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86

LENT IN OUR HOME
This Bulletin is primarily pastoral in scope. It is prepared for members of parish liturgy committees, readers, musicians, singers, catechists, teachers, religious, seminarians, clergy, and diocesan liturgical commissions, and for all who are involved in preparing, celebrating, and improving the community liturgy.

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All through the year, the Christian people give praise and thanks to the Father for saving us by the dying and rising of Jesus our brother. During the season of Lent, we express our sharing in the paschal mystery in a dramatic way.

This issue of the Bulletin offers many positive suggestions for family prayer and practices based on the daily liturgy of the season of Lent. In this way, we are preparing with the whole Church to celebrate Easter as the greatest feast of all.

Bulletin 86 is based on the family prayer program for Lent, a program developed and circulated for some years by the Diocese of Nelson, British Columbia, with Sister Agnes Poelzer, CSJ, as editor.

In this new format, the program is intended for wider distribution. It may be used each year by families, and will help them to share more fully in the graces of Lent and the Easter triduum.
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*A calendar for the season of Lent from 1983 to 2002 is given on page 229.*
INTRODUCTION

Lent is for everyone

Nature of Lent: Lent is a time when Jesus wants to renew all the members of the people of God, and prepare others to be baptized into the Church. Two words describe the lenten season clearly: it is baptismal and penitential.

• Baptismal: Lent is centered on baptism. For us who have been baptized into Christ, it is a time for renewing our baptismal covenant: we are to continue to die with Christ to sin and to live with him for God. This renewal — which is an all-year, lifelong task — is emphasized in a special way during Lent. For catechumens who are to be baptized at the Easter vigil, Lent is a time of final preparation and renewal, of prayer and deepening of commitment to Jesus.

• Penitential: Lent is also a period of repenting and doing penance. It is a time when Jesus calls us to be serious in living out our baptismal promises. We are called to root out sin from our lives, to turn back to the ways of Jesus Christ. We are invited to fast and do penance as part of our daily carrying of the cross (Lk. 9: 23). We are also encouraged to build up God's kingdom by placing God's will at the center of our lives. Suggestions on penance in Lent are described on page 196.

Means: Lent is a time for listening more carefully to God's word and for praying more deeply:

• God's word: The liturgy of the season provides a rich selection of readings for each Sunday and weekday. These are listed in the pages on Lent in this booklet, where each day's gospel is explained briefly. We are invited to reflect on God's word, and let it lead us further along the pathways of holiness.

For those who have not been reading the bible, Lent offers a chance to begin by a brief reading of the gospel each day. Those who do read God's word regularly may read each of the day's readings in a time of quiet prayer; they may wish to read the final chapters of each gospel on the passion and resurrection of Jesus; or they may read a chapter or two of the scriptures each day.

• Growth in prayer: Most Christians will admit that they don't have enough time to pray, or that they want to grow in prayer but don't know how. Lent is a time when we can begin to improve, to move ahead from where we are now in our personal and family prayer life. The six weeks of Lent can be a time of real progress if we are open to God's Spirit.
As individuals or as a family, we may reflect on the gospel or on all the readings in each day's liturgy. A brief prayer is given each day as a first step to help us pray about God's word and our lives. Or we may simply ask the Holy Spirit to teach us how to pray (see Rom. 8: 26-27).

Parish: Our parish community has an important role to fill during the season of Lent. By providing special or frequent celebrations of the word, of the eucharist, of morning and evening prayer, and of penance celebrations, the parish invites us to share more fully in the liturgy of the people of God. By providing times for instruction in God's word, in prayer, or in our Christian faith, the community may help us to deepen our beliefs and strengthen our practice. Before Lent begins, the parish may invite us to get ready for the season, to decide on the kind of penance and good works we will do, and help us to celebrate it fully from Ash Wednesday to the Easter vigil.

Family and individuals: As well as taking part in parish and community lenten activities, each individual and each family should see Lent as a time for personal and family renewal. The suggestions and prayers in this booklet will be a helpful aid in daily or occasional moments of recollection.

Reconciliation: The activities and prayers of the lenten season are designed to help us to come back to God's love and service. As we work to die to sin and to live with Christ for God, we are invited to be reconciled with God and with others; then indeed will our sacrifice of praise be pleasing to our heavenly Father (see Mt. 5: 23-24).

Many parishes offer a penance celebration near the beginning of Lent (even in the few days before Lent begins), and another just before Holy Week, so that all may have the opportunity of returning to the full service of the Lord, and of renewing their baptismal covenant.

Getting Ready for Lent

Choosing a penance: We do penance during Lent for a variety of reasons. We are freely taking on suffering with Jesus for the salvation of the world, in order to build up the body of Christ (see Col. 1: 24). We express our sorrow for our own sins and offer prayer for others by the penances we undertake. By our penances, God purifies our hearts, and helps us to control our desires and so serve him in love. As we do our penitential actions during Lent, we are praising God and proclaiming that we are indeed God's people, brothers and sisters of the suffering servant.

A variety of penances: The following penances are found in the scriptures or in the traditional practices of Christians:

1. Giving up sin
2. Praying
3. Fasting
4. Doing good works
5. Giving alms
6. Carrying out our duties of state
7. Meditative reading
8. Controlling our desires for possessions
9. Abstaining from meat or other foods
10. Controlling our desire for entertainment

In the early centuries of the Church, the main forms of penance were prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.
Family prayer: Lent is a good time for us to look at our family prayer and work to improve it:

• Present shape: A week or two before Lent we need to ask ourselves: When do we pray as a family? Do we pray at any of the traditional times — morning, evening, night, mealtimes? Do we pray at other times? Have we abandoned family prayer in our home?

• Discuss a reasonable family practice for Lent: Can we gather with at least some of the members once a day to pray? This could be a meal prayer, a prayer of praise, a psalm; or a brief reading from the daily gospel text; or even a brief spontaneous prayer or prayer in silence. Choose a reasonable practice and carry it out each day during Lent.

Using this book: Each day in this book offers some help for your family prayer. It indicates the readings for each day, and gives a brief reflection on the gospel; a prayer and a special action are provided as suggestions to be followed or adapted as desired.

We may use the book every weekday and Sunday during Lent; or only on Sundays; or several times a week. If we begin late or miss a few times, we can find the right place: a calendar on page 229 helps us to locate the current week for the next twenty years.

Handing on the Memory

Telling our story: Parents and other adults share their faith with children first of all by living it. As well, they can tell the Christian story to children at special times. In Lent, for example, the daily gospel reading provides a basis for retelling the love of God in our own words. During Holy Week, we can retell the passion story simply but with faith.

Every year at the Jewish Passover supper in each family home, the youngest child asks: “What do these things mean? Why are we doing them?” (See Exod. 12: 26-27: Exod. 13: 8-10; Deut. 6: 20-25.) The parents hand on the memory vividly: We were there! Similarly, in our homes we may share our faith and love with our children by telling them the story of Jesus and his love for us, so that they may believe that he is the Son of God, our savior, and have eternal life in his name (see Jn. 20: 31).

* * *

Blessed are you, Lord God:  
blessed are you for ever.  
Holy is your name:  
blessed are you for ever.  
Great is your mercy for your people:  
blessed are you for ever.  
All answer  Amen!
A litany for Lent

One of these litanies may be prayed during any lenten gathering. All may sing the response.

*   *   *

Lord Jesus,
you have come to save us from our sins.
Lord, have mercy.
All answer  Lord, have mercy.
You fasted to encourage us to do penance.  R.
You suffered temptation to give us strength.  R.
You were transfigured to give us hope.  R.
You suffered insults to bring us salvation.  R.
You accepted death to bring us life with you.  R.
Other acclamations or petitions may be added.

