

## THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)

(At the Vigil Mass, At the Mass During the Night,  
At the Mass at Dawn and At the Mass During the Day)

&

## SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

(The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord)

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# THE ORDER OF MASS

## THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

When the people are gathered, the Priest approaches the altar with the ministers while the Entrance Chant is sung.

When he has arrived at the altar, after making a profound bow with the ministers, the Priest venerates the altar with a kiss and, if appropriate, incenses the cross and the altar. Then, with the ministers, he goes to the chair.

When the Entrance Chant is concluded, the Priest and the faithful, standing, sign themselves with the Sign of the Cross, while the Priest, facing the people, says:

**I**n the name of the Father,  
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

The people reply:

Amen.

Then the Priest, extending his hands, greets the people, saying:

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all.**

The people reply:

And with your spirit.

The Priest, or a Deacon or another minister, may very briefly introduce the faithful to the Mass of the day.

## PENITENTIAL ACT

Then follows the Penitential Act, to which the Priest invites the faithful, saying:

**Brethren (brothers and sisters),  
let us acknowledge our sins,  
and so prepare ourselves  
to celebrate the sacred mysteries.**

A brief pause for silence follows. Then all recite together the formula of general confession:

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,

And, striking their breast, they say:

through my fault, through my fault,  
through my most grievous fault;

Then they continue:

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.

The absolution of the Priest follows:

**May almighty God have mercy on us,  
forgive us our sins,  
and bring us to everlasting life.**

The people reply:

Amen.

## KYRIE ELEISON

The Kyrie eleison (Lord, have mercy) invocations follows.

✠ Lord, have mercy.	✠ Lord, have mercy.
✠ Christ, have mercy.	✠ Christ, have mercy.
✠ Lord, have mercy.	✠ Lord, have mercy.

## GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

The Gloria in excelsis (Glory to God in the highest) is either sung or said.

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.  
We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

## COLLECT

When this hymn is concluded, the Priest, with hands joined, says:

**Let us pray.**

And all pray in silence with the Priest for a while.

Then the Priest, with hands extended, says the Collect prayer, at the end of which the people acclaim:

Amen.

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### FIRST READING

Then the reader goes to the ambo and reads the First Reading, while all sit and listen.

To indicate the end of the reading, the reader acclaims:

**The word of the Lord.**

All reply:

Thanks be to God.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

The psalmist or cantor sings or says the Psalm, with the people making the response.

### SECOND READING

After this, if there is to be a Second Reading, a reader reads it from the ambo, as above.

To indicate the end of the reading, the reader acclaims:

**The word of the Lord.**

All reply:

Thanks be to God.

## ALLELUIA

There follows the Alleluia or another chant laid down by the rubrics, as the liturgical time requires.

Meanwhile, if incense is used, the Priest puts some into the thurible. After this, the Deacon who is to proclaim the Gospel, bowing profoundly before the Priest, asks for the blessing, saying in a low voice:

**Your blessing, Father.**

The Priest says in a low voice:

**May the Lord be in your heart and on your lips  
that you may proclaim his Gospel worthily and well,  
in the name of the Father,  
and of the Son, ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.**

The Deacon signs himself with the Sign of the Cross and replies:

**Amen.**

If, however, a Deacon is not present, the Priest, bowing before the altar, says quietly:

**Cleanse my heart and my lips, almighty God,  
that I may worthily proclaim your holy Gospel.**

## GOSPEL

The Deacon, or the Priest, then proceeds to the ambo, accompanied, if appropriate, by ministers with incense and candles. There he says:

**The Lord be with you.**

The people reply:

And with your spirit.

The Deacon, or the Priest:

**✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to N.**

and, at the same time, he makes the Sign of the Cross on the book and on his forehead, lips, and breast.

The people acclaim:

Glory to you, O Lord.

Then the Deacon, or the Priest, incenses the book, if incense is used, and proclaims the Gospel.

At the end of the Gospel, the Deacon, or the Priest, acclaims:

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

All reply:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Then he kisses the book, saying quietly:

**Through the words of the Gospel  
may our sins be wiped away.**

## HOMILY

Then follows the Homily, which is to be preached by a Priest or Deacon on all Sundays and Holydays of Obligation; on other days, it is recommended.

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

At the end of the Homily, the Symbol or Profession of Faith or Creed, when prescribed, is either sung or said:

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,

*All kneel at the words and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate. (During Mass on Christmas at Vigil, Night, Dawn and Day)*

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,  
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.  
I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Then follows the Universal Prayer, that is, the Prayer of the Faithful or Bidding Prayers.

# LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

## PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR AND THE GIFTS

When all this has been done, the Offertory Chant begins. Meanwhile, the ministers place the corporal, the purificator, the chalice, the pall, and the Missal on the altar.

It is desirable that the faithful express their participation by making an offering, bringing forward bread and wine for the celebration of the Eucharist and perhaps other gifts to relieve the needs of the Church and of the poor.

The Priest, standing at the altar, takes the paten with the bread and holds it slightly raised above the altar with both hands, saying in a low voice:

**B**lessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.  
For through your goodness we have received  
the bread we offer you:  
fruit of the earth and work of human hands,  
it will become for us the bread of life.

Then he places the paten with the bread on the corporal.

If, however, the Offertory Chant is not sung, the Priest may speak these words aloud; at the end, the people may acclaim:

Blessed be God for ever.

The Deacon, or the Priest, pours wine and a little water into the chalice, saying quietly:

**By the mystery of this water and wine  
may we come to share in the divinity of Christ,  
who humbled himself to share in our humanity.**

The Priest then takes the chalice and holds it slightly raised above the altar with both hands, saying in a low voice:

**B**lessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.  
for through your goodness we have received  
the wine we offer you:  
fruit of the vine and work of human hands,  
it will become our spiritual drink.

