	Lect #180
Sunday	Dec 6	Second Sunday of Advent	2	Lect #6
Monday	Dec 7	Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church	10	Lect #688
Tuesday	Dec 8	The Immaculate Conception of the BVM	3	Lect #689; holy day of obligation, Funeral Mass not permitted
Wednesday	Dec 9	Wednesday of the Second Week of Advent	13	Lect #183
Thursday	Dec 10	Thursday of the Second Week of Advent	13	Lect #184
Friday	Dec 11	Friday of the Second Week of Advent	13	Lect. #185
Saturday	Dec 12	Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe	7	Lect #690 A or Com of BVM
Sunday	Dec 13	Third Sunday of Advent	2	Lect #9
Monday	Dec 14	St. John of the Cross, Priest, Doctor of the Church	10	Lect #693
Tuesday	Dec 15	Tuesday of the Third Week of Advent	13	Lect #188
Wednesday	Dec 16	Wednesday of the Third Week of Advent	13	Lect #189
Thursday	Dec 17	Thursday of the Third Week of Advent	9	Lect #193 <i>O Antiphons begin</i>
Friday	Dec 18	Friday of the Third Week of Advent	9	Lect # 194
Saturday	Dec 19	Saturday of the Third Week of Advent	9	Lect #195
Sunday	Dec 20	Fourth Sunday of Advent	2	Lect #12
Monday	Dec 21	Monday of the Fourth Week of Advent	9	Lect #197
Tuesday	Dec 22	Tuesday of the Fourth Week of Advent	9	Lect #198
Wednesday	Dec 23	Wednesday of the Fourth Week of Advent	9	Lect #199
Thursday	Dec 24	Thursday of the Fourth Week of Advent (Day)	9	Lect #200

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

# ADVENT

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**A LITURGICAL YEAR CALENDAR ADVISORY  
FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON**

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Thursday/ Friday	Dec 24 Dec 25	The Nativity of the Lord/ Christmas	2	Holy day of obligation Funeral Mass not permitted Genuflect at "and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate..." Preface I, II or III of Christmas Vigil: Lect #13 Midnight: Lect #14 Dawn: Lect #15 Day: Lect #16
Saturday	Dec 26	St. Stephen, The First Martyr	7	Lect #696
Sunday	Dec 27	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, Joseph	5	Lect #17 Preface I-III of Christmas
Monday	Dec 28	The Holy Innocents, Martyrs	7	Lect #698
Tuesday	Dec 29	Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord	9	Lect #202
Wednesday	Dec 30	Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord	9	Lect #203
Thursday	Dec 31	Seventh Day in the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord	9	Lect #204
Friday	Jan 1, 2016	The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God	3	Lect #18 Holy day of obligation
Saturday	Jan 2	St. Basil the Great and St. Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church	10	Lect #510 (or 719 or 725)
Sunday	Jan 3	Epiphany of the Lord	2	New Mass texts for Vigil/Day Lect #20, Proper Preface, Solemn Blessing #4 Funeral Mass not permitted
Monday	Jan 4	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious	10	Lect #510A or Common HMW
Tuesday	Jan 5	St. John Neumann, Bishop	10	Lect #510B or Common of Past
Wednesday	Jan 6	Wednesday after Epiphany	13	Lect #214
Thursday	Jan 7	Thursday After Epiphany	13	Lect #215
Friday	Jan 8	Friday After Epiphany	13	Lect #216
Saturday	Jan 9	Saturday After Epiphany	13	Lect #217
Sunday	Jan 10	The Baptism of the Lord	3	Lect #21C, Proper Preface



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## LECTIONARY -- YEAR C

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### First Sunday of Advent (November 29, 2015)

Lectionary #3

First Reading	Jeremiah 33:14-16
Psalm	Psalm 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14 (1b)
Second Reading	1 Thessalonians 3:12—4:2
Gospel	Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

### Second Sunday of Advent (December 6, 2015)

Lectionary #6

First Reading	Baruch 5:1-9
Psalm	Psalm 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 (3)
Second Reading	Philippians 1:4-6,8-11
Gospel	Luke 3:1-6

### Solemnity: The Immaculate Conception of the BVM (Tuesday, December 8, 2015)

Lectionary #689

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

### Feast: Our Lady of Guadalupe (Saturday, December 12, 2015)

Lectionary # 690 A or  
Common of BVM 707-712

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

### Third Sunday of Advent (December 13, 2015)

Lectionary #9

First Reading	Zephaniah 3:14-18a
Responsorial Psalm	Isaiah 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 (6)
Second Reading	Philippians 4:4-7
Gospel	Luke 3:10-18

### Fourth Sunday of Advent (December 20, 2015)

Lectionary #12

First Reading	Micah 5:1-4a
Responsorial Psalm	Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4)
Second Reading	Hebrews 10:5-10
Gospel	Luke 1:39-45

**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 at Midnight****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]

**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph (December 27, 2015)****Lectionary # 17C**

First Reading                    1 Samuel 1:30-22, 24-28 *or Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14*  
Responsorial Psalm            Psalm 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 (cf. 5a) *or Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5*  
Second Reading                1 John 3:1-2, 21-24 *or Colossians 3:12-21 or Col 3:12-17*  
Gospel                             Luke 2:41-52

**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (January 1, 2016)****Lectionary #18, ABC****The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord**

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

**The Epiphany of the Lord (January 3, 2016)****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 (January 10, 2016)****Lectionary #21 C**

First Reading                    Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 *or Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7*  
Responsorial Psalm            Psalm 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 (1) *or Ps 29:1-2,3-4, 3, 9-10*  
Second Reading                Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7 *or Acts 10:34-38*  
Gospel                             Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

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## THE CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

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The Roman Martyrology for December 24 contains a formal announcement of the birth of Christ in the style of a proclamation. It begins with the creation of the world, mentions key events in the history of the people of Israel, and concludes with the birth of Jesus during the Roman Era.

A formal *Proclamation of the Birth of Christ* may be chanted or recited after the greeting and introduction of the Christmas Midnight Mass. The Gloria and Opening Prayer immediately follow the proclamation.

The proclamation may also be sung or proclaimed in the Liturgy of the Hours on Christmas Eve. If it is used at Morning or Evening Prayer, it follows the introduction of the hour and precedes the hymn. When it is proclaimed in the Office of Readings, it precedes the *Te Deum*.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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## PROCLAMATION OF THE DATE OF EASTER

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to be sung on the Solemnity of the Epiphany  
after the singing of the Gospel, the deacon or cantor may chant the following.  
For chant notation, please see the Roman Missal, Appendix, page 1448-1449 (USCCB edition).

### **The Announcement of Easter and the Movable Feasts**

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

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

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

**On the fifth [eighth] day of May,  
will be the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ,**

**On the fifteenth day of May,  
the feast of Pentecost.**

**On the twenty-ninth day of May,  
the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.**

**On the twenty-seventh day of November,  
the First Sunday of Advent of our Lord Jesus Christ,**

**to whom is honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.**



## **ABOUT THE FEDERATION OF DIOCESAN LITURGICAL COMMISSIONS**

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

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

We also provide opportunities for liturgical formation. Soon, watch for our nationwide workshops on the revised *Rite of Celebrating Matrimony* and online offerings on Christian Initiation.

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

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