*   *   *

Christ, our Lord,
you endured the agony in the garden
to strengthen us in prayer.
Christ, have mercy.
All answer  Christ, have mercy.
You carried your cross to save us.  R.
You were nailed to the cross
to heal our wounds of sin.  R.
You died on the cross to bring us eternal life.  R.
You were raised to life
so that we could live with you for God.  R.
Other acclamations or petitions may be added.
DAYS OF LENT

ASH WEDNESDAY

See also Joel 2: 12-18; Ps. 51; and 2 Cor. 5: 20 — 6: 2

Gospel reading (Mt. 6: 1-6, 16-18): Jesus teaches us to do our good works for God our Father, who always sees us and rewards us. Our Lord tells us to give alms, to pray, and to fast. We are to do these works for our Father, and not as a way of showing off before other people.

Reflection: As we begin this season of Lent, I ask myself: Do I share my gifts and goods with others? Do I pray regularly and well, alone and with others? Am I ready to do penance and suffer with Jesus? How can I do better now?

Prayer: Lord Jesus,
as we begin our Lent with you and your people,
we remember your sufferings for us.
Help us to live this season for you,
make us ready to renew our baptismal promises,
and bring us to your glory.

Lord Jesus, help us to follow you today.

Action: Today and tomorrow, as we begin our lenten journey, I will do this action ....
[Each person decides in silence before the Lord.]

THURSDAY

See also Deut. 30: 15-20; and Ps. 1

Gospel reading (Lk. 9: 22-25): Jesus tells us that he must suffer and die, but he will be raised in three days. Anyone who follows Jesus has to carry the cross each day: this is the way God intends to save us.

Reflection: Am I listening to what Jesus is telling me? He must suffer to come into his glory, and so must I. Am I ready to carry my cross daily with the Lord?

Prayer: Jesus, my Lord and my brother,
help me to carry my cross with you.
Give me courage when I am afraid,
and help me to walk with you today.
Bring us into your glory, Lord Jesus.

Action: I will carry my cross today with Jesus.
Opening Days of Lent

FRIDAY

Gospel reading (Mt. 9: 14-15): When Jesus lived on earth 2,000 years ago, his followers did not fast. When he returned to heaven, they began to fast, and continue to do so until he comes again in glory.

Reflection: Jesus is telling us that his followers must fast. By fasting, we are doing penance for our sins, and open our hearts to deeper prayer. Do I control my appetites, and fast with God’s people? What is Jesus asking me to do?

Prayer:

Jesus,
I thank you for your love for me.
Teach us to eat less and do more for you
by praying and by helping other people.

Lord Jesus, have mercy on us,
for we are your beloved people.

Action: I will control my appetite for food, and offer this penance for all God’s people.

SATURDAY

Gospel reading (Lk. 5: 27-32): Jesus invites Levi to follow him; he leaves everything, and follows our Lord. Later, at a banquet, Jesus says he eats with sinners because they need him: he has come to heal them and call them away from their sins, especially their injustice toward others.

Reflection: Jesus asks me to follow him: how ready am I to leave my will and my ways for his? In the eucharist, he invites me to be healed and forgiven. Am I willing to let him heal me? Am I ready to turn away from my sins?

Prayer:

Jesus,
have mercy on me, a sinner.
Open my heart to your love,
forgive me my sins,
and bring all your people back to your love.

Action: I will treat other people with justice and love.

SACRIFICES

These are the sacrifices most pleasing to God:
mercy, humility, praise, peace, charity.

From a discourse on Ps. 95, by Augustine, quoted in Liturgy of the Hours (1975, Catholic Book, New York), vol. IV, page 536.
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

After Jesus is baptized, the Spirit leads him into the desert to fast and pray. There he is tempted to abandon God's ways. Our brother Jesus overcomes these temptations and remains faithful to our heavenly Father.


Gospel reading (Mt. 4: 1-11): Jesus is one of us, our brother, like us in all things but sin (Heb. 4: 15). He resists Satan's temptation, and continues to be a faithful servant of God.

Other readings: Gen. 2: 7-9; 3: 1-7; Ps. 51; and Rom. 5: 12-19 (see Sunday Mass Book, pages 261-266).

Reflection: We follow Jesus. Led by the Holy Spirit. God's people enter a period of prayer and fasting. We are weak and tempted, but Lent is a time for seeking help: we ask our Lord to make us strong, so that we will be able to reject temptation and overcome sin — the power of Satan — in our lives. Jesus has obeyed the Father by dying and rising. During this Lent, our brother invites us to share in his suffering and so earn his glory.

Prayer:  
Blessed are you, Lord our God,  
creator of the universe and Father of us all:  
we praise you for giving us Jesus as our Lord and brother.  
Guide us by the power of your Spirit  
so that we may walk with Jesus throughout this Lent.  

Blessed are you, Father, for ever and ever.

Action: I will look at my life, and see what is not pleasing to Jesus. With his help, I will start to change it now.

Sunday is a day of joy: Catholics do not fast on the Lord's day. Sunday is always a day of joy. We hear God's word and give thanks in the eucharist. We praise God, and we do good works. We refrain from sin, but we do not fast on Sunday. The "forty days" of fasting are the weekdays from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday.
First Sunday in Lent

**Year B**  

**Gospel reading** (Mk. 1: 12-15): Our Lord stayed in the desert for forty days, where Satan came to tempt him. Then Jesus began to announce that God’s kingdom is near. We are called to be sorry for our sins and to believe the Good News of our salvation: God loves us, and wants to save us through Jesus.

**Other readings:** Gen. 9: 8-15; Ps. 25; and 1 Pet. 3: 18-22 (see *Sunday Mass Book*, pages 293-296).

**Reflection:** Though we are often tempted to sin, God our loving Father remains with us. Jesus tells us the Good News: God loves us even though we are sinners, and calls us to repent and believe. In our baptism we share in Jesus’ final victory over Satan. Now is the time for us to die with Jesus to sin, and to live with him for God. Our Father loves those who try to obey the will of God.

**Prayer:**

* Loving Father,*

*we praise you for loving us in Jesus.*

*Help us to live this week in your love,*

*and make us strong in time of temptation and darkness.*

*Father,*

*we praise you today and for ever.*

**Action:** What does Jesus want me to change in my life right now? I will ask him to help me begin.

---

**Year C**  

**Gospel reading** (Lk. 4: 1-13): Jesus is tempted to turn away from God. In prayer and fasting, he remains faithful to our Father.

**Other readings:** Deut. 26: 4-10; Ps. 91; and Rom. 10: 8-13 (see *Sunday Mass Book*, pages 316-320).

**Reflection:** God brought Israel through the trials of the desert into the promised land. Jesus, the Church, and each of us is tempted to stray from God’s path. We need to believe in Jesus firmly, and with him say *no!* to temptation. Jesus saves those who believe in him.

**Prayer:**

* Loving Father,*

*we are your children in Jesus our Lord:*

*guide us with your Holy Spirit,*

*and help us to be faithful when we are tempted to stray.*

*Build up your Church by our love and service,*

*and lead all people to you*  

*through Jesus, our brother and our Lord.*

**Action:** I believe in Jesus, and will let him help me to fight my temptations.
First Week in Lent

MONDAY

See also Lev. 19: 1-2, 11-18; and Ps. 19

Gospel reading (Mt. 25: 31-46): Jesus will judge us on the way we love him in others. When we help others in need, we are helping Jesus in our love.

