

Sunday and Feast Day Liturgical Notes for Priests and Deacons

Suggestions for Leading Worship



Office of Worship
P.O. Box 2028
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-2028
Phone: (225) 242-0120
Fax: (225) 336-8731
E-Mail: tranzino@diobr.org

RE: Liturgical Suggestions for the First Sunday of Advent – Cycle A

Sunday date: December 1-2, 2007

Dear Fathers and Deacons,

An Overview...

The readings for this particular Sunday give the keynote for the entire Advent season. The first weeks of Advent focus on the final coming of the Lord at the end of time; the second part of Advent moves one closer towards the coming birth of the Messiah. This Sunday, the prophecy of Isaiah tells of the coming of the Lord as judge and that those who await His coming must live according to His ways.

The letter of Paul to the Romans also sounds the essence of the Advent season, speaking of the coming of the Lord already in history, and of his coming at the end of time – the “not yet...” What guides us in life is the grace of baptism – we are formed into the Christ. Matthew’s Gospel lies before us to read the signs of the times. We are to act as if the end were very soon – to be watchful. We should not make the mistake made by Noah’s generation who were too self-absorbed to see beyond their own points of satisfaction. They had no place in life for hungering: they were already filled up.

Remember, the first weeks of Advent, until Monday December 17th, the readings will direct us to the longing beyond – awaiting the Lord’s coming again. We are not yet into the time to focus on the coming birth of the Messiah.

Questions for Faith Sharing...

1. When I think about the Lord’s coming again, how do I feel [not what do I think]?? Does this fill me with joy, dread, – or nothing???
2. How do I listen to Isaiah telling of beating swords into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks in a world that deals with war, terror and religious hatred? Is this meant for me personally, or is it also meant for nations???
3. In what area of my life do I need to “stay awake?”

Some Considerations As You Prepare...

1. The Alternative Opening Prayer would be appropriate if the focus of the preaching is on expectation, watchfulness, longing and the coming of Christ.
2. Advent does not have as primarily a penitential character as does Lent. The Penitential Rite recommended is the second set of invocations given in the *Missal*. Or you could use these invocations: *You are the Lord, the God of power and might; you are forever the Savior of the world; you will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead.* These invocations could be chanted; or use a bit more silence after each invocation. Pay attention that these invocations are not rushed.
3. The First Advent Preface is prescribed, since it refers to the two comings of Christ.
4. Consider using one of the two memorial acclamations which speak of proclaiming the Lord’s death “until He comes” again.
5. The Solemn Blessing of Advent is given in the *Missal*. Or you may use the ones for Ordinary Time no. 3 or no. 5

Looking Ahead...

1. Next Saturday is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. This is a holy day of obligation for Catholics. Here are some suggestions:
 - i) The origin of this Feast is quite different than Advent, but it can help unfold the meaning of Advent.
 - ii) For the Penitential Rite these are suggested: *Lord Jesus, you allowed no stain of Adam’s sin to touch the Virgin Mary; Christ Jesus, you chose Mary to be our advocate; Lord Jesus, you chose Mary to be our pattern of holiness.*
 - iii) Use the Alternative Opening Prayer of the Solemnity.

- iv) The Preface of the Immaculate Conception speaks of Mary, but also of Christ and the Church.
- 2. The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe is December 12th.
- 3. Become familiar with the online Liturgical Calendar located at the Office of Worship website on the Diocesan Webpage. This is the complete calendar for the Cycle A year. It will provide for you information about when and if a wedding or funeral can occur on certain solemnities and feast days plus much more. It's easy to use and contains information pertaining only to our diocese as well.
- 4. Next weekend is the Collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious in our diocese.

Some Sample Intercessory Prayers for the First Sunday of Advent – December 1-2, 2007

Priest: As this holy season of Advent begins, we bring to the Father these needs for our lives and the world:

Deacon (or if there is no deacon, another reader):

1. For the work of the Church in the world; may this Advent season unfold in prayerful grace, revealing the presence of the One who comes in glory, we pray to the Lord...
2. For the world and all who live in it; for plowshare times of peace instead of weapons of war; for new hope in the midst of old stalemates, we pray to the Lord...
3. For those who are suffering in this world; for those whose lives are filled with anxiety and hopelessness; we pray to the Lord...
4. For our parish community; may we journey in Advent toward the hope of the Savior; we pray to the Lord...
5. For our beloved dead; may they see the face of God for all eternity, we pray to the Lord...
6. In peace and in silence, we offer to the Father our prayers of need.

[silence; the priest alone concludes]

Priest: O Source of all our joy, we praise you.

Hear our prayers

and grant our needs

through Christ, who was, who is and who is to come,
forever and ever.

Amen.