

Advent Day of Prayer – Our Lady of Florida Spiritual Center

December 14, 2021

### Year C – Cycle II

With the onset of Advent, the Church Year 2022 begins.

Lectionary Cycle C (Sunday Masses)

Lectionary Cycle II (Weekday cycle in Ordinary Time)

### Advent Guidelines

**Advent begins with Evening Prayer I on Saturday evening, November 27<sup>th</sup> and ends with Mid-afternoon Prayer on Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> (*Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year*, 40)**

**Prior to December 17<sup>th</sup>, Advent Preface I is used. On memorials of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the saints, however, the corresponding Preface may be used in place of the weekday or seasonal Preface.**

**The use of the organ and other musical instruments and the decorating of the Sanctuary with flowers should be done in a moderate manner without anticipating the full joy of Christmas. This principal should be observed even with the Sacrament of Matrimony during the Advent season (*GIRM*, 305, 313).**

**The official color of the Advent is violet. Blue vestments are not authorized for use in the United States (*GIRM*, 346e, *Ordo*, 1).**

**From December 17<sup>th</sup> thru 24<sup>th</sup>, the “O” Antiphons used during Vespers may be sung as the verse for the Gospel Acclamation.**

**The weekdays of Advent from December 17<sup>th</sup> thru December 24<sup>th</sup> have Propers that are to be used.**

### **Advent Customs for the Family**

**The empty manger:** Each child may have his own individual manger, or there may be one manger for the whole family. The idea is that when acts of service, sacrifice, or kindness are done in honor of Baby Jesus as a birthday present, the child receives a piece of straw to put into the manger. Then, on Christmas morning, “Baby Jesus” is placed in the manger. Encourage your children to make Jesus’ bed as “comfortable” as possible through their good deeds. In the process, explain Christ’s incomparable self-gift at Christmas and Easter that enables us to be part of God’s family.

**The Jesse tree:** The Jesse tree tells about Christ’s ancestry through symbols and relates Scripture to salvation history, progressing from creation to the birth of Christ. The tree can be made on a poster board with the symbols glued on, or on an actual tree. For further information read, *Advent and Christmas in a Catholic Home*.

**St. Nicholas Day:** The feast of St. Nicholas is on Dec. 6th. It is a highlight of the Advent season. Each child puts out a shoe the night before St. Nicholas Day in the hope that the kind bishop — with his miter, staff, and bag of gifts — will pay a visit. The current “Santa Claus” is modeled after St. Nicholas, but commercialism has tarnished the true story. Many families give gifts on both Dec. 6 and Christmas. Read about St. Nicholas in your favorite saints’ book.

**The Christ candle:** Any large white candle can be used for the Christ candle. The idea is to decorate it with symbols for Christ. Use old Christmas cards, sequins, holly, etc. The candle can be lit on Christmas Eve to show that the Light of the World has arrived. Then continue to light the Christ candle throughout the year at Sunday dinner to remind your family of our waiting for Christ, as well as celebrating His birth and Resurrection.

**The Mary candle:** Some families have the custom of decorating the Christ candle with a blue veil on December 8th, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. On this great feast, others place a candle with a blue ribbon before a statue or picture of the Blessed Virgin, whose “yes” to God enabled our Lord’s coming at Christmas. The candle is lit during meal times to serve as a delightful reminder of Mary’s eager expectation of the “Light of the World.” It can also serve as a reminder to each family member to keep their own light of grace burning as a preparation for Christ’s coming.

[www.catholiceducation.org](http://www.catholiceducation.org)

**The Book of Blessings has many adaptations for lay people to ask for God's blessings on Advent Wreaths, Manger scenes and Christmas trees used in the home. Please consider publishing these short blessings in your bulletin for use by the faithful during the Advent and Christmas seasons. It would be a good way for many in the parish to keep the religious theme central during this joyous season. This does not diminish the unique quality of the priestly blessing but invites the laypeople to acknowledge a role given to them as the head of the household.**

### **Blessing of the Advent Wreath for Personal Use**

**Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord**

**All: Who made heaven and earth**

**(As you light the first candle during the First Week)**

**Leader: Lord God, your Church joyfully awaits the coming of its Savior, who enlightens our hearts and dispels the darkness of ignorance and sin. Pour forth your blessings upon us as we light the candles of this wreath; may their light reflect the splendor of Christ, who is Lord, forever and ever.**

**All: Amen**

### **Blessing of the Advent Wreath**

**The blessing of an Advent Wreath takes place on the First Sunday of Advent or on the evening before the First Sunday of Advent. The blessing may be celebrated during Mass, a celebration of the word of God, or Evening Prayer (BB, #1509).**