Reflection: God wants us to be holy people. We do this by loving our neighbor as we love ourselves. This is the law of the Lord, by which we are made perfect and holy.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, our brother,
help us to love other people:
they are your brothers and sisters, and ours.
Let your Holy Spirit guide us as we follow you today.

Action: I will try to see and love Jesus in other people today.

TUESDAY

See also Is. 55: 10-11; and Ps. 34

Gospel reading (Mt. 6: 7-15): Jesus teaches us to call God our beloved Father, and gives us his own prayer.

Reflection: How well do we listen to God's word in our lives? Do we pray the Our Father carefully, slowly, with love? The early Church saw this both as a good prayer to use and as a model for our personal and public prayer.

Prayer:

Holy Father,
we praise you for your love.
Look after us, for we are your children.
Help us to be free from sin
and to grow in your love today.

Action: With Jesus and all his people, I will pray to God as our loving Father.

WEDNESDAY

See also Jonah 3: 1-10; and Ps. 51

Gospel reading (Lk. 11: 29-32): God will judge those who do not listen to Jesus when he asks us to repent and turn back to God.

Reflection: Lent began a week ago. Am I listening to God's word? Am I praying and doing penance, and turning away from my sins?

Prayer:

Lord Jesus,
stir up our hearts by the power of your Spirit.
Teach us to be sorry for the evil we have done,
and help us to love you more.

Action: I will work with Jesus to die to sin and to live for God today.
First Week in Lent

THURSDAY
See also Esther 14: 1, 3-5, 12-14; and Ps. 138

Gospel reading (Mt. 7: 7-12): Jesus invites us to pray constantly to God, trusting in our Father to give us the good gifts we need. We are to treat other people as we want them to treat us.

Reflection: Esther gives us an example of prayer for God's people in time of great need. God loves us, and always hears our prayer.

Prayer: Heavenly Father,
we praise you.
Listen to our prayers for your people.
Help us to grow in love for you
and teach us to serve you with Jesus our brother.

Action: Today I will pray for others, for the whole Church, and also for myself.

FRIDAY
See also Ezek. 18: 21-28; and Ps. 130

Gospel reading (Mt. 5: 20-26): Our Lord asks us for a total conversion of heart. We must be reconciled with others before we can make a pleasing offering to our heavenly Father.

Reflection: God wants us to turn from wickedness and evil, and is ready to forgive us. Jesus is our model of life for God — the kind of life we promised in our baptism.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, our brother,
we praise you for your love for us.
Help us to turn from sin
and to live each day with you.

Action: I will turn from my sins and follow Jesus, with his help.

SATURDAY
See also Deut. 26: 16-19; and Ps. 119

Gospel reading (Mt. 5: 43-48): Jesus asks us to love others as he loves them, not only those who deserve our love. In this way he wants us to become perfect as God is.

Reflection: Do we believe that we are God's consecrated people? Our heavenly Father protects those who keep the commandments with love.

Prayer: Lord Jesus,
help us to love others,
especially those who are difficult to love.
Teach us to be perfect as we follow you each day.

Action: With Jesus' help, I will try to love other people, especially N.
SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

In the transfiguration, Jesus is proclaimed as God's beloved Son. Moses and Elijah — representing the law and the prophets — come to Jesus: from now on, we are to listen to him as our great teacher. The cloud is a symbol of the presence of God. This vision encourages us as we move forward to the Easter celebrations.

Year A

Gospel reading (Mt. 4: I-II): With Peter we can rejoice because we are present. We accept our Father's proclamation that we are to listen to his beloved Son.

Other readings: Gen. 12: 1-4; Ps. 33; and 2 Tim. 1: 8-10 (see Sunday Mass Book, pages 266-270).

Reflection: Abraham is our model of faith, obeying God's word and trusting in God's promises. Do we trust in God, who is faithful to the promises made to us in Jesus? God loves us, and calls us to be holy, chosen people, destined for unending life.

Prayer:   
Holy Father,  
we praise you for sending Jesus  
to be our Lord, our brother, our savior.  
Help us to listen to his teaching  
and so learn to love you more.

Action: I will listen to Jesus' words today, and try to love other people more.

Year B

Gospel reading (Mk. 9: 2-9): Jesus takes three of his apostles to share in this experience. We too believe the Father's word, and try to listen carefully to his beloved Son Jesus.

Other readings: Gen. 22: 1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Ps. 116; and Rom. 8: 31-34 (see Sunday Mass Book, pages 297-300).

Reflection: The sacrifice of Abraham is a picture of God's love for us: our Father is willing to let Jesus die so that we may live for ever. God's great love for us continues. Now God asks us to offer praise, thanksgiving, and obedience as our sacrifice.

Prayer:   
Loving Father,  
we praise you for giving us Jesus  
to save us by dying and rising for us.  
Help us to love you and serve you each day.

Action: I will continue to thank God for sending Jesus to save us.
Second Sunday in Lent


Gospel reading (Lk. 9: 28-36): Jesus appears in glory, and his disciples hear the Father calling him the chosen Son. With them we are to listen to Jesus as our teacher and leader.

Other readings: Gen. 15: 5-12, 17-18; Ps. 27; and Phil. 3: 17—4: 1 (see Sunday Mass Book, pages 320-324).

Reflection: Abraham, our father in faith, is pleasing to God, who makes a covenant with him and his descendants, including us. God is our light, our help at all times. Our Lord Jesus will conquer the universe, and will lead us to share in his glory if we follow him now in faith, hope, and love.

Prayer: Jesus, beloved Son of God, help us to believe, to hope, and to love. Teach us to follow you with our cross and bring us to your glory.

Action: I will listen to Jesus, and follow him by loving and serving the people I am with.

A PRAYER FOR OUR FAMILY

Blessed are you, loving Father, ruler of the universe:

You have given us your Son as our leader, and have made us temples of your Holy Spirit.

Fill our family with your light and peace. have mercy on all who suffer, and bring us to everlasting joy with you.

Father, we bless your name for ever and ever. Amen!
Second Week in Lent

MONDAY  
See also Dan. 9: 4b-10; and Ps. 79

Gospel reading (Lk. 6: 36-38): Jesus urges us to be as generous as he is: in understanding and forgiving others, and in giving ourselves and our goods. God will be even more generous to us.

Reflection: With Daniel we pray for God’s people. During Lent we ask our heavenly Father to forgive us and help us turn from sin, so that we may offer our thanks and praise.

Prayer:  
Lord Jesus, our brother,  
we join you in praising the Father  
for rescuing us from sin and evil.  
Help us to be generous in our love today.

Action: Today I will try to be more generous to other people.

TUESDAY  
See also Is. 1: 10, 16-20; and Ps. 50

Gospel reading (Mt. 23: 1-12): Jesus reminds us to be humble servants of God and of the people of God. We are not to seek honors for ourselves.

Reflection: Our God is always ready to forgive our sins, no matter how great they may be. Our Father wants to forgive us and receive our sacrifice of praise and thanks.

Prayer:  
Loving Father,  
send your Spirit into the hearts of your people  
and call us back to you.  
Forgive us, and help us to love you more.

Action: I will come back, and ask God to forgive me.

WEDNESDAY  
See also Jer. 18: 18-20; and Ps. 31

Gospel reading (Mt. 20: 17-28): Jesus speaks of his suffering and death. As his followers, we have to be ready to share in his cross, and to serve others with him.

Reflection: People often turn against God’s prophets, for their words are not comfortable or popular. We need to listen to what God is saying to us: this is our way to salvation and glory.