Then he places the chalice on the corporal.

If, however, the Offertory Chant is not sung, the Priest may speak these words aloud; at the end, the people may acclaim:

Blessed be God for ever.

After this, the Priest, bowing profoundly, says quietly:

**With humble spirit and contrite heart  
may we be accepted by you, O Lord,  
and may our sacrifice in your sight this day  
be pleasing to you, Lord God.**

If appropriate, he also incenses the offerings, the cross, and the altar. A Deacon or other minister then incenses the Priest and the people.

Then the Priest, standing at the side of the altar, washes his hands, saying quietly:

**Wash me, O Lord, from my iniquity  
and cleanse me from my sin.**

Standing at the middle of the altar, facing the people, extending and then joining his hands, he says:

**Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters),  
that my sacrifice and yours  
may be acceptable to God,  
the almighty Father.**

The people rise and reply:

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands  
for the praise and glory of his name,  
for our good  
and the good of all his holy Church.

## **PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Then the Priest, with hands extended, says the Prayer over the Offerings, at the end of which the people acclaim:

Amen.

## PREFACE I OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Christ the Light

**V. The Lord be with you.**

**R. And with your spirit.**

**V. Lift up your hearts.**

**R. We lift them up to the Lord.**

**V. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.**

**R. It is right and just.**

**I**t is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For in the mystery of the Word made flesh  
a new light of your glory has shone upon the eyes of our mind,  
so that, as we recognize in him God made visible,  
we may be caught up through him in love of things invisible.

And so, with Angels and Archangels,  
with Thrones and Dominions,  
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,  
we sing the hymn of your glory,  
as without end we acclaim:

## SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of Hosts.  
Heaven and Earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

## PREFACE II OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

The restoration of all things in the Incarnation

℣. **The Lord be with you.**

℟. And with your spirit.

℣. **Lift up your hearts.**

℟. We lift them up to the Lord.

℣. **Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.**

℟. It is right and just.

**I**t 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 on the feast of this awe-filled mystery,  
though invisible in his own divine nature,  
he has appeared visibly in ours;  
and begotten before all ages,  
he has begun to exist in time;  
so that, raising up in himself all that was cast down,  
he might restore unity to all creation  
and call straying humanity back to the heavenly Kingdom.

And so, with all the Angels, we praise you,  
as in joyful celebration, we acclaim:

## SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of Hosts.  
Heaven and Earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

## PREFACE III OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

The exchange in the Incarnation of the Word

℣. **The Lord be with you.**

℟. And with your spirit.

℣. **Lift up your hearts.**

℟. We lift them up to the Lord.

℣. **Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.**

℟. It is right and just.

**I**t 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 through him the holy exchange that restores our life  
has shone forth today in splendor:  
when our frailty is assumed by your Word  
not only does human mortality receive unending honor  
but by this wondrous union we, too, are made eternal.

And so, in company with the choirs of Angels,  
we praise you, and with joy we proclaim:

## SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of Hosts.  
Heaven and Earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

## PREFACE I OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

The Motherhood of the Blessed Virgin Mary

**V.** The Lord be with you.

**R.** And with your spirit.

**V.** Lift up your hearts.

**R.** We lift them up to the Lord.

**V.** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**R.** It is right and just.

**I**t is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
and to praise, bless, and glorify your name  
on the Solemnity of the Motherhood  
of the Blessed ever-Virgin Mary.

For by the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit  
she conceived your Only Begotten Son,  
and without losing the glory of virginity,  
brought forth into the world the eternal Light,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him the Angels praise your majesty,  
Dominions adore and Powers tremble before you.  
Heaven and the Virtues of heaven and the blessed Seraphim  
worship together with exultation.  
May our voices, we pray, join with theirs  
in humble praise, as we acclaim:

## SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of Hosts.  
Heaven and Earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER II

The Priest, with hands extended, says:

Celebrant alone

**Y**ou are indeed Holy, O Lord,  
the fount of all holiness.

He joins his hands and, holding them extended over the offerings, says:

Celebrant with concelebrants

**M**ake holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray,  
by sending down your Spirit upon them like the dewfall,

He joins his hands and makes the Sign of the Cross once over the bread and the chalice together, saying:

so that they may become for us  
the Body and ✠ Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

He joins his hands.

In the formulas that follow, the words of the Lord should be pronounced clearly and distinctly, as the nature of these words requires.

At the time he was betrayed  
and entered willingly into his Passion,

He takes the bread and, holding it slightly raised above the altar, continues:

he took bread and, giving thanks, broke it,  
and gave it to his disciples, saying:

He bows slightly.

**T**AKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,  
FOR THIS IS MY BODY,  
WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.

He shows the consecrated host to the people, places it again on the paten, and genuflects in adoration.

After this, he continues:

**In a similar way, when supper was ended,**

He takes the chalice and, holding it slightly raised above the altar, continues:

**he took the chalice  
and, once more giving thanks,  
he gave it to his disciples, saying:**

He bows slightly.

**T**AKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,  
FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,  
THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT,  
WHICH WILL BE Poured OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY  
FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.

**DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.**

He shows the chalice to the people, places it on the corporal, and genuflects in adoration.

Then he says:

Celebrant alone

**The mystery of faith.**

And the people continue, acclaiming:

We proclaim your Death, O Lord,  
and profess your Resurrection  
until you come again.

Then the Priest, with hands extended, says:

Celebrant with concelebrants

**T**herefore, as we celebrate  
the memorial of his Death and Resurrection,  
we offer you, Lord,  
the Bread of life and the Chalice of salvation,  
giving thanks that you have held us worthy  
to be in your presence and minister to you.

Humbly we pray  
that, partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ,  
we may be gathered into one by the Holy Spirit.

