LITURGICAL PREPARATION AID

FOR THE SEASONS OF

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

2026 - 2027 • YEAR B



FDLC

FEDERATION OF DIOCESAN LITURGICAL COMMISSIONS

A LITURGICAL PREPARATION AID FOR THE SEASONS OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

November 29, 2026 to January 10, 2027

✦ CONTENTS ✦

The Order of Reconciling Several Penitents with Individual Confession and Absolution
- **Presider's Text** 3
- **Readings** 15
- **Alternative Readings** 19
- **Sample Penances** 20
- **Music Suggestions** 21

The Liturgical Year Calendar Advisory
- **Season of Advent** 23
- **Christmas Season** 24

The Lectionary for Mass – Year B
- **Readings for Sundays and Solemnities** 25

Proclamations: Roman Missal, third edition
- **The Proclamation of the Birth of Christ (to be sung at Mass during the Night)** 27
- **Announcement of Easter and the Moveable Feasts (to be sung on the Solemnity of the Epiphany)** 29

O Antiphons (December 17-24) 30

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

Excerpts from the *Lectionary for Mass for use in the Dioceses of the United States of America, second typical edition*
© 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC.
Used with permission. All rights reserved.

The Abbey Psalms and Canticles, prepared by the monks of Conception Abbey,
© 2010, 2018 United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC.

Proclamation of the Birth of Christ, Proclamation of the Date of Epiphany, O Antiphons © 2010, 2001 United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. Used with permission. All rights reserved.

The English translation of Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997,
International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation (ICEL);
excerpts from the English translation of *The Order of Penance* © 2019, ICEL;
excerpts from the English translation of *The Roman Missal* © 2010, ICEL. All rights reserved.

Interior artwork by Steve Erspamer, *Clip Art for Year A, B, C*
© Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 1992, 1993, 1994, respectively. All rights reserved.

REPENT, FOR THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS AT HAND
✠
A PENANCE SERVICE
FOR ADVENT 2026

The Order of Reconciling Several Penitents
with Individual Confession and Absolution

<u>The Introductory Rites</u>
- **Liturgical Song**
- **Greeting**
- **Introduction**
- **Prayer**

<u>The Celebration of the Word of God</u>
- **First Reading**
- **Responsorial Psalm**
- **Second Reading**
- **Gospel Acclamation**
- **Gospel**
- **Homily**
- **Examination of Conscience**

<u>The Rite of Reconciliation</u>
- **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**

<u>The Concluding Rites</u>
- **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 yet no place seems safe. The economy is out of control.

Who will speak up? Who will bring us back to God's plan of salvation? Who will restore peace and unity? What is God calling each of us to do?

We are plagued, too, with the guilt of our sins. 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, repent. May we then be better equipped to build God's kingdom here and to prepare for God's kingdom in heaven. May we trust in God's mercy and rest in his 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

Zephaniah 3:14-18a
The Lord will rejoice over you with gladness

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17
Justice shall flourish in his time
and fullness of peace forever.

SECOND READING

James 5:7-10
Make your hearts firm
because the coming of the Lord is at hand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Luke 3:4, 6
Prepare the way of the Lord
make straight his paths;
all flesh shall see the salvation of God

GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1-12
Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

HOMILY

EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



GENERAL CONFESSION OF SINS

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

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

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

LITANY

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

Deacon or Minister: **You were sent to bring good news to the poor
and to heal the contrite of heart.**
All: Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner.
OR: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon or Minister: **You did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.**
All: Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner.
OR: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon or Minister: **You forgave much to the woman who loved much.**
All: Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner.
OR: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon or
Minister: **You did not refuse to sit at table with tax collectors and sinners.**
All: Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner.
OR: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon or
Minister: **You carried the lost sheep on your shoulders back to the fold.**
All: Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner.
OR: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon or
Minister: **You did not condemn the woman taken in adultery but told her to go in peace.**
All: Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner.
OR: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon or
Minister: **You called Zacchaeus the tax collector to conversion and new life.**
All: Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner.
OR: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon or
Minister: **You promised paradise to the repentant thief.**
All: Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner.
OR: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon or
Minister:: **You are seated at the right hand of the Father, and live for ever to intercede for us.**
All: Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner.
OR: Lord, have mercy.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