Prayer:  
Father of us all,  
we praise you for loving us.  
Help us to hear your word today  
and carry our cross with Jesus.

Action: I will accept inconvenience and suffering today as I try to follow Jesus.
Second Week in Lent

THURSDAY  
See also Jer. 17: 5-10; and Ps. 1

Gospel reading (Lk. 16: 19-31): Jesus tells us the story of the rich man and Lazarus. He invites us to live our daily life according to God's word.

Reflection: The scriptures contrast the way of the good and of the evil. God our Father wants to reward us for living according to the commandments. Are our hearts open to God's way, the way of eternal life?

Prayer:  
Lord Jesus,  
lead us along the way of life.  
Teach us to listen to your word  
and to live each day in your love.

Action: I will listen carefully to God's word, and let it show me how to live.

FRIDAY  
See also Gen. 37: 3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28; and Ps. 105

Gospel reading (Mt. 21: 33-43, 45-46): In this parable, Jesus reminds us of the different ways that people receive him. Do we accept Jesus as God's Son and messenger, our Lord and our brother? Do we bear fruit with him for the Father?

Reflection: Like Joseph, Jesus is sent to save his family, God's chosen people. Our God continues to love us and care for us. Do we praise and thank our Father for such mercy and love?

Prayer:  
Lord Jesus,  
help us to accept you as our brother and Lord.  
Teach us to give thanks to your Father  
by our prayer and by the way we serve others.

Action: I will be open to Jesus, and thank God for loving us in so many ways.

SATURDAY  
See also Micah 7: 14-15, 18-20; and Ps. 103

Gospel reading (Lk. 15: 1-3, 11-32): Jesus welcomes sinners, including us. He wants us to forgive and welcome others as readily as he does.

Reflection: God is full of love, and is ready to forgive all sinners. God is ready to forgive us, now. Are we open to our Father's strong love?

Prayer:  
Loving Father,  
we praise you for loving us in Christ.  
Open our hearts to your Spirit,  
and forgive us all our sins.  
Help us to live in your love and share it with others.

Action: I will confess my sins, and ask God to forgive me. I will pray for all sinners.
THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

The readings for year A may be used each year, especially when catechumens are being prepared for baptism at Easter.


Gospel reading (Jn. 4: 5-42): Jesus is the savior of the world. He comes to give us living water, the Holy Spirit, so that we may worship the Father in spirit and in truth. Those who are preparing for baptism are invited to deepen their belief, and we are to renew our faith in the power of our baptism.

Other readings: Exod. 17: 3-7; Ps. 95; and Rom. 5: 1-2, 5-8 (see Sunday Mass Book, pages 270-278).

Reflection: In the desert of life, our God brings us refreshing water. The Spirit of Jesus is poured into our hearts so that we may seek and find the living God by our love for others.

Prayer: Eternal Father,
fill us with your Spirit of love.
Guide us as we follow Jesus on the paths of life.

Action: I will thank God for giving me living water, the Holy Spirit.


Gospel reading (Jn. 2: 13-25): Jesus cleanses the temple of God by driving out the merchants and moneychangers. His own body is the true temple of God, and he will be raised after his death. Do I see and use my body as a member of the body of Christ and as a temple of the living God?

Other readings: Exod. 20: 1-17; Ps. 19; and 1 Cor. 1: 22-25 (see Sunday Mass Book, pages 301-306):

Reflection: God our Father gives us the commandments so that we may live in love. These are the words that bring us life and joy. We seek God's wisdom and strength by following our crucified Lord.

Prayer: Lord Jesus,
cleanse our hearts of sin and weakness,
and teach us to praise the Father
by the pleasing sacrifice of love and obedience.

Action: I will root out of my heart the things that lead me away from God.
Third Sunday in Lent

Year C


Gospel reading (Lk. 13: 1-9): God our Father knows all that we do. We are called to repent of our sins. During this Lent we are being given another chance to repent, be converted to God, and start bearing eternal fruit for our Father. Are we listening?

Other readings: Exod. 3: 1-8, 13-15; Ps. 103; and 1 Cor. 10: 1-6, 10-12 (see Sunday Mass Book, pages 325-329).

Reflection: We are God's holy people, and our God is always present with us. Now our Father is offering us another chance to repent and turn from our sins.

Prayer:  
Father,  
have mercy on us, your chosen people. 
Forgive us our sins, and heal us. 
Help us to turn back from our sins and bear everlasting fruit for you.

Action: I will ask God's mercy and forgiveness, and turn away from my sins.

TIME IS FLYING

"Listen to my loud lament: 
Now it's nearly half past Lent —
Goodness! How the time has 'went'!
Haven't done the things I meant . . . ."

Ere the rest of Lent is spent,
Profit from the days God sent:
From your crooked ways be bent,
Using well this time of Lent.
Optional Masses

The optional Masses may be used on any weekday of the appropriate week, especially in years B and C. These Masses proclaim the great baptismal gospels: Jesus is the water of life (Jn. 4); Jesus is the light of the world (Jn. 9); Jesus is our resurrection and our life (Jn. 11).

THIRD WEEK

Gospel reading (Jn. 4: 5-42): Jesus offers salvation to all, and to each sinner. He is the savior of the world: am I willing to accept him today?

Reflection: Jesus gives us living water, his Spirit. God is speaking to us in the scriptures today: are we listening?

Prayer: Lord Jesus,
give us your Holy Spirit
to guide us as we follow you today.

Action: I will ask Jesus to give me his Holy Spirit to guide me.

FOURTH WEEK

Gospel reading (Jn. 9: 1-41): Jesus gives the blind man his sight, and then the gift of faith. “Lord, I believe” is the response that Jesus asks of each of us.

Reflection: God is our hope, the one who lets us see the paths of goodness. God is our light, the giver of mercy and life.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, we believe!
Give us light and hope,
and let us follow you in love.

Action: I will proclaim that Jesus is Lord, and ask for deeper faith for myself and for those close to me.

FIFTH WEEK

Gospel reading (Jn. 11: 1-45): Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead. Our Lord is life and resurrection, the conqueror of sin and death. He is the Son of God.

Reflection: The prophet Elisha prays to the Lord God, and restores a dead boy to life. We pray to God for protection, and ask to share in glory.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, Son of God,
we praise you for your love:
give us a share in your everlasting life,
and lead us to glory with you.

Action: I will praise God for the gift of life today.
Third Week in Lent

*An optional Mass for this week is given on page 211.*

**MONDAY**  
*See also 2 Kings 5: 1-15a; and Ps. 42-43*

**Gospel reading** (Lk. 4: 24-30): God is ready to save everyone, even those who seem furthest from the kingdom.

**Reflection:** God is eager to save us, and looks for some openness, some willingness in us. Naaman’s cure is a reminder of our baptismal washing. Am I open to God’s healing action in my life?

**Prayer:**  
*Heavenly Father,*  
*continue our hearts and our lives*  
*by the power of your Holy Spirit.*  
*Teach us to follow Jesus in our actions today.*

**Action:** I will ask the Spirit to open my heart to God’s healing grace.

**TUESDAY**  
*See also Dan. 3: 25, 34-43; and Ps. 25*

**Gospel reading** (Mt. 18: 21-35): Our Lord tells us to forgive others as generously and readily as God forgives us. Do we?

**Reflection:** God is pleased with us when we turn from our sins, and offer our heart filled with sorrow. Jesus is always ready to help us turn back to God.