Celebrant or one concelebrant

Remember, Lord, your Church,  
spread throughout the world,  
and bring her to the fullness of charity,  
together with **Francis** our Pope and **Jose** our Bishop,  
and all the clergy.

Celebrant or one concelebrant

Remember also our brothers and sisters  
who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection,  
and all who have died in your mercy:  
welcome them into the light of your face.  
Have mercy on us all, we pray,  
that with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God,  
with Blessed Joseph, her spouse,  
with the blessed Apostles,  
and all the Saints who have pleased you throughout the ages,  
we may merit to be coheirs to eternal life,  
and may praise and glorify you

He joins his hands.

through your Son, Jesus Christ.

He takes the chalice and the paten with the host and raising both, he says:

Celebrant with concelebrants

**T**HROUGH HIM, AND WITH HIM, AND IN HIM,  
O GOD, ALMIGHTY FATHER,  
IN THE UNITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT,  
ALL GLORY AND HONOR IS YOURS,  
FOR EVER AND EVER.

The people acclaim:

Amen.

## COMMUNION RITE

After the chalice and paten have been set down, the Priest, with hands joined, says:

**A**t the Savior's command  
and formed by divine teaching,  
we dare to say:

He extends his hands and, together with the people, continues:

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

With hands extended, the Priest alone continues, saying:

**D**eliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,  
graciously grant peace in our days,  
that, by the help of your mercy,  
we may be always free from sin  
and safe from all distress,  
as we await the blessed hope  
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

He joins his hands.

The people conclude the prayer, acclaiming:

For the kingdom,  
the power and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.

## SIGN OF PEACE

Then the Priest, with hands extended, says aloud:

**L**ord Jesus Christ,  
who said to your Apostles:  
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you,  
look not on our sins,  
but on the faith of your Church,  
and graciously grant her peace and unity  
in accordance with your will.

He joins his hands.

**Who live and reign forever and ever.**

The people reply:

Amen.

The Priest, turned towards the people, extending and then joining his hands, adds:

**The peace of the Lord be with you always.**

The people reply:

And with your spirit.

Then, if appropriate, the Deacon, or the Priest, adds:

**Let us offer each other the sign of peace.**

And all offer one another a sign, in keeping with local customs, that expresses peace, communion, and charity. The Priest gives the sign of peace to a Deacon or minister.

Then he takes the host, breaks it over the paten, and places a small piece in the chalice, saying quietly:

**May this mingling of the Body and Blood  
of our Lord Jesus Christ  
bring eternal life to us who receive it.**

## BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Meanwhile the following is sung or said:

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
grant us peace.

The invocation may even be repeated several times if the fraction is prolonged. Only the final time, however, is grant us peace said.

## PRIVATE PREPARATION

Then the Priest, with hands joined, says quietly:

**Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God,  
who, by the will of the Father  
and the work of the Holy Spirit,  
through your Death gave life to the world,  
free me by this, your most holy Body and Blood,  
from all my sins and from every evil;  
keep me always faithful to your commandments,  
and never let me be parted from you.**

Or:

**May the receiving of your Body and Blood,  
Lord Jesus Christ,  
not bring me to judgment and condemnation,  
but through your loving mercy  
be for me protection in mind and body  
and a healing remedy.**

## COMMUNION

The Priest genuflects, takes the host and, holding it slightly raised above the paten or above the chalice, while facing the people, says aloud:

**B**ehold the Lamb of God,  
Behold him who takes away the sins of the world.  
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

And together with the people he adds once:

Lord, I am not worthy  
that you should enter under my roof,  
but only say the word  
and my soul shall be healed.

The Priest, facing the altar, says quietly:

**May the Body of Christ  
keep me safe for eternal life.**

And he reverently consumes the Body of Christ.

Then he takes the chalice and says quietly:

**May the Blood of Christ  
keep me safe for eternal life.**

And he reverently consumes the Blood of Christ.

After this, he takes the paten or ciborium and approaches the communicants. The Priest raises a host slightly and shows it to each of the communicants, saying:

**The Body of Christ.**

The communicant replies:

Amen.

And receives Holy Communion.

While the Priest is receiving the Body of Christ, the Communion Chant begins.

When the distribution of Communion is over, the Priest or a Deacon or an acolyte purifies the paten over the chalice and also the chalice itself.

While he carries out the purification, the Priest says quietly:

**What has passed our lips as food, O Lord,  
may we possess in purity of heart,  
that what has been given to us in time  
may be our healing for eternity.**

Then the Priest may return to the chair. If appropriate, a sacred silence may be observed for a while, or a psalm or other canticle of praise or a hymn may be sung.

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Then, standing at the altar or at the chair and facing the people, with hands joined, the Priest says:

**Let us pray.**

All pray in silence with the Priest for a while, unless silence has just been observed. Then the Priest, with hands extended, says the Prayer after Communion, at the end of which the people acclaim:

Amen.

## BLESSING OF THE IMAGE OF THE INFANT JESUS

During Mass on Christmas (Vigil, Night, Dawn, Day), the images of the infant Jesus may be blessed.

**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.**

The priest sprinkles holy water on the images.

The priest encourages the faithful to pray together and venerate the image of the infant Jesus as a family at home.

## THE CONCLUDING RITES

If they are necessary, any brief announcements to the people follow here.

Then the dismissal takes place. The Priest, facing the people and extending his hands, says:

**The Lord be with you.**

The people reply:

And with your spirit.

The Deacon or, in his absence, the Priest himself, says the invitation:

**Bow down for the blessing.**

### The Nativity of the Lord

Then the Priest, with hands extended over the people, says the blessing:

**May the God of infinite goodness,  
who by the Incarnation of his Son  
has driven darkness from the world  
and by that glorious Birth has illumined this most holy night (day),  
drive far from you the darkness of vice  
and illumine your hearts with the light of virtue.**

The people reply:

Amen.