Our Father …

PRAYER

Priest: **Almighty and eternal God,**
who by the Incarnation of your Only Begotten Son
mercifully reconciled the world to your majesty,
grant, we pray,
that the clouds of sin may flee from hearts made tranquil
and that, as the light grows stronger,
the mysteries of the Lord's Nativity
may always be celebrated with unsullied joy.
Through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

Confessor: **God, the Father of mercies,**
through the Death and Resurrection of his Son
has reconciled the world to himself
and poured out the Holy Spirit for the forgiveness of sins;
through the ministry of the Church
may God grant you pardon and peace,
AND I ABSOLVE YOU FROM YOUR SINS,
IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, ✠
AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Penitent: **Amen.**

PROCLAMATION OF PRAISE FOR GOD'S MERCY

Psalm 98:1, 2-3b, 3c-4, 5-6, 7-9b, 9cd

R: The Lord has remembered his merciful love.

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

R: The Lord has remembered his merciful love.

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

R: The Lord has remembered his merciful love.

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

R: The Lord has remembered his merciful love.

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

R: The Lord has remembered his merciful love.

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

R: The Lord has remembered his merciful love.

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

R: The Lord has remembered his merciful love.

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

Psalm 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.**

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

All: **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

READINGS

FIRST READING **Zephaniah 3:14-18a**

The Lord will rejoice over you with gladness

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Zephaniah

Shout for joy, O daughter Zion!
Sing joyfully, O Israel!
Be glad and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem
The LORD has removed the judgment against you
he has turned away your enemies;
the King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst,
you have no further misfortune to fear.
On that day, it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Fear not, O Zion, be not discouraged!
The LORD, your God, is in your midst.
a mighty savior;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
and renew you in his love,
he will sing joyfully because of you,
as one sings at festivals.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM **Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17**

R: Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace forever.

O God, with your judgment endow the king,
and with your justice the King's son;
he shall govern your people with justice
and your afflicted ones with judgment.

R: Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace forever.

Justice shall flower in his days,
and profound peace, till the moon be no more.
May he rule from sea to sea ,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

R: Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace forever.

For he shall rescue the poor when he cries out,
and the afflicted when he has no one to help him.
He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor;
the lives of the poor he shall save.

R: Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace forever.

May his name be blessed forever;
as long as the sun his name shall remain.
In him shall all the tribes of the earth be blessed;
all the nations shall proclaim his happiness.

R: Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace forever.

SECOND READING **James 5:7-10**

Make your hearts firm because the coming of the Lord is at hand.

A reading from the Letter of Saint James

Be patient, brothers and sisters,
until the coming of the Lord.
See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth,
being patient with it
until it receives the early and the late rains.
You too must be patient.
Make your hearts firm,
because the coming of the Lord is at hand.
Do not complain, brothers and sisters, about one another,
that you may not be judged.
Behold, the Judge is standing before the gates.
Take as an example of hardship and patience, brothers and sisters,
the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION **Luke 3:4, 6**

Alleluia, alleluia.

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

Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL **Matthew 3:1-12**

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea
and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"
It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said:
A voice of one crying out in the desert,
Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths.
John wore clothing made of camel's hair
and had a leather belt around his waist.
His food was locusts and wild honey.
At that time Jerusalem, all Judea,
and the whole region around the Jordan
were going out to him
and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River
as they acknowledged their sins.

When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees
coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers!
Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?
Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance.
And do not presume to say to yourselves,
'We have Abraham as our father.'
For I tell you,
God can raise up children to Abraham from these stones.
Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees.
Therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit
will be cut down and thrown into the fire.
I am baptizing you with water, for repentance,
but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I.
I am not worthy to carry his sandals.
He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.
His winnowing fan is in his hand.
He will clear his threshing floor
and gather his wheat into his barn,
but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

The Gospel of the Lord.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE: ALTERNATIVE READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT		**Cf. Lectionary #**
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
Joel 2:12-19	Return to me with your whole heart.	219
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 85:2-14	Show us, O Lord, your mercy and grant us your salvation.	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 2:1-10	God, because of the great love he had for us…brought us to life in Christ	473
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
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 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
John 15:9-14	You are my friends if you do what I command you.	56
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 2026