**Prayer:**  
*Loving Father,*  
*send your Spirit to soften our hearts,*  
*help us to forgive others*  
*as generously as you forgive us in Jesus.*

**Action:** Today I will ask Jesus to forgive me and help me to forgive others.

**WEDNESDAY**  
*See also Deut 4: 1, 5-9; and Ps. 147*

**Gospel reading** (Mt. 5: 17-19): Jesus has come to teach us to keep God’s law fully: this is the way into the kingdom of God.

**Reflection:** God has given us the commandments in order to help us to live as the children of God, a holy and priestly nation. We are to keep these commandments in our hearts, and share them with our children.

**Prayer:**  
*Jesus, our brother and our Lord,*  
*help us to keep the commandments of love.*  
*Give us your Spirit to be our light*  
*and our courage along the way.*

**Action:** Today I will ask Jesus to help me obey the commandments of love.
THURSDAY  

Gospel reading (Lk. 11: 14-23): Jesus overcomes Satan by the power of God, and is establishing the kingdom of God among us. Our Lord invites us to work with him to build up God's rule.

Reflection: God wants us to be obedient to the way of life. We are to hear God's voice today, and not harden our hearts against the Lord.

Prayer:  
Lord Jesus,  
open our hearts to the voice of the Father,  
and help us to share with you  
in building up the kingdom of God.

Action: I will work with Jesus today to build up the kingdom of God.

FRIDAY  

Gospel reading (Mk. 12: 28b-34): Loving God with all our heart and our neighbor as ourselves is the Lord's command to us. This is the sacrifice that is pleasing to our God.

Reflection: We ask our heavenly Father to forgive us our sins, and to bring us back to the path of holiness. God our Father speaks to us in love, and asks us to walk in the ways of goodness.

Prayer:  
Loving Father,  
heal your people of their sins.  
Bring us back to the path of holiness  
and let us follow Jesus your Son.

Action: I will confess my sins to God, and ask forgiveness for myself and for all God's people.

SATURDAY  

Gospel reading (Lk. 18: 9-14): God forgives those who are humble, and who are aware of their sinfulness and their need for mercy.

Reflection: God is always ready to welcome us back, forgive us, and heal us. Our God wants love as our sacrifice, a sorrowful heart as our gift.

Prayer:  
Father of all,  
have mercy on us in our weakness.  
Heal us from our sins,  
and help us to love you with all our heart.

Action: I will ask Jesus for mercy and forgiveness for myself and for his Church.
FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

The readings for year A may be used each year, especially when catechumens are being prepared for baptism at Easter.


Gospel reading (Jn. 9: 1-41): Jesus cures a man who was born blind. Our Lord declares that he is the light of the world, and invites us to join the man in saying, “Lord, I believe!” Jesus gives us the gift of faith in our baptism: are we using this gift?

Other readings: I Sam. 16: 1, 6-7, 10-13; Ps. 23; and Eph. 5: 8-14 (see Sunday Mass Book, pages 278-285).

Reflection: God sees our hearts, and knows us as we are. Jesus is our good shepherd, leading us through darkness to the refreshing banquet of the eucharist, a foretaste of the heavenly kingdom. As children of light, we are to put aside the works of darkness, and live in the light of Christ.

Prayer: Jesus, be our light
when we are tempted to doubt,
when we are inclined to stray,
when we are weak and in need of your strength.
Lead us all to the joy and peace of your kingdom.

Action: I will make a strong act of faith in Jesus my Lord, and ask him to grant us light in our darkness.


Gospel reading (Jn. 3: 14-21): Jesus will be lifted up on the cross as the serpent was raised in the desert, to be a sign of life and healing. God has sent Jesus his Son so that we may believe in him and be saved.

Other readings: 2 Chron. 36: 14-16, 19-23; Ps. 137; and Eph. 2: 4-10 (see Sunday Mass Book, pages 306-310).

Reflection: God punished the people of Israel because they turned away from the covenant. After their punishment in exile, God called them back to rebuild their temple. During this exile, they remembered Jerusalem and longed to return to their homeland.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, king of eternal glory,
give us life and healing through your death and resurrection,
and help us to live up to our baptismal promises each day.

Action: I believe in Jesus, Son of God and our brother, who has come to give us everlasting life.
Fourth Sunday in Lent

Year C

[Gospel reading (Lk. 15: 1-3, 11-32): The parable of the forgiving father and the unforgiving brother reminds us of God's love and mercy. Our heavenly Father is always ready to forgive us and restore us to grace in the family of God's children. We too must be ready to forgive our brothers and sisters.

Other readings: Jos. 5: 9a, 10-12; Ps. 34; and 2 Cor. 5: 17-21 (see Sunday Mass Book, pages 329-334).

Reflection: God is leading us to our heavenly home. In this life, the eucharist is a banquet refreshing us and giving us strength, and giving us a share in the life of our God. We praise our Father for all the gifts we have received, especially the gift of reconciliation with God and others.

Prayer: Eternal Father,
we give you glory for calling us in Christ:
help us to love and forgive one another
as you love and forgive us.

Action: I will forgive anyone who has hurt me, and ask God to forgive me all my sins.

OUR FAMILY

In Jos. 24: 15, Joshua places a choice in the hands of the people of God: Are we going to serve God, or walk in other ways? Joshua answers: "My family and I are going to serve the Lord." Are we with him? See also Jesus' challenge to us in Jn. 6: 60-69.
Fourth Week in Lent

An optional Mass for this week is given on page 211.

**MONDAY**

See also Is. 65: 17-21; and Ps. 30

Gospel reading (Jn. 4: 43-54): Jesus cures the dying son of the official because his father believes. How much faith do we have in our Lord's power to heal us from our sins?

Reflection: God has promised joy and the end of sorrow for the people of the covenant. We praise God for rescuing us from sin and death.

Prayer: Lord Jesus,  
deepen our faith in you.  
Rescue us from sin  
and fill us with the joy of your Spirit.

Action: I will thank God for giving us Jesus as our saving Lord and brother.

**TUESDAY**

See also Ezek. 47: 1-9, 12; Ps. 46

Gospel reading (Jn. 5: 1-3a, 5-16): Jesus cures a man who was sick for 38 years. Our Lord is ready to restore us to full spiritual health by forgiving all our sins.

Reflection: The vision of Ezekiel shows a generous river flowing from the temple. In the waters of baptism we have been cleansed from sin. Once again Jesus is ready to forgive us and restore us to the full life of love.

Prayer: Heavenly Father,  
send your Spirit to cleanse our hearts of sin  
and restore us to your love in Jesus.

Action: I will confess my sins and ask God to forgive me in Jesus.

**WEDNESDAY**

See also Is. 49: 8-15; and Ps. 145

Gospel reading (Jn. 5: 17-30): We see the growing opposition to Jesus as he continues to call all to come to him as the source of eternal life.

Reflection: God is calling us all to return to the ways of salvation. Our God will never forget us, and is always ready to have mercy on those who fall.

Prayer: Lord Jesus Christ, our brother,  
have mercy on us  
and share your eternal life with us now.

Action: I will ask Jesus to pour the Spirit of life into my heart and in the lives of all I know.
Fourth Week in Lent

THURSDAY

See also Exod. 32: 7-14; and Ps. 106

Gospel reading (In. 5: 31-47): John the Baptist was a witness to Jesus. So too are the scriptures. Jesus comes to us in the name of his Father. We are to believe in Jesus as our Lord.

Reflection: When the Israelites turned away from God, Moses prayed for them, asking God to forgive them. We too need to pray often for the people of God.