The Priest says:

**May God, who willed that the great joy  
of his Son's saving Birth  
be announced to shepherds by the Angel,  
fill your minds with the gladness he gives  
and make you heralds of his Gospel.**

The people reply:

Amen.

The Priest says:

**And may God, who by the Incarnation  
brought together the earthly and heavenly realm,  
fill you with the gift of his peace and favor  
and make you sharers with the Church in heaven.**

The people reply:

Amen.

### **The Beginning of the Year**

Then the Priest, with hands extended over the people, says the blessing:

**May God, the source and origin of all blessing,  
grant you grace,  
pour out his blessing in abundance,  
and keep you safe from harm throughout the year.**

The people reply:

Amen.

The Priest says:

**May he give you integrity in the faith,  
endurance in hope,  
and perseverance in charity  
with holy patience to the end.**

The people reply:

Amen.

The Priest says:

May he order your days and your deeds in his peace,  
grant your prayers in this and in every place,  
and lead you happily to eternal life.

The people reply:

Amen.

The Priest blesses the people, saying:

**A**nd may the blessing of almighty God,  
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit,  
come down on you and remain with you for ever.

The people reply:

Amen.

## DISMISSAL

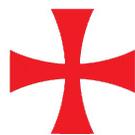
Then the Deacon, or the Priest himself, with hands joined and facing the people, says:

**G**o in peace,  
glorifying the Lord by your life.

The people reply:

Thanks be to God.

Then the Priest venerates the altar as usual with a kiss, as at the beginning. After making a profound bow with the ministers, he withdraws.



# FORMULARIES AND READINGS

## THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)

(At the Vigil Mass, At the Mass During the Night,  
At the Mass at Dawn and At the Mass During the Day)

&

## SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

(The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord)

# THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)

## AT THE VIGIL MASS

The Priest, or a Deacon or another minister, may very briefly introduce the faithful to the Mass of the day.

**M**y dear brothers and sisters in the Lord,  
on this most holy night,  
Jesus the Savior is born to give joy to the world  
and to save us from sin.  
Though almighty and powerful,  
God strips himself of his glory and makes himself small.  
This God-become-man is the one we welcome tonight.  
He is our Emmanuel, our God-with-us.

### COLLECT

**O** God, who gladden us year by year  
as we wait in hope for our redemption,  
grant that, just as we joyfully welcome  
your Only Begotten Son as our Redeemer,  
we may also merit to face him confidently  
when he comes again as our Judge.  
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### FIRST READING

Isaiah 62:1-5  
The Lord delights in you.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

**F**or Zion's sake I will not be silent,  
for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet,  
until her vindication shines forth like the dawn  
and her victory like a burning torch.

Nations shall behold your vindication,  
and all the kings your glory;  
you shall be called by a new name  
pronounced by the mouth of the LORD.  
You shall be a glorious crown in the hand of the LORD,  
a royal diadem held by your God.  
No more shall people call you "Forsaken,"  
or your land "Desolate,"  
but you shall be called "My Delight,"  
and your land "Espoused."  
For the LORD delights in you  
and makes your land his spouse.  
As a young man marries a virgin,  
your Builder shall marry you;  
and as a bridegroom rejoices in his bride  
so shall your God rejoice in you.

The Word of the Lord.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Psalm 89:4-5. 16-17. 27. 29

**℟** For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

**I have made a covenant with my chosen one,  
I have sworn to David my servant:  
forever will I confirm your posterity  
and establish your throne for all generations.**

**℟** For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

**Blessed the people who know the joyful shout;  
in the light of your countenance, O LORD, they walk.  
At your name they rejoice all the day,  
and through your justice they are exalted.**

**℟** For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

**He shall say of me, “You are my father,  
my God, the rock, my savior.”  
Forever I will maintain my kindness toward him,  
and my covenant with him stands firm.**

**℟** For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

## SECOND READING

Acts 13:16-17. 22-25

Paul bears witness to Christ, the Son of David.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

**W**hen Paul reached Antioch in Pisidia  
and entered the synagogue,  
he stood up, motioned with his hand, and said,  
“Fellow Israelites and you others who are God-fearing, listen.  
The God of this people Israel chose our ancestors  
and exalted the people during their sojourn in the land of Egypt.  
With uplifted arm he led them out of it.  
Then he removed Saul and raised up David as king;  
of him he testified,  
‘I have found David, son of Jesse, a man after my own heart;  
he will carry out my every wish.’  
From this man’s descendants God, according to his promise,  
has brought to Israel a savior, Jesus.  
John heralded his coming by proclaiming a baptism of repentance  
to all the people of Israel;  
and as John was completing his course, he would say,  
‘What do you suppose that I am? I am not he.  
Behold, one is coming after me;  
I am not worthy to unfasten the sandals of his feet.’”

The Word of the Lord.

## ALLELUIA

℟ Alleluia, alleluia.

**Tomorrow the wickedness of the earth will be destroyed:  
the Savior of the world will reign over us.**

℟ Alleluia, alleluia.

## GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-25

Mary will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

**N**ow this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about.  
When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph,  
but before they lived together,  
she was found with child through the Holy Spirit.  
Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man,  
yet unwilling to expose her to shame,  
decided to divorce her quietly.  
Such was his intention when, behold,  
the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said,  
“Joseph, son of David,  
do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home.  
For it is through the Holy Spirit  
that this child has been conceived in her.  
She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus,  
because he will save his people from their sins.”  
All this took place to fulfill  
what the Lord had said through the prophet:  
*Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,  
which means “God is with us.”*

When Joseph awoke,  
he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him  
and took his wife into his home.  
He had no relations with her until she bore a son,  
and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.

## PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Gathered as one family  
let us present to the Father the hopes, fears,  
and longings of all humanity.  
Let us confidently pray to him:

℟ Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for Pope Francis, bishops, priests, and deacons.  
May they imitate Jesus  
who emptied himself of his power and glory,  
sought the weak and the lost,  
and gave up his life for the salvation of all.  
We pray.

℟ Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for our government leaders  
and those who serve in public office.  
May they set aside all jealousy and animosity  
so that they may become heralds of good news  
to the poor and the lowly.  
We pray.

℟ Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for those who are sick,  
those who are burdened with trials and difficulties,  
and those who are dying.  
May the birth of Jesus strengthen their faith  
and renew their hope in God.  
We pray.

℟ Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for our brothers and sisters  
who cannot be with their families:  
those who have to work tonight,  
migrant workers abroad, prisoners in jails.  
May the child Jesus help them to persevere in their obligations  
and experience comfort and peace.

We pray.

℟ Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for our Mother Earth.  
May we reject godless ways of excessive spending  
and wastefulness of our earth's resources.

We pray.

℟ Lord, hear our prayer.

In the silence of our hearts,  
let us pray for our personal intentions.

(Silence) We pray.

℟ Lord, hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father,  
tonight we rejoice at the birth of your Son.  
As we celebrate his humanity,  
grant us forgiveness and life through the power of his divinity.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

**A**s we look forward, O Lord,  
to the coming festivities,  
may we serve you all the more eagerly  
for knowing that in them  
you make manifest the beginnings of our redemption.  
Through Christ our Lord.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**G**rant, O Lord, we pray,  
that we may draw new vigor  
from celebrating the Nativity of your Only Begotten Son,  
by whose heavenly mystery we receive both food and drink.  
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

# THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)

## AT THE MASS DURING THE NIGHT

The Priest, or a Deacon or another minister, may very briefly introduce the faithful to the Mass of the day.

**M**y dear brothers and sisters in the Lord,  
tonight, we are witnesses to an event  
that no one ever dared to imagine.  
As almighty and powerful as he is,  
God strips himself of his glory and makes himself small.  
In the process, he suffers from the cold,  
from the rejection of people, from the agony of the cross.  
Yes, God is totally in love with us  
that he wants to be near us, to be one of us.  
With great gratitude and comfort,  
let us celebrate the Christmas Eucharist.

### COLLECT

**G**od, who have made this most sacred night  
radiant with the splendor of the true light,  
grant, we pray,  
that we, who have known the mysteries of his light on earth,  
may also delight in his gladness in heaven.  
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:1-6  
A son is given us.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

**T**he people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom  
a light has shone.  
You have brought them abundant joy  
and great rejoicing,  
as they rejoice before you as at the harvest,  
as people make merry when dividing spoils.  
For the yoke that burdened them,  
the pole on their shoulder,  
and the rod of their taskmaster  
you have smashed, as on the day of Midian.  
For every boot that tramped in battle,  
every cloak rolled in blood,  
will be burned as fuel for flames.  
For a child is born to us, a son is given us;  
upon his shoulder dominion rests.  
They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero,  
Father-Forever, Prince of Peace.  
His dominion is vast  
and forever peaceful,  
from David's throne, and over his kingdom,  
which he confirms and sustains  
by judgment and justice,  
both now and forever.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!

The Word of the Lord.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Psalm 96:1-2. 2-3. 11-12. 13

**℟** Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord.

**Sing to the LORD a new song;  
sing to the LORD, all you lands.  
Sing to the LORD; bless his name.**

**℟** Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord.

**Announce his salvation, day after day.  
Tell his glory among the nations;  
among all peoples, his wondrous deeds.**

**℟** Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord.

**Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice;  
let the sea and what fills it resound;  
let the plains be joyful and all that is in them!  
Then shall all the trees of the forest exult.**

**℟** Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord.

**They shall exult before the LORD, for he comes;  
for he comes to rule the earth.  
He shall rule the world with justice  
and the peoples with his constancy.**

**℟** Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord.

**SECOND READING**

Titus 2:11-14

The grace of God has appeared to all.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to Titus

**B**eloved:  
The grace of God has appeared, saving all  
and training us to reject godless ways and worldly desires  
and to live temperately, justly, and devoutly in this age,  
as we await the blessed hope,  
the appearance of the glory of our great God  
and savior Jesus Christ,  
who gave himself for us to deliver us from all lawlessness  
and to cleanse for himself a people as his own,  
eager to do what is good.

The Word of the Lord.

**ALLELUIA**

Luke 2:10-11

℟️ Alleluia, alleluia.

I proclaim to you good news of great joy:  
today a Savior is born for us,  
Christ the Lord.

℟️ Alleluia, alleluia.

**GOSPEL**

Luke 2:1-14  
Today a Savior has been born for you.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

**I**n those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus  
that the whole world should be enrolled.

This was the first enrollment,

when Quirinius was governor of Syria.

So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town.

And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth  
to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem,  
because he was of the house and family of David,  
to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

While they were there,

the time came for her to have her child,  
and she gave birth to her firstborn son.

She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger,  
because there was no room for them in the inn.

Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields  
and keeping the night watch over their flock.

The angel of the Lord appeared to them  
and the glory of the Lord shone around them,  
and they were struck with great fear.