HYMNS

A Voice Cries Out	Michael Joncas	OCP
All You Who Are Thirsty	Michael Connelly	RS 644
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	GIA
Maranatha, Come	Francis P. O'Brien	GIA
My Soul in Stillness Waits	Marty Haugen	GIA
O Beauty, Ever Ancient	Roc O'Connor	OCP
On Jordan's Bank	Coffin/Wittwe	OCP, various
Our Darkness	Taizé	GIA
Our Father, We Have Wandered	Kevin Nichols/ICEL	OCP
Patience, People	John Foley	OCP
Praise the Lord, My Soul	Tom Parker	GIA
Ready the Way	Bob Hurd	OCP
Seek the Lord	Roc O'Connor	various
Sion, Sing	Lucien Deiss	WLP
The Advent of Our God	Coffin/Mercer	WLP
The King of Love My Shepherd Is	Henry W. Baker	various
The Master Came to Bring Good News	Ralph Finn	GIA; various
The Reign of God	Delores Dufner	GIA
The Trumpet in the Morning	Rory Cooney	GIA
There's a Wideness in God's Mercy	Frederick Faber	various
This is My Will	Henry James	GIA; various
Though the Mountains May Fall	Dan Schutte	OCP
Treasures Out of Darkness/*Tesoros Ocultos*	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)

Wait While the Seed is Planted	Delores Dufner	GIA
Walk in the Reign	Rory Cooney	GIA
We Are God's Work of Art	Marty Haugen	GIA
When Jesus Passed Through Jericho	Herman Stuempfle	GIA, various
When John Baptized by Jordan's River	Timothy Dudley-Smith	OCP, various
When the King Shall Come Again	Christopher Idle	GIA, various
Where Charity and Love Prevail	Benoit	various
Wild and Lone the Prophets Voice	Carl P. Daw	Hope, GIA

OTHER SPANISH-LANGUAGE HYMNS

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

LITANIES

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

PROCLAMATIONS OF PRAISE

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

A LITURGICAL YEAR CALENDAR ADVISORY - SEASON OF ADVENT 2026

DAY	DATE	LITURGICAL DAY	RANK*	COMMENTS
Sunday	Nov 29	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR B	2	Lect #2 Pss I Funeral Mass not permitted
Monday	Nov 30	St. 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	St. Francis Xavier, Priest	10	Lect #178 or # 685
Friday	Dec 4	Friday of the First Week of Advent	13	Lect #179
Saturday	Dec 5	Saturday of the First Week of Advent	13	Lect #180
Sunday	Dec 6	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	2	Lect #5 Pss II Funeral mass not permitted
Monday	Dec 7	Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church	10	Lect #181 or Lect #688
Tuesday	Dec 8	Solemnity of The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Patronal Feast of the USA)	3	Lect #689 Pss Proper Holy day of obligation Funeral Mass not permitted
Wednesday	Dec 9	Wednesday of the Second Week of Advent	13	Lect #183
Thursday	Dec 10	Thursday of the Second Week of Advent	13	Lect #184
Friday	Dec 11	Friday of the Second Week of Advent	13	Lect # 185
Saturday	Dec 12	Our Lady of Guadalupe USA	7	Lect #690A or 707-712
Sunday	Dec 13	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT GAUDETE SUNDAY	2	Lect #8 Pss III
Monday	Dec 14	Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church	10	Lect #187 or 693
Tuesday	Dec 15	Tuesday of the Third Week of Advent	13	Lect #188
Wednesday	Dec 16	Wednesday of the Third Week of Advent	13	Lect #189
Thursday	Dec 17	December 17	9	Lect #193 O Antiphons begin
Friday	Dec 18	December 18	9	Lect #194
Saturday	Dec 19	December 19	9	Lect #195
Sunday	Dec 20	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	2	Lect #11
Monday	Dec 21	December 21	9	Lect #197
Tuesday	Dec 22	December 22	9	Lect #198
Wednesday	Dec 23	December 23	9	Lect #199
Thursday	Dec 24	December 24 Morning	9	Lect #200