**When the Advent Wreath is used in church, on the Second and succeeding Sundays of Advent the candles are lighted either before Mass begins or immediately before the opening prayer; no additional rites or prayers are used (BB, #1513).**

**Each Sunday the candle(s) of the wreath may be borne in procession, following the cross, or just ahead of the Gospel Book (Ordo, 1).**

**The ritual for blessing is found in the Book of Blessings (BB) #1509-1540 or the Handbook of Blessing (HB) #73-75**

**Holy Days of Obligation 2022/2023**

Monday, November 1, 2021	All Saints (Holy Day obligation is suspended)
Wednesday, December 8, 2021	Immaculate Conception (National patroness)
Saturday, December 25, 2021	Christmas
Saturday, January 1, 2022	Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day obligation is suspended)
Monday, August 15, 2022	Assumption (Holy Day obligation is suspended)
Tuesday, November 1, 2022	All Saints Day
Wednesday, December 8, 2022	Immaculate Conception
Sunday, December 25, 2022	Nativity of our Lord
Sunday, January 1, 2023	Mary, Mother of God
Tuesday, August 15, 2023	Assumption
Wednesday, November 1, 2023	All Saints
Friday, December 8, 2023	Immaculate Conception
Monday, December 25, 2023	Nativity of our Lord

Please schedule Vigil/Day Masses accordingly

Apart from Christmas and the Immaculate Conception (national patroness), the holy day obligation is suspended in the USA when the solemnity falls on Saturday or Monday.

**In the Province of Miami, (Arch/Dioceses in the State of Florida), the Ascension is celebrated in place of the 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter.**

**On obligatory Memorials during Advent, when the prayers of the saint are to be said, the ferial Collect may be used to conclude the general intercessions, thus situating Memorials within their seasonal context.**

**Gaudete Sunday – ADVENT III – December 12, 2021**

**Rose vestments may be worn in place of the standard Violet vestment**

**Bambinelli Sunday**

**(Tradition renewed by Pope Benedict XVI on Dec. 14, 2008)**

People, usually children, bring figurines of the Christ Child to be placed in the Manger at home or for veneration during the Christmas season. The images may be blessed after the *Prayer after Communion* or at a separate ceremony (e.g. incorporated into the Angelus) after the Mass.

**God, our Father  
you so loved humankind  
that you sent us your only Son Jesus,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
to save us and lead us back to you.**

**We pray that with your Blessing  
these images of Jesus,  
who is about to come among us,  
may be a sign of your presence and  
love in our homes.**

**Good Father,  
give your Blessing to us too,  
to our parents, to our families and  
to our friends.**

**Open our hearts,  
so that we may be able to  
receive Jesus in joy,  
always do what he asks  
and see him in all those  
who are in need of our love.**

**We ask you this in the name of Jesus,  
your beloved Son  
who comes to give the world peace.  
He lives and reigns forever and ever.  
Amen.**

### **Our Lady of Guadalupe**

The Sundays of Advent take liturgical precedence over Feasts of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Prayers and Readings come from III Sunday Advent, while songs, homily, and special devotions may honor Our Lady of Guadalupe during the Mass.

### **“Christmas Day” TV Mass with Bishop Barbarito**

**Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup> 4pm**

**Cathedral of Saint Ignatius Loyola**

All are invited to join Bishop Barbarito for the taping of the “Christmas Day” TV Mass at the Cathedral.

Christmas Season extends from Evening Prayer I of Christmas through the Baptism of the Lord, Sunday, January 9, 2022

### **Masses on December 25<sup>th</sup> – Nativity of our Lord**

Christmas Day taking place on Saturday causes some complications in the traditional Mass schedule. If you keep your traditional Saturday Vigil schedule, then you would still celebrate the Christmas Day Mass (with readings). The obligation to attend the Sunday Mass (Feast of the Holy Family), is fulfilled by those who attend Mass on Saturday afternoon/evening (given that they have attended an earlier Mass for the Christmas obligation)

**From the Committee on Divine Worship (March-April, 2021)**

*In the case of Christmas and Holy Family, both are days of precept (the latter because it falls on a Sunday), but Christmas occupies a higher place on the Table of Liturgical Days. Therefore, on the evening of Saturday, December 25, the Nativity Mass during the Day is celebrated with its accompanying readings from the Lectionary, and Evening Prayer II is prayed.*

### Blessing of the Manger or Nativity Scene

May take place at the first Vigil Mass

May take place during Lessons and Carols before the Mass at Night.

