



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

YEAR OF GRACE 2017

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

**2016 - 2017
YEAR A**

∞ CONTENTS ∞

Rite of Reconciliation of Several Penitents with Individual Confession and Absolution	4
Readings	16
Alternate Readings	20
Sample Penances	21
Music Suggestions	22
A Calendar Advisory for the Season of Advent	23
A Calendar Advisory for the Season of Christmas	24
The Lectionary for Mass - Year A	25
The Proclamation of the Birth of Christ (to be sung at Midnight Mass)	27
Proclamation of the Date of Easter (to be sung on the Solemnity of the Epiphany)	29



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

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.

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 *Rite of Penance* © 1974, ICEL;
excerpts from the English translation of *The Roman Missal* © 2010, ICEL. All rights reserved.

Cover image: *Adoration of the Shepherds*, Gerard van Honthorst, 1622

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

I CAME TO CALL THE SINNER



A PENANCE SERVICE FOR ADVENT 2016

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**

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 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

INTRODUCTORY RITES

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

In these or similar words...

Presider: Brothers and sisters,
We have just ended the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

In the past year,
Pope Francis had asked us to contemplate more deeply
on the mystery of God's abundant mercy –
“opening our hearts to the hope of being loved forever
despite our sinfulness” (*Misericordiae Vultus*, 2).
I hope each of us entered fully into this year,
recognized how God has forgiven us,
and reached out to forgive others.

But while a Year of Mercy may officially conclude,
God's mercy endures forever.
By his mercy, we have been continually forgiven.
By his mercy, he sent his Only Begotten Son to dwell among us
and to save us from our sins.
By God's mercy, we receive the grace to overcome our sinfulness
and to return to him, again and again.

This merciful God has called us here today [tonight].
In this Sacrament of Reconciliation,
we encounter, through the ministry of the Church,
our all-merciful, all-loving God.

And having received such generous mercy, may we, his disciples,
bring that message of 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

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.

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

FIRST READING

Wisdom 11:22 - 12:2

*You have mercy on all
because you love all things that are.*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 51:3-21

Give back to me the joy of your salvation.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

*We wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ...
God is faithful.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

GOSPEL

Matthew 9:1-13

I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners

HOMILY

EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE: OPTION A

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”**

EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE: OPTION B

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 GREATLY SINNED

- 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?

AND 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?

THROUGH MY FAULT, THROUGH MY FAULT, THROUGH MY MOST GREVIOUS FAULT

- Do I recognize my own sins?
- Does my ego or my self-righteousness prevent me from seeing my own errors?
- Do I blame broken relationships on others?

THEREFORE I ASK BLESSED MARY, EVER-VIRGIN AND ALL THE ANGELS AND 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?



RITE OF RECONCILIATION

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.

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.

CONCLUDING RITE

BLESSING

Presider: May the Lord guide your hearts in the way of his love
and fill you with Christ-like patience.

All: Amen.

Presider: May he give you strength
to walk in newness of life
and to please him in all things.

All: Amen.

Presider: May almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

DISMISSAL

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

All: Thanks be to God.

READINGS

FIRST READING

Wisdom 11:22 - 12:2

A reading from the Book of the Wisdom.

Before the LORD the whole universe is as a grain from a balance
or a drop of morning dew come down upon the earth.

But you have mercy on all, because you can do all things;
and you overlook people's sins that they may repent.

For you love all things that are
and loathe nothing that you have made;
for what you hated, you would not have fashioned.

And how could a thing remain, unless you willed it;
or be preserved, had it not been called forth by you?

But you spare all things, because they are yours,
O LORD and lover of souls,
for your imperishable spirit is in all things!

Therefore you rebuke offenders little by little,
warn them and remind them of the sins
they are committing,

that they may abandon their wickedness
and believe in you, O LORD!

The word of the Lord.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 51: 3-4, 5-6a, 12-13, 14 and 17

R: Give back to me the joy of your salvation.

OR

R: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness;
in the greatness of your compassion wipe out my offense.
Thoroughly wash me from my guilt
and of my sin cleanse me.

R: Give back to me the joy of your salvation.

OR

R: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

For I acknowledge my offense,
and my sin is before me always:
“Against you only have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight.”

R: Give back to me the joy of your salvation.

OR

R: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

A clean heart create in me, O God,
and a steadfast spirit renew within me.
Cast me not out from your presence,
and your Holy Spirit take not from me.

R: Give back to me the joy of your salvation.

OR

R: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Give me back the joy of your salvation,
and a willing spirit sustain in me.
O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

R: Give back to me the joy of your salvation.

OR

R: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.



SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

A reading from the first letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

**Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.**

**I give thanks to my God always on your account
for the grace of God bestowed on you in Christ Jesus,
that in him you were enriched in every way,
with all discourse and all knowledge,
as the testimony to Christ was confirmed among you,
so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift
as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**He will keep you firm to the end,
irreproachable on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**God is faithful,
and by him you were called to fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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



✘ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

As Jesus passed on from there,
he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the customs post.
He said to him, "Follow me."
And he got up and followed him.
While he was table in his house,
many tax collectors and sinners came
and sat with Jesus and his disciples.
The Pharisees saw this and said to his disciples,
"Why does you teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"
He heard this and said,
"Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do.
Go and learn the meaning of the words,
I desire mercy, not sacrifice.
I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."

The Gospel of the Lord.



