

Sunday and Feast Day Liturgical Notes for Priests and Deacons

Suggestions for Leading Worship



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RE: Liturgical Suggestions for the Second Sunday of Advent – Cycle B

Sunday date: December 6-7, 2008

Dear Fathers and Deacons,

An Overview...

For the Second and Third Sundays of Advent, the figure of John the Baptist emerges, in addition to the eschatological imagery which remains strong. St. John is depicted in Mark's Gospel as different from the other Old Testament prophets, as his mission includes the external rite of baptism which expresses the repentance he requires from his hearers. Similarly, Jesus is different from John, as a *mightier one is coming*. There is movement depicted in the Gospel account – not only Jesus coming to meet us, but we coming to meet Him. Obstacles to the up-building of the Kingdom of God are to be removed, including the dispositions that move us away from our relationship with God in Christ.

Faith Sharing Questions...

1. Isaiah's prophecy is filled with imagery. What image strikes you the most, and which one most reminds you of *you*?
2. When have you cried out at the top of your voice, "good news?"
3. What do you think about your own need for repentance? What does the Sacrament of Reconciliation mean in your spiritual life?

Some Other Considerations as You Prepare...

1. There is no need to do any special blessing around the Advent wreath. Simply, have the wreath lit before Mass begins.
2. A sample Penitential litany could be: “Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of God’s Kingdom, Lord, have mercy; Christ Jesus, you come in word and sacrament to strengthen us to holiness, Christ, have mercy; Lord Jesus, you will come in glory with salvation for your people, Lord, have mercy”
3. The first Opening Prayer is the more recommended as it is more direct and simple. While the alternative Opening Prayer is a poetic expansion of the first prayer, the imagery is more complex and the voice shifts awkwardly to the third person.
4. The mandatory Preface is that of Advent I.
5. The Solemn Advent Blessing is recommended.

Looking Ahead...

1. December 8, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, is a holy day of obligation even though it falls on a Monday.
2. Have you publicized your Christmas / New Years Mass schedules? Some parishes have created an announcement-board for the Church lobby which indicates all the special dates and times for church events during the entire Advent-Christmas season through January 12, 2009, the beginning of Ordinary Time.
3. The 2009 Liturgical Calendar is posted on the Diocese web site under the Office of Worship – Documents and can be downloaded and printed for your records: locate it http://www.diobr.org/documents/forms_menu.htm

Sample Intercessory Prayers for the Second Sunday of Advent

Priest: We look to the Lord God for our needs, as we now pray:

Deacon (or other reader if there is no deacon):

1. For the baptized of the Church on journey to the fulfillment of the Kingdom of God; may our lives be holy and believable in the ways of justice and reconciliation, we pray to the Lord...
2. For those who long for a world made new again; for hope in the face of unresolved conflict; for peace in place of way; for food for the hungry poor; for healing for those in chronic pain, we pray to the Lord...
3. That our parish will find a deeper love of the Word of God during this Advent season, we pray to the Lord...
4. For our parish in this time of Advent renewal; for openness to the Sacrament of Reconciliation so as to live with forgiving hearts, we pray to the Lord...
5. For the dead who rest in peace, and especially for those departed whose faith is known to God alone, we pray to the Lord...
6. In peace and in silence, we pray to the Lord for our needs...

[pause; the presider alone concludes]

Priest: O God, you raised up John the Baptist
to announce the coming of your Son.
Awaken in us a longing for this good news.
We ask this through Christ
who is, who was and who is to come,
now and forever.
Amen.