Book of Blessings 1541-1569

Placing the Christ Child in the Manger – Done at the first Mass celebrated on Christmas Eve but is not repeated at every Mass.

### The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ from the *Roman Martyrology*

*(Appendix 1 – Roman Missal)*

May be chanted or recited before the Mass at Night on December 24<sup>th</sup>. If there is a communal/parish celebration of the Liturgy of the Hours, the Martyrology may be changed/recited at that time.

### Holy Family – December 26, 2021

May incorporate this blessing for families at the end of the General Intercessions or as an additional blessing after the Prayer after Communion.

O God, you have created us in love and saved us in mercy, and through the bond of marriage you have established the family and willed that it should become a sign of Christ's love for his Church.

Show your blessings on these families gathered here in your name. Enable those who are joined by one love to support one another by their fervor of spirit and devotion to prayer. Make them responsive to the needs of others and witnesses to the faith in all they say and do.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Epiphany Home Blessing

The Christmas season is a traditional time for homes to be blessed for the New Year. As it is impossible for the priests and deacons of the parish to bless every home in the parish, the following is a blessing that the “head of the household” does with the family gathered.

L: Let us praise God, who fills our hearts and homes with peace.  
Blessed be God for ever.

P: Blessed be God for ever.

L: Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. Fill them with the light of Christ, that their concern for others may reflect your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

P: Amen

L: May Christ Jesus dwell with us, keep us from all harm, and make us one in mind and heart, now and forever.

L: Amen

### Epiphany Proclamation

#### The Announcement of Easter and the Moveable Feasts *(Appendix 1)*

Twenty-Second day of February	Ash Wednesday
Ninth Day of April	Easter Day
Twenty-First Day of May	Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ
Twenty-Eighth Day of May	Feast of Pentecost
Eleventh Day of June	Feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ
Third Day of December	First Sunday of Advent



## Diocese of Palm Beach – Liturgical Newsletter Advent/Christmas 2021

*Catholic Hymnody at the Service of the Church* (Press “Ctrl” Key while cursor is on the link)

[Catholic Hymnody at the Service of the Church\\_0.pdf \(uscgb.org\)](#)

The USCCB has asked all parishes to reflect on their hymn choices and to avoid songs that fall into the following categories.

- 1. Deficiencies in the Presentation of Eucharistic Doctrine**
- 2. Deficiencies in the Presentation of Trinitarian Doctrine**
- 3. Hymns with Deficiencies in the Doctrine of God and His Relation to Humans**
- 4. Hymns with a View of the Church That Sees Her as Essentially a Human Construction**
- 5. Hymns with Doctrinally Incorrect Views of the Jewish People**

### **Examples:**

“God is Here! As We His People”

“Now in This Banquet”

“All Are Welcome”

“Let Us Break Bread Together on Our Knees”

“The Play of the Godhead”

“Led by the Spirit”

“God Beyond All Names”

“Sing a New Church”

“As a Fire is Meant for Burning”

“The Lord of the Dance”

“O Crucified Messiah”

“Canticle of the Sun”

### **Useful Questions to screen potential hymns:**

1. Does the Hymn call the Eucharist the “bread and wine?”
2. Does the Hymn create a hierarchical distinction between the persons of the Holy Trinity?
3. Who is the central character in the Hymn: God or God’s creation? While hymns of praise for creation, humanity, or certain human undertakings have strong appeal, the Mass is a time for praising God, not human beings, human attributes, or the environment/creation.
4. Is the “god” mentioned in the Hymn a generic “being” or “master”, or is God identifiable as the Holy Trinity (or one of the Persons of the Trinity), the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, or at least a Catholic Christian understanding of whom God is?



*Adsumus, Sancte Spiritus*

**Prayer of invocation to the Holy Spirit for an ecclesial assembly of governance or discernment (thus synodal).**

Every session of the Second Vatican Council began with the prayer *Adsumus Sancte Spiritus*, the first word of the Latin original meaning, “We stand before You, Holy Spirit,” which has been historically used at Councils, Synods, and other Church gatherings for hundreds of years, being attributed to Saint Isidore of Seville (c. 560 - 4 April 636). As we are called to embrace this synodal path of the Synod 2021-2023, this prayer invites the Holy Spirit to operate within us so that we may be a community and a people of grace. For the Synod 2021-2023, we propose to use this simplified version, so that any group or liturgical assembly can pray more easily.

**We stand before You, Holy Spirit,  
as we gather together in Your name.**

**With You alone to guide us,  
make Yourself at home in our hearts;**

**Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.**

**We are weak and sinful;  
do not let us promote disorder.**

**Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions.  
Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from  
the way of truth and what is right.**

**All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time,  
in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.**