The angel said to them,  
    “Do not be afraid;  
    for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy  
    that will be for all the people.  
For today in the city of David  
    a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord.  
And this will be a sign for you:  
    you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes  
    and lying in a manger.”  
And suddenly there was a multitude  
of the heavenly host with the angel,  
    praising God and saying:  
    “Glory to God in the highest  
    and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

## PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

**Through Jesus our ‘Emmanuel,’  
let us present to the Father our hopes,  
fears, and longings of all humanity.  
Trusting in his faithfulness and compassion we pray:**

**℟️** Lord, hear our prayer.

**That the Church and her leaders  
may continue to be visible signs of your peace  
among men and women of goodwill.  
We pray.**

**℟️** Lord, hear our prayer.

**That civil and political leaders may imitate your Son  
who emptied himself of power and glory,  
sought the weak and the lost,  
and gave up his life for the salvation of all.  
We pray.**

**℟️** Lord, hear our prayer.

**That those whose hearts are hardened by sin  
may realize the value of living in peace  
through the reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.  
We pray.**

**℟️** Lord, hear our prayer.

That the poor, the sick and infirm,  
the lonely and homeless, and the sorrowful  
may find hope and joy in the coming of the Savior.  
We pray.

℟ Lord, hear our prayer.

That our brothers and sisters  
who cannot be with their families tonight  
— doctors and nurses in hospitals, migrant workers abroad,  
soldiers and police on duty, prisoners in jails —  
may still experience the comfort of your presence  
through the generosity and companionship of the people near them.  
We pray.

℟ Lord, hear our prayer.

In the silence of our hearts,  
let us pray for our personal intentions.  
(Silence) We pray.

℟ Lord, hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father,  
tonight we rejoice at the birth of your Son.  
As we celebrate his humanity,  
let him be our light, joy, and peace.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

**M**ay the oblation of this day's feast  
be pleasing to you, O Lord, we pray,  
that through this most holy exchange  
we may be found in the likeness of Christ,  
in whom our nature is united to you.  
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**G**rant us, we pray, O Lord our God,  
that we, who are gladdened by participation  
in the feast of our Redeemer's Nativity,  
may through an honorable way of life  
become worthy of union with him.  
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

# THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)

## AT THE MASS AT DAWN

The Priest, or a Deacon or another minister, may very briefly introduce the faithful to the Mass of the day.

**M**y dear brothers and sisters in the Lord,  
a Blessed Christmas to you all!

Today, we thank God for he loves us so much that he gives us his Son to be our Emmanuel, his very own presence among us.

Through this presence nothing we experience will be foreign to him: our joys and pains, our hopes and fears, our strengths and weaknesses.

With this comforting thought we celebrate our Christmas Mass, praying especially for children and our family.

### COLLECT

**G**rant, we pray, almighty God,  
that, as we are bathed in the new radiance of your Incarnate Word,  
the light of faith, which illumines our minds,  
may also shine through in our deeds.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### FIRST READING

Isaiah 62:11-12  
Behold, your Savior comes!

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

**S**ee, the LORD proclaims  
to the ends of the earth:  
say to daughter Zion,  
your savior comes!  
Here is his reward with him,  
his recompense before him.  
They shall be called the holy people,  
the redeemed of the LORD,  
and you shall be called “Frequented,”  
a city that is not forsaken.

The Word of the Lord.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Psalm 97:1. 6. 11-12

**℟** A light will shine on us this day: the Lord is born for us.

**The LORD is king; let the earth rejoice;  
let the many isles be glad.  
The heavens proclaim his justice,  
and all peoples see his glory.**

**℟** A light will shine on us this day: the Lord is born for us.

**Light dawns for the just;  
and gladness, for the upright of heart.  
Be glad in the LORD, you just,  
and give thanks to his holy name.**

**℟** A light will shine on us this day: the Lord is born for us.

## SECOND READING

Titus 3:4-7  
Because of his mercy, he saved us.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to Titus

**B**eloved:  
When the kindness and generous love  
of God our savior appeared,  
not because of any righteous deeds we had done  
but because of his mercy,  
he saved us through the bath of rebirth  
and renewal by the Holy Spirit,  
whom he richly poured out on us  
through Jesus Christ our savior,  
so that we might be justified by his grace  
and become heirs in hope of eternal life.

The Word of the Lord.

**ALLELUIA**

Luke 2:14

℟️ Alleluia, alleluia.  
**Glory to God in the highest,  
 and on earth peace to those  
 on whom his favor rests.**  
 ℟️ Alleluia, alleluia.

**GOSPEL**

Luke 2:15-20

The shepherds found Mary and Joseph and the infant.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

**W**hen the angels went away from them to heaven,  
 the shepherds said to one another,  
 “Let us go, then, to Bethlehem  
 to see this thing that has taken place,  
 which the Lord has made known to us.”  
 So they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph,  
 and the infant lying in the manger.  
 When they saw this,  
 they made known the message  
 that had been told them about this child.  
 All who heard it were amazed  
 by what had been told them by the shepherds.  
 And Mary kept all these things,  
 reflecting on them in her heart.  
 Then the shepherds returned,  
 glorifying and praising God  
 for all they had heard and seen,  
 just as it had been told to them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

## PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

On this holy day,  
let us present our petitions to the Father  
who loves us as his children in his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Full of confidence, we pray:

℟ Lord, hear our prayer.

Prince of peace, at your birth  
the angels announce the Good News to the shepherds.  
Fill the Church with your Holy Spirit  
so that it may proclaim the Gospel  
to the ends of the earth without fear.  
We pray.

℟ Lord, hear our prayer.

Divine Emmanuel, you make your dwelling among us.  
Bless government officials and their families  
that they may be humble and responsible stewards  
of your creation and your people.  
We pray.

℟ Lord, hear our prayer.

Divine Shepherd, you lead the shepherds  
to your presence in the manger.  
Bless all parents and grandparents  
that they may guide their children  
towards your truth and wisdom.  
We pray.

℟ Lord, hear our prayer.