Prayer: Loving Father,
have mercy on your people.
Help us to believe in Jesus as our Lord
and serve you in love.

Action: I believe in Jesus as my Lord and my brother. Today I will pray for God's people.

FRIDAY

See also Wis. 2: 1a, 12-22; and Ps. 34

Gospel reading (In. 7: 1-2, 10, 25-30): Jesus proclaims that he has been sent by the Father. The plot against Jesus continues to grow.

Reflection: Even though the wicked plot against the virtuous man, God will come to the rescue. Our God hears the prayer of those who are crushed.

Prayer: Lord Jesus,
we believe in you.
Help us to share in your suffering now
so that we may also share in your glory.

Action: I believe that Jesus has come from God to save us. I will pray for all God's people.

SATURDAY

See also Jer. 11: 18-20; and Ps. 7

Gospel reading (In. 7: 40-53): The temple police do not arrest Jesus because he is speaking as a great prophet. Are we listening to him in our lives?

Reflection: Jesus is being led to slaughter like an innocent lamb, the Lamb of God who takes away our sins. He places his trust in God, who is his protector.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, protect us,
for we are your children, brothers and sisters of Jesus.
Lead us into your kingdom now and for ever.

Action: I ask Jesus to save me and all his people from sin.
**FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

The readings for year A may be used each year, especially when catechumens are being prepared for baptism at Easter.

**Year A**


**Gospel reading** (Jn. 11: 1-45): Jesus tells us that he is our resurrection and our life. Mary of Bethany makes an act of faith in Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God. Jesus prays that others will believe that he is sent by God. Then he raises Lazarus from the dead.

Am I ready to proclaim that I believe in Jesus Christ? Does my faith influence the way I act toward God? toward other people?

**Other readings:** Ezek. 37: 12-14; Ps. 130; and Rom. 8: 8-11 (see Sunday Mass Book, pages 285-292).

**Reflection:** God promises to put a new spirit into the life of the chosen people. From the depths of weakness and sin we call out for mercy and forgiveness. We are called to be spiritual people: the Holy Spirit is living in our hearts. God has made us holy, and promises to raise us with Christ.

**Prayer:**

*Lord Jesus, we believe in you.*

*Strengthen our faith,*

*and help us to live as children of the Father.*

*Let your Spirit guide us and raise us to eternal life.*

**Action:** I will proclaim my faith in Jesus today, and share it with others.

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**Year B**


**Gospel reading** (Jn. 12: 20-33): Jesus speaks to us of his death and his glory. Like a seed, he has to die in order to bring a full harvest and win eternal life for us all. By dying on the cross, Jesus will overcome Satan and draw all people to himself. Our Lord invites us to follow him in being a servant: this is the way we are to give glory to the Father.

**Other readings:** Jer. 31: 31-34; Ps. 51; and Heb. 5: 7-9 (see Sunday Mass Book, pages 311-315).

**Reflection:** God promises to make a new covenant with the people of God, planting the law in their hearts. Their sins will be forgiven by God and forgotten. We ask God to place the Holy Spirit in our hearts and cleanse us from our sin. Jesus our Lord is one of us. He learned obedience by his suffering, and now he brings everlasting salvation to everyone who obeys him.
Fifth Sunday in Lent

Prayer: Lord Jesus, our brother,
we praise you for saving us from sin and death.
Help us to follow you in love, service, and suffering,
and receive the gift of eternal life.

Action: I will try to follow Jesus by serving other people in love.


Gospel reading (Jn. 8: 1-11): The scribes and Pharisees bring a woman to Jesus. She has been caught in the act of sin, and should be stoned to death according to their law. What does Jesus have to say about this? Instead of answering directly, he writes on the ground, and then suggests that any one of them who is sinless should throw the first stone. They slink away one by one, and Jesus sends the woman away, telling her to sin no more.

Do we try to cover up our sins and weaknesses by pointing to the faults of others? Have we learned to forgive as Jesus does?

Other readings: Is. 43: 16-21; Ps. 126; and Phil. 3: 8-14 (see Sunday Mass Book, pages 334-338).

Reflection: God continues to renew the chosen people, leading them through the desert of life to complete their pilgrimage. We cannot imagine or dream of God's plans for us. As we share in the death and rising of Christ through our baptism, we are invited to keep doing our best for God, who will reward us in glory.

Prayer: Jesus, our brother and our Lord,
forgive our sins
and teach us to forgive others.
Help us to share in your suffering
and in your glory.

Action: I will model my life on Jesus, who accepted suffering on the way to glory.
Fifth Week in Lent

An optional Mass for this week is given on page 211.

**MONDAY**

See also Dan. 13: 1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 [or 41c-62]; and Ps. 23

Gospel reading (Year A, B: Jn. 8: 1-11): Jesus forgives a woman, and reminds us not to judge others, for we are sinners too. (Year C: Jn. 8: 12-20): Jesus is the light of the world, sent by the Father to share the light of life with us.

Reflection: Our God is our shepherd, taking care of those who keep the commandments, and punishing the wicked.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, light of the world, forgive our sins and help us to love you more.

Action: I ask Jesus to forgive me and all God's people.

**TUESDAY**

See also Num. 21: 4-9; and Ps. 102

Gospel reading (Jn. 8: 21-30): We are to believe in Jesus as our savior, sent to us by the Father.

Reflection: God punishes those disobey the commandments, but listens when we pray for help and forgiveness.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, our savior, forgive our sins and let us share in your life.

Action: I believe in Jesus, my savior and savior of the world.

**WEDNESDAY**

See also Dan. 3: 14-20, 91-92, 95; and Dan. 3

Gospel reading (Jn. 8: 31-42): Jesus comes to teach us truth and free us from evil and darkness.

Reflection: God saves three youths from death. They sing a song of praise, in which all God's people can join.

Prayer: All praise to you, God our Father: you rescue us from sin, and lead us to Jesus our Lord.

Action: I will love Jesus and obey his commandments.
Fifth Week in Lent

THURSDAY

See also Gen. 17: 3-9; and Ps. 105

Gospel reading (Jn. 8: 51-59): If we keep Jesus' word, we will live for ever. People are ready to kill Jesus because he declares he is God.

Reflection: God makes a covenant with Abraham and his descendants. As people of faith, we are Abraham's spiritual descendants, and he is our father in faith.

Prayer: Eternal Father,
help us to serve with Christ
and remain strong in faith.

Action: I will proclaim my faith in Jesus as Son of God and our brother.

FRIDAY

See also Jer. 20: 10-13; and Ps. 18

Gospel reading (Jn. 10: 31-42): Opposition continues to grow as Jesus proclaims that he is the Son of God, sent by the Father to save us.

Reflection: God is always with those who are persecuted for their faith and good actions. God is our shield, our fortress, our help at all times.

Prayer: Lord Jesus,
we believe that you are God's Son and our brother.
Help us in time of need and persecution.

Action: I believe that Jesus is the Son of God, sent by the Father to save us.

SATURDAY

See also Ezek. 37: 21-28; and Jer. 31

Gospel reading (Jn. 11: 45-56): The leaders plan to execute Jesus, but God uses their plot to bring the people of God together in one family.

Reflection: God promises to gather the people into one, to cleanse them from wickedness, and to begin a covenant of peace with them.

Prayer: Heavenly Father,
have mercy on all sinners.
Help us to believe in Jesus more firmly
and follow him each day in love and service.

Action: I will try to live today with Jesus in loving and serving other people.
Passion Sunday

Procession with Palms

Our celebration begins with the blessing of palms, and a procession in memory of Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem. He comes as the humble Messiah, the king sent by God to lead the chosen people. We may use our palms during the year as a reminder that Jesus is our king and leader.