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

A LITURGICAL YEAR CALENDAR ADVISORY - CHRISTMAS SEASON

DAY	DATE	LITURGICAL DAY	RANK*	COMMENTS
Thursday and Friday	Dec 24 and Dec 25	THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)	2	Holy day of obligation Funeral Mass not permitted Genuflect at "*and by the Holy Spirit…became man.*" Vigil: Lect #13 Midnight: Lect #14 Dawn: Lect #15 Day: Lect #16
Saturday	Dec 26	Saint Stephen, The First Martyr	7	Lect #696
Sunday	Dec 27	THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH Sunday within the Octave of Christmas	5	Lect #17 B
Monday	Dec 28	The Holy Innocents, Martyrs	7	Lect 698
Tuesday	Dec 29	Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord	9	Lect #202
Wednesday	Dec 30	Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord	9	Lect #203
Thursday	Dec 31	Seventh Day within the Octave of Christmas	9	Lect #204
Friday	Jan 1, 2027	SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord	3	Lect #18 Holy day of obligation
Saturday	Jan 2	Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church	10	Lect #205 or 510
Sunday	Jan 3	THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	3	Vigil or Mass During Day, Lect #20, Proper Preface, Epiphany Proclamation Funeral Mass not permitted
Monday	Jan 4	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious USA	10	Lect #212 OR Lect #510A Pss II
Tuesday	Jan 5	St. John Neumann, Bishop USA	10	Lect #213 OR 510B
Wednesday	Jan 6	Christmas Weekday	13	Lect #214
Thursday	Jan 7	Christmas Weekday	13	Lect #215
Friday	Jan 8	Christmas Weekday	13	Lect #216
Saturday	Jan 9	Christmas Weekday	13	Lect #217
Sunday	Jan 10	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	5	Lect #21, Proper Preface

LECTIONARY -- YEAR B

First Sunday of Advent (November 29, 2026) **Lectionary #2**

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

Second Sunday of Advent (December 6, 2026) **Lectionary #5**

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

Solemnity: The Immaculate Conception of the BVM (Tuesday, December 8, 2026) **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, 2026) **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, 2026) **Lectionary #8**

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent (December 20, 2026) **Lectionary #11**

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



The Nativity of the Lord – Vigil Mass **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 27, 2026)

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 (Friday, January 1, 2027)

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

The Epiphany of the Lord (Sunday, January 3, 2027) **Lectionary #20 ABC**

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

The Baptism of the Lord (Sunday, January 10, 2027) **Lectionary #21 B [21ABC]**

First Reading	Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 OR Isaiah 55:1-11
Responsorial Psalm	Psalm 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 OR Isaiah 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6
Second Reading	Acts 10:34-38 OR 1 John 5:1-9
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 tenth day of February will fall Ash Wednesday,
and the beginning of the fast of the most sacred Lenten season.

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

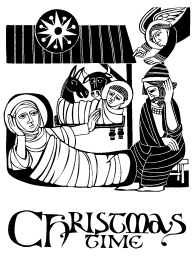
On the ninth [sixth] day of May will be the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

On the thirtieth day of May, the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.

On the twenty-eighth day of November,
the First Sunday of Advent of our Lord Jesus Christ,
to whom is honor and glory for ever 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 Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law:
come to save us, Lord our God!



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



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.

ABOUT THE FEDERATION OF DIOCESAN LITURGICAL COMMISSIONS

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

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

We routinely provide free online opportunities for liturgical formation. We offered thirty-eight webinar on the *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults* and the *Ritual de la Iniciacion Christiana de Adultos.*

Many of our series are archived on our website: www.fdlc.org/formation

- The Liturgical Books
- The Liturgical Year
- "The Work of Our Redemption" (on the Order of Mass)
- "The History of the Liturgical Reform"
- "The Divine Office Hymnal"
- "*Ars Celebrandi*: Something More is Required"
- The Anointing of the Sick and Their Pastoral Care

Join us for our current twenty-part formation series on the Liturgy of the Hours! Register at https://fdlc.org/2026/10/lothwebinars/

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.

We gratefully acknowledge the generosity of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD), the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), and the International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL) for their kind permission to reprint copyrighted texts.

415 Michigan Avenue, NE Suite 70
Washington, DC 20017
202-635-6990 | www.fdlc.org