**Divine Messiah, many still do not know you or believe in you.  
Let the Good News of your coming  
resound throughout the world  
so that people will hear the comforting words of hope  
and promise of salvation.  
We pray.**

**R** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Light of the world, you are the life of men and women.  
Shine on those who still live in darkness,  
whose eyes are blinded by jealousy,  
hatred, and the lure of power and money.  
We pray.**

**R** Lord, hear our prayer.

**In the silence of our hearts,  
let us pray for our personal intentions.  
(Silence) We pray.**

**R** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Father,  
listen to our humble prayers  
and make this Christmas celebration  
a moment of thanks giving and great sharing.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

**M**ay our offerings be worthy, we pray, O Lord,  
of the mysteries of the Nativity this day,  
that, just as Christ was born a man  
and also shone forth as God,  
so these earthly gifts  
confer on us what is divine.  
Through Christ our Lord.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**G**rant us, Lord, as we honor with joyful devotion  
the Nativity of your Son,  
that we may come to know with fullness of faith  
the hidden depths of this mystery  
and to love them ever more and more.  
Through Christ our Lord.

# THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)

## AT THE MASS DURING THE DAY

The Priest, or a Deacon or another minister, may very briefly introduce the faithful to the Mass of the day.

**M**y dear brothers and sisters in the Lord,  
a Blessed Christmas to you all!

Today, we thank God for his greatest gift to us  
—the gift of his beloved Son.

Jesus, his Only Begotten Son is our Emmanuel,  
God's presence among us.

In him God makes his dwelling among us  
so that nothing we experience will be foreign to him:  
our joys and pains, our hopes and fears,  
our strengths and weaknesses.

With this comforting thought we celebrate the Eucharist,  
praying especially for children and our family.

May our Christmas celebration be a time of happy togetherness.

### COLLECT

**O** God, who wonderfully created the dignity of human nature  
and still more wonderfully restored it,  
grant, we pray,  
that we may share in the divinity of Christ,  
who humbled himself to share in our humanity.  
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### FIRST READING

Isaiah 52:7-10

All the ends of the earth will behold the salvation of our God.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

**H**ow beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of him who brings glad tidings,  
announcing peace, bearing good news,  
announcing salvation, and saying to Zion,  
“Your God is King!”

Hark! Your sentinels raise a cry,  
together they shout for joy,  
for they see directly, before their eyes,  
the LORD restoring Zion.

Break out together in song,  
O ruins of Jerusalem!

For the LORD comforts his people,  
he redeems Jerusalem.

The LORD has bared his holy arm  
in the sight of all the nations;  
all the ends of the earth will behold  
the salvation of our God.

The Word of the Lord.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Psalm 98:1. 2-3. 3-4. 5-6

**R** All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

**Sing to the LORD a new song,  
for he has done wondrous deeds;  
his right hand has won victory for him,  
his holy arm.**

**R** All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

**The LORD has made his salvation known:  
in the sight of the nations he has revealed his justice.  
He has remembered his kindness and his faithfulness  
toward the house of Israel.**

**R** All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

**All the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation by our God.  
Sing joyfully to the LORD, all you lands;  
break into song; sing praise.**

**R** All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

**Sing praise to the LORD with the harp,  
with the harp and melodious song.  
With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
sing joyfully before the King, the LORD.**

**R** All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

## SECOND READING

Hebrew 1:1-6  
God has spoken to us through the Son.

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

**B**rothers and sisters:  
In times past, God spoke in partial and various ways  
to our ancestors through the prophets;  
in these last days, he has spoken to us through the Son,  
whom he made heir of all things  
and through whom he created the universe,  
who is the refulgence of his glory,  
the very imprint of his being,  
and who sustains all things by his mighty word.  
When he had accomplished purification from sins,  
he took his seat at the right hand of the Majesty on high,  
as far superior to the angels  
as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say:

*You are my son; this day I have begotten you?*

Or again:

*I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me?*

And again, when he leads the firstborn into the world, he says:

*Let all the angels of God worship him.*

The Word of the Lord.

## ALLELUIA

℟ Alleluia, alleluia.

A holy day has dawned upon us.

Come, you nations, and adore the Lord.

For today a great light has come upon the earth.

℟ Alleluia, alleluia.

## GOSPEL

John 1:1-5. 9-14

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

**I**n the beginning was the Word,  
and the Word was with God,  
and the Word was God.

He was in the beginning with God.

All things came to be through him,  
and without him nothing came to be.

What came to be through him was life,  
and this life was the light of the human race;  
the light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness has not overcome it.

The true light, which enlightens everyone,  
was coming into the world.

He was in the world,  
and the world came to be through him,  
but the world did not know him.

He came to what was his own,  
but his own people did not accept him.

But to those who did accept him  
he gave power to become children of God,  
to those who believe in his name,  
who were born not by natural generation  
nor by human choice nor by a man's decision  
but of God.

And the Word became flesh  
and made his dwelling among us,  
and we saw his glory,  
the glory as of the Father's only Son,  
full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of the Lord.

## PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

On this holy day,  
let us present our petitions to the almighty Father  
who loves us as his children in his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Full of confidence, we pray:

℟️ Lord, hear our prayer.

That the world in agony, torn by division and strife,  
be filled with tidings of comfort and joy.  
We pray.

℟️ Lord, hear our prayer.

That families throughout the world become a dwelling place  
of your incarnate Son, Jesus our Emmanuel.  
We pray.

℟️ Lord, hear our prayer.

That our religious and political leaders humble themselves  
as Jesus humbled himself,  
and be responsible stewards of your people.  
We pray.

℟️ Lord, hear our prayer.

That the Good News of your coming  
resound throughout the world  
so that people will hear the comforting words of hope  
and the promise of salvation.  
We pray.

℟️ Lord, hear our prayer.

**That your light shine on those who still live in darkness,  
whose eyes are blinded by jealousy, hatred,  
and the lure of power and money.**

We pray.

℟ Lord, hear our prayer.

**In the silence of our hearts,  
let us pray for our personal intentions.**

(Silence) We pray.

℟ Lord, hear our prayer.