RECONCILIATION SERVICE: ALTERNATIVE READINGS

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 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...
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	[Healing of the paralytic] 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

SAMPLE PENANCES

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

- **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.**

MUSIC SUGGESTIONS FOR THE ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE 2016

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)

A LITURGICAL CALENDAR ADVISORY FOR THE SEASON OF ADVENT

DAY	DATE	LITURGICAL DAY	RANK	COMMENTS
Sunday	Nov 27	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR A	2	Lect #1, Preface I of Advent
Monday	Nov 28	Monday of the First Week of Advent	13	Lect # 175
Tuesday	Nov 29	Tuesday of the First Week of Advent	13	Lect # 176
Wednesday	Nov 30	Saint Andrew, Apostle	7	Lect #684
Thursday	Dec 1	Thursday of the First Week of Advent	13	Lect #178
Friday	Dec 2	Friday of the First Week of Advent	13	Lect #179
Saturday	Dec 3	Saint. Francis Xavier, Priest	10	Lect #685
Sunday	Dec 4	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	2	Lect #4
Monday	Dec 5	Monday of the Second Week of Advent	13	Lect #181
Tuesday	Dec 6	Tuesday of the Second Week of Advent/ <i>St. Nicholas</i>	13	Lect #182 / <i>Lect # 687</i>
Wednesday	Dec 7	Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church	10	Lect #688
Thursday	Dec 8	THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BVM <i>Patronal feast day of the USA</i>	3	Lect #689; holy day of obligation, Funeral Mass not permitted
Friday	Dec 9	Friday of the Second Week of Advent/ <i>St. Juan Diego</i>	13	Lect #185 / <i>Lect #689 A</i>
Saturday	Dec 10	Saturday of the Second Week of Advent	13	Lect #186
Sunday	Dec 11	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	2	Lect. #7
Monday	Dec 12	Our Lady of Guadalupe (Feast-USA)	7	Lect #690 A or Com of BVM
Tuesday	Dec 13	St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr	10	Lect #692
Wednesday	Dec 14	St. John of the Cross, Priest, Doctor of the Church	10	Lect #693
Thursday	Dec 15	Thursday of the Third Week of Advent	13	Lect #190
Friday	Dec 16	Friday of the Third Week of Advent	13	Lect #191
Saturday	Dec 17	Saturday of the Third Week of Advent	9	Lect #193 <i>O Antiphons begin</i>
Sunday	Dec 18	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	2	Lect #10
Monday	Dec 19	Monday of the Fourth Week of Advent	9	Lect #195
Tuesday	Dec 20	Tuesday of the Fourth Week of Advent	9	Lect #196
Wednesday	Dec 21	Wednesday of the Fourth Week of Advent	9	Lect #197
Thursday	Dec 22	Thursday of the Fourth Week of Advent	9	Lect #198
Friday	Dec 23	Friday of the Fourth Week of Advent	9	Lect #199
Saturday	Dec 24	Saturday of the Fourth Week of Advent (Morning)	9	Lect #200

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

ADVENT

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

Saturday/ Sunday	Dec 24 Dec 25	THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD/ CHRISTMAS	2	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
Monday	Dec 26	St. Stephen, The First Martyr	7	Lect #696
Tuesday	Dec 27	Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist	7	Lect #697
Wednesday	Dec 28	The Holy Innocents, Martyrs	7	Lect #698
Thursday	Dec 29	Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord	9	Lect #202
Friday	Dec 30	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, Joseph	5	Lect #17A Preface I-III of Christmas
Saturday	Dec 31	Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord	9	Lect #204
Sunday	Jan 1, 2017	THE OCTAVE DAY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD	3	Lect #18
Monday	Jan 2	St. Basil the Great and St. Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church	10	Lect #510 (or 719 or 725)
Tuesday	Jan 3	Christmas Weekday	13	Lect #206
Wednesday	Jan 4	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious USA	10	Lect #510A or Common HMW
Thursday	Jan 5	St. John Neumann, Bishop USA	10	Lect #510B or Common of Past
Friday	Jan 6	Christmas Weekday	13	Lect #209
Saturday	Jan 7	Christmas Weekday	13	Lect #210
Sunday	Jan 8	THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	2	New Mass texts for Vigil and Day Lect #20, Proper Preface, Solemn Blessing #4 Funeral Mass not permitted
Monday	Jan 9	The Baptism of the Lord	3	Lect #21A, Proper Preface



LECTIONARY – YEAR A

First Sunday of Advent (November 27, 2016)

Lectionary #1

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

Second Sunday of Advent (December 4, 2016)

Lectionary #4

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

Solemnity: The Immaculate Conception of the BVM (Thursday, December 8, 2016)

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

Third Sunday of Advent (December 11, 2016)

Lectionary #7

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

Our Lady of Guadalupe [Feast] (Dec. 12, 2016) Lect # 690 A or Common of BVM 707-712

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent (December 18, 2016)

Lectionary #10

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

The Nativity of the Lord – Vigil Mass**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
(Friday, December 30, 2016)****Lectionary # 17 A**

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

When a Sunday does not occur between December 25 and January 1, this feast is celebrated on December 30 with only one reading before the Gospel.

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (January 1, 2017)**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 8, 2017)**Lectionary #20 ABC**

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

The Baptism of the Lord (Monday, January 9, 2017)**Lectionary #21 A**

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

When the Epiphany is transferred to a Sunday that falls on January 7 or 8, the Baptism of the Lord is transferred to the Monday immediately following. Only one reading is used before the Gospel.

THE CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

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.**

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

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.



PROCLAMATION OF THE DATE OF EASTER

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

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

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

**On the fourth day of June,
the feast of Pentecost.**

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

**On the third day of December,
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.

We also provide opportunities for liturgical formation. For example, we just conducted thirty-two nationwide workshops on the revised *Rite of Celebrating Matrimony*. In 2017, watch for more workshops and online offerings on Christian Initiation and on the implementation of the *Misal Romano, tercero edición*.

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