- **Year A:** Mt. 21: 1-11
- **Year B:** Mk. 11: 1-10; or Jn. 12: 12-16
- **Year C:** Lk. 19: 28-40


Mass

**Gospel reading:** The passion narrative is read at Mass today:

- **Year A:** Mt. 26: 14—27: 66
- **Year B:** Mk. 14: 1—15: 47
- **Year C:** Lk. 22: 14—23: 56


In his love for us, Jesus gives us the eucharist at the last supper. He chooses to suffer for us, he proclaims that he is God's Son, and is crucified as our king. By his death we are saved from death, and by his rising we are given eternal life.

**Other readings:** Is. 50: 4-7; Ps. 22; and Phil. 2: 6-11 (see Sunday Mass Book, pages 349-352, 374).

**Reflection:** God our Father loves us so much that he sent the Son to be one of us (Jn. 3: 16-17). Our brother Jesus suffered, died, and was raised so that we might share in God's life. Jesus is God's servant, called to be a suffering disciple. The Father helps Jesus in his suffering, and raises him to life and victory. As a result, we proclaim Jesus as Lord, and so bring glory to God our Father.

**Prayer:**

Lord Jesus, our king,
we praise you for your love.
Help us to die with you to sin
and live with you for God our Father.

**Action:** I will proclaim Jesus as my Lord. With his help, I will try to follow him each day in loving and serving God.
CHRISM MASS

See also Is. 61: 1-3a, 6a, 8b-9; Ps. 89; and Rev. 1: 5-8

This Mass is celebrated in the cathedral on Thursday morning of Holy Week, or earlier in the week.

Gospel reading (Lk. 4: 16-21): After reading the passage from Isaiah announcing that the Spirit of the Lord has anointed the suffering servant, Jesus tells the people that this is happening as they are listening to him.

Reflection: God anoints the suffering servant — a figure of Jesus Christ — with the Spirit, and sends him to strengthen the people of God. We are the chosen people of God, cleansed from sin in the blood of our savior. (See Sunday Mass Book, pages 375-381.)

Prayer: Holy Father,
we give you thanks for your glory:
continue to pour your Spirit upon your people,
and make us holy and pleasing to you.

Action: I will thank God for sharing the Spirit with me and with all the people of God.

PRAYERS IN HOLY WEEK

Heavenly Father,
you have sent Jesus to teach us
to accept your will and carry our cross with him.
Grant us the strength to follow him in his suffering
and so be one with him in his glory.

We ask this grace
through Christ our Lord.

All answer Amen!

Blessed are you, O God,
Lord of all the universe:
you have chosen us as your children
and have forgiven all our sins
through the obedient death and glorious resurrection
of your beloved Son, our Lord and savior.

We praise you, Father of love,
through Jesus your Son
in the communion of your Holy Spirit,
now and always and for ever.

All answer Amen!
Holy Week

MONDAY

Gospel reading (Jn. 12: 1-11): Mary of Bethany anoints Jesus’ feet with expensive ointment. Jesus tells all present that this is in preparation for his burial. The plot against Jesus’ life grows stronger as more people come to believe in him.

Reflection: God has called the suffering servant to be the light of all nations. Jesus is our light, the source of salvation: we place our trust and hope in our Lord.

Prayer: Heavenly Father,
we praise you for saving us
by the death and rising of Jesus.
Help us to walk always in his light and love.

Action: I will follow Jesus as my light and my savior.

TUESDAY

Gospel reading (Jn. 13: 21-33, 36-38) Jesus sees his death as an act of glory to God, and of glory to be given by the Father to Jesus. He foretells that Peter will deny his master.

Reflection: The suffering servant brings glory to God when all his work seems to be useless. God is our source of strength and help.

Prayer: Loving Father,
we offer our work and suffering to you
in union with the life and suffering and glory of Jesus.
Keep us always in your love.

Action: I will offer my work and my suffering with Jesus to the Father.

WEDNESDAY

Gospel reading (Mt. 26: 14-25): Judas arranges to betray Jesus. At the Passover supper, Jesus announces that one of his apostles is going to betray him.

Reflection: As the suffering servant, Jesus listens to his Father. He does not resist those who strike him, for he knows that God is with him. With Jesus, we praise the Father for loving us and saving us.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, our brother,
have mercy on those who turn away from God.
Help us to be faithful to you
by living each day for love of you.

Action: I will pray for strength to be faithful to God each day.
Easter Triduum

HOLY THURSDAY

Mass of the Lord's Supper

Gospel reading (Jn. 13: 1-15): Jesus shows his love for us by dying for us. At the last supper he washes his disciples' feet, giving them and us an example of service to follow.

Reflection: During the Passover supper, Jesus made a new covenant with us. He gave us his body and blood as our food, and told us to do this as a remembrance of him. We celebrate this eucharist as a sacrifice of thanksgiving to the Father for saving us through Jesus' death and resurrection.

Prayer: Father,
we thank you for your glory:
nourish us with the bread of life and cup of salvation,
and lead us in the paths of Jesus our Lord.

Action: I will offer thanks to the Father each time I take part in the eucharist.

Paschal fast: The people of God fast on Friday and Saturday of this week to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus, and to prepare themselves to share more deeply in the joy of his resurrection.

GOOD FRIDAY

Gospel reading (Jn. 18: 1—19: 42): As we listen again to the passion of our Lord, we are able to see how the Father is glorified by the death of Jesus. God has saved us by the sacrifice of the Son.

Reflection: Jesus suffered and died because of our sins, but God has raised him. We who obey Jesus receive salvation from him. With Jesus we place ourselves in the hands of our Father.

Prayer: Loving Father,
we praise you for saving us
by the suffering, death, and rising of Jesus.
Teach us to turn away from our sins
and live each day in your love.

Action: I will turn away from my sins and live today for God.
EASTER VIGIL

See Sunday Mass Book, pages 424-468

Gospel reading:

- Year A: Mt. 28: 1-10
- Year B: Mk. 16: 1-8
- Year C: Lk. 24: 1-12

Angels tell the women that Jesus is risen from the dead. Alleluia! (praise to God!) is our song of rejoicing.

**Reflection:** The full celebration of nine readings from the scriptures helps us to think about the meaning of our baptism: we are baptized into the death and rising of Jesus. With him we die to sin, and with him we rise to new life for God.

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, our risen savior, help us to die with you to sin and live with you each day for God, for you are our holy Lord, now and for ever.

**Action:** I will live by my baptismal promises today and every day, with the grace and help of Jesus our Lord.

EASTER SUNDAY

Lent is over, and God is sending us forth to continue to die to sin and live with Christ each day.

**Gospel reading** (Jn. 20: 1-9): Early on Sunday morning, Mary Magdalene finds that Jesus' body is not in the tomb. She runs to tell Peter and the other disciples. They run to the tomb, and see that it is empty. Then they believe that Jesus has risen from the dead.

**Other readings:** Acts 10: 34, 37-43; Ps. 118, and Col. 3: 1-4, or 1 Cor. 5: 6-8 (see Sunday Mass Book, pages 469-476).

**Reflection:** The apostles and the whole Church are sent to proclaim that Jesus has been raised from death. All who believe in Jesus as Lord will be forgiven their sins. We thank God for triumphing over death. Once more we promise to die with Jesus to sin, and to live with him for God. This is the work of each day in the rest of our life on earth.