**Father,  
hear our prayers and make this Christmas celebration  
a moment of thanksgiving and sharing.  
This we ask through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

**M**ake acceptable, O Lord, our oblation on this solemn day,  
when you manifested the reconciliation  
that makes us wholly pleasing in your sight  
and inaugurated for us the fullness of divine worship.  
Through Christ our Lord.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**G**rant, O merciful God,  
that, just as the Savior of the world, born this day,  
is the author of divine generation for us,  
so may he be the giver even of immortality.  
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

# SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

## THE OCTAVE DAY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

The Priest, or a Deacon or another minister, may very briefly introduce the faithful to the Mass of the day.

**M**y dear brothers and sisters in the Lord,  
a happy, peaceful, and prosperous New Year to all of you!  
The year opens with the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.  
Just as mothers are always the first to touch our lives,  
so we begin our spiritual journey under the loving gaze of Mary,  
the Mother of God and our mother.  
Mary gathers us, her children in Jesus Christ, under her care.  
Let us entrust to her our hopes and fears, our joys and sorrows.

Today we also celebrate the World Day of Prayer for Peace.  
May the Savior of the world who brings God's peace to his people  
bless all of humanity with the gift of peace.

### COLLECT

**O** God, who through the fruitful virginity of Blessed Mary  
bestowed on the human race  
the grace of eternal salvation,  
grant, we pray,  
that we may experience the intercession of her,  
through whom we were found worthy  
to receive the author of life,  
our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son.  
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### FIRST READING

Numbers 6:22-27

They shall invoke my name upon the Israelites, and I will bless them.

A reading from the Book of Numbers

**T**he LORD said to Moses:

“Speak to Aaron and his sons and tell them:

This is how you shall bless the Israelites.

Say to them:

The LORD bless you and keep you!

The LORD let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you!

The LORD look upon you kindly and give you peace!

So shall they invoke my name upon the Israelites,  
and I will bless them.”

The Word of the Lord.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Psalm 67:2-3. 5. 6. 8

**R** May God bless us in his mercy.

**May God have pity on us and bless us;  
may he let his face shine upon us.  
So may your way be known upon earth;  
among all nations, your salvation.**

**R** May God bless us in his mercy.

**May the nations be glad and exult  
because you rule the peoples in equity;  
the nations on the earth you guide.**

**R** May God bless us in his mercy.

**May the peoples praise you, O God;  
may all the peoples praise you!  
May God bless us,  
and may all the ends of the earth fear him!**

**R** May God bless us in his mercy.

**SECOND READING**

Galatians 4:4-7  
God sent his Son, born of a woman.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Galatians

**B**rothers and sisters:  
When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son,  
born of a woman, born under the law,  
to ransom those under the law,  
so that we might receive adoption as sons.  
As proof that you are sons,  
God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts,  
crying out, “Abba, Father!”  
So you are no longer a slave but a son,  
and if a son then also an heir, through God.

The Word of the Lord.

**ALLELUIA**

Hebrew 1:1-2

℟️ Alleluia, alleluia.

**In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets;  
in these last days, he has spoken to us through the Son.**

℟️ Alleluia, alleluia.

**GOSPEL**

Luke 2:16-21

They found Mary and Joseph and the infant.  
When the eight days were completed, he was named Jesus.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

**T**he shepherds went in haste to Bethlehem  
and found Mary and Joseph,  
and the infant lying in the manger.

When they saw this,  
they made known the message  
that had been told them about this child.

All who heard it were amazed  
by what had been told them by the shepherds.

And Mary kept all these things,  
reflecting on them in her heart.

Then the shepherds returned,  
glorifying and praising God  
for all they had heard and seen,  
just as it had been told to them.

When eight days were completed for his circumcision,  
he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel  
before he was conceived in the womb.

The Gospel of the Lord.

## PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

**The New Year ushers in new challenges and opportunities, as well as new hopes for a more lasting peace.**

**Let us pray to the Father that the Prince of Peace, born of Mary, may guide us as we struggle to incarnate the Gospel values in our lives.**

**We will pray:**

**℟** Lord, hear our prayer.

**We pray for Pope Francis, all the bishops, priests and deacons: May they be instruments of peace and unity in communities where hatred and division reign.**

**We pray.**

**℟** Lord, hear our prayer.

**We pray for the leaders of nations: May they value dialogue more than dissent, and promote restorative justice so that people may live in tranquility and work for their advancement.**

**We pray.**

**℟** Lord, hear our prayer.

**We pray for all those persecuted because of religion, class, race, or color: May they find support and comfort from those who work for justice and peace and in their community.**

**We pray.**

**℟** Lord, hear our prayer.

**We pray for those who are broken in spirit, mind, and body  
because of acts of terrorism, fanaticism, and hatred:**

**May they receive support from the leaders  
of both Church and state in their struggles.**

We pray.

**℟** Lord, hear our prayer.

**We pray for all those who are sick:  
May the intercession of the blessed Mother  
strengthen them in their suffering  
and may they be filled with hope.**

We pray.

**℟** Lord, hear our prayer.

**In the silence of our hearts,  
let us pray for our personal intentions.**

**(Silence) We pray.**

**℟** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Heavenly Father,  
hear our humble supplications.  
Help us to spend our whole life in your service  
and to bring peace to our brothers and sisters.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

**O** God, who in your kindness begin all good things and bring them to fulfillment, grant to us, who find joy in the Solemnity of the holy Mother of God, that, just as we glory in the beginnings of your grace, so one day we may rejoice in its completion. Through Christ our Lord.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**W**e have received this heavenly Sacrament with joy, O Lord: grant, we pray, that it may lead us to eternal life, for we rejoice to proclaim the blessed ever-Virgin Mary Mother of your Son and Mother of the Church. Through Christ our Lord.



Archdiocesan Liturgical Commission  
Manila