**Prayer:** All glory is yours, Lord Jesus, conqueror of sin and death! Fill us with your Spirit, and free us from sin. Look on us with love and mercy, and help us to live with you for God.

Lord Jesus, we praise you for ever and ever.

**Action:** By the light of the Spirit, I will continue to walk with Jesus for the glory of God our Father.
Litany
for the
Easter season

This litany may be prayed at a family gathering during the Easter season. *Alleluia* may be sung as a response in place of the one given here.

**Father of life,**
we give you praise and glory.
All answer  *Christ is risen, alleluia!*

You have given Jesus victory over sin.  *R.*
You have raised him from the dead.  *R.*
You have made his cross a sign of glory.  *R.*

You have made us sharers in your life.  *R.*
With Christ, you have buried us in death to sin.  *R.*
With him you have raised us to new life.  *R.*

He is seated with you in glory.  *R.*
He sends his Spirit to guide our lives.  *R.*
Jesus will come again in glory.  *R.*

Other acclamations or petitions may be added.

All glory and praise are yours, holy Father,
ruler of heaven and earth:
we praise you for raising your Son Jesus from the dead
and for giving him victory over sin.
Make us holy as we follow him in love,
and fill us with your Spirit,
so that we may give you glory
all the days of our life.

Blessed are you, Father,
for ever and ever.

All answer  *Amen!*
If either of these dates falls on a Sunday, the feast is transferred to Saturday (March 18 or 24), and the lenten liturgy is celebrated on Sunday.

MARCH 19

St. Joseph

Gospel reading:

- Mt. 1: 16, 18-21, 24a: God tells Joseph that Mary's child has been conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit. This child will be called Jesus, and will save God's people from all their sins.
- or Lk. 2: 41-51a: Even at an early age, Jesus proclaims that God is his Father, and that he must be doing God's work.

Other readings: 2 Sam. 7: 4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Ps. 89; and Rom. 4: 13, 16-18, 22.

Reflection: God promised David that his descendants would rule the people of God for ever: Jesus is our eternal king. We are Abraham's children in faith when we believe in God's promises to us.

Prayer: Heavenly Father,
help us to be strong in faith
like Abraham and Joseph.
Help us to follow Jesus in our daily living.

Action: I will tell God that I believe in the promises made to us through Jesus.

MARCH 25

Annunciation of the Lord

Gospel reading (Lk. 1: 26-38): God announces to Mary that she will be the mother of the Messiah. She believes in God's promise and obeys the will of God. The Son of God becomes flesh, one of us, in her womb by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Other readings: Is. 7: 10-14; Ps. 40; and Heb. 10: 4-10.

Reflection: A promise to King Ahaz is interpreted by Matthew as a sign of the virgin birth of Jesus, who is Emmanuel, God-with-us. Jesus comes to do God's will, and offers his obedience as the sacrifice pleasing to our heavenly Father.

Prayer: Holy Father,
we praise you for sending us your Son
to be one of us, our Lord and our brother.
Let your Spirit help us to live in faith and obedience
as we walk along the paths of Jesus our savior.

Action: I will thank God our Father for sending his Son Jesus to save us and to be with us always.
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* See page 228.
BULLETINS FOR 1983

In consultation with the Episcopal Commission for Liturgy and the National Council for Liturgy, these topics are planned for volume 16 of the National Bulletin on Liturgy in 1983:

◊ No. 87, January: Twenty Good Years. We pause and look back 20 years to the Constitution on the liturgy. How have we put its principles into effect? What further challenges does the Council still offer to us today? This issue looks at practical, pastoral applications.

◊ No. 88, March: Reconciliation in Our Life. The 1983 Synod of Bishops is looking at reconciliation and repentance in the mission of the Church. Bulletin 88 explores the meaning of reconciliation, and where it is in our life and liturgy.

◊ No. 89, May: Children Learn to Celebrate. Family life, attitudes, values, and celebrations predispose children to be able to take an active part in community celebrations and liturgy. Parishes and communities can do much to help families in this important work.

◊ No. 90, September: Religious Communities Celebrate Liturgy. This issue looks at the place, influence, and importance of the liturgy in the life of religious communities in today's renewing Church. Practical suggestions are offered for better celebration and participation in the liturgy as the source of the true Christian spirit.

◊ No. 91, November: Sharing Our Faith. The liturgy has an important role in the complete, balanced, and practical sharing of the faith that is given to catechumens. This sound way of growing in the Christian faith may also be shared with all adult members of the community.

Each issue will contain 48 pages. Subscriptions for 1983, from January to December (nos. 87-91), are $6.00 in Canada: $8.00 (U.S. funds) outside Canada; by airmail outside Canada, $4.00 extra (U.S. funds). Send your cheque or money order to Publications Service, 90 Parent Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 7B1 Canada.

THANKS FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Blessed are you, loving Father,  
for all your gifts to us.  
Blessed are you for giving us family and friends  
to be with us in times of joy and sorrow,  
to help us in days of need,  
and to rejoice with us in moments of celebration.  

Father, we praise you for your Son Jesus,  
who knew the happiness of family and friends,  
and in the love of your Holy Spirit.  
Blessed are you for ever and ever. Amen!
Brief book reviews


Fr. Laz presents a series of 20 brief meditations: a situation, reflection, a prayer. The booklet invites each of us to look into our actions and lives. Helpful reading for any adult.

* * *


The authors share their practical experience by presenting five celebrations based on five of our Lord's parables. These services are intended to be adapted for classrooms and other noneucharistic liturgies. Each celebration moves through six stages in six locations or "centers" for greeting, word, praise, creation, sharing, and witness. Recommended for catechists and teachers.

* * *


This book, the second in The Center Celebration Series, is similar to the one described above. It presents celebrations based on five gospel events. Ways of arranging all six centers in one classroom are given on page 27. Recommended for catechists and teachers.

* * *


Some of the marvels of creation are the themes of the five celebrations presented in this third book of The Center Celebration Series. Catechists and teachers in the junior grades will find these are helpful resources. Recommended.

* * *


Father Chupungco is a Benedictine from Manila in the Philippines who teaches and writes in Rome about the history and adaptation of our liturgy. After his introductory chapter on the way liturgy has been adapted in the past, he discusses nos. 37-40 of the Constitution of the liturgy. Then he speaks of principles of adaptation based on theology, liturgy, and culture. It is only when we understand these clearly that we are able to see how our liturgy needs to be adapted to the world which we are working to save today. [The only drawback in this book for many readers will be the series of untranslated quotes from Latin, Italian, French, and Spanish. The editors would have done us a greater service by giving an English rendering.] Recommended for liturgy committees, clergy, and all interested in adapting liturgy in our day.

1 Prices for U.S. publications are given in U.S. dollars, unless otherwise noted.

Dr. Reilly, who directs a rehabilitation center for alcoholics, writes frankly and vividly in simple language about the effects of alcohol, excuses used by alcoholics, and hopes for helping them to come to treatment. Most helpful for pastoral workers and for families, friends, and co-workers of heavy drinkers.


Once again this author has written a simple book of profound reflections on God's word. She invites us — as individuals, families, or groups — to explore the meaning of the kingdom of God in the scriptures. In each of the 28 two-page chapters, she presents notes on several readings or psalms, and offers three or four penetrating points for reflection and sharing. Recommended warmly for families, prayer or study groups, catechists, religious, clergy.

Homilies: A series of three books by A.M. Roguet, OP, translated by Jerome J. DuCharme (Franciscan Herald Press, 1434 West 51st Street, Chicago, IL 60609): paper.


These books are translations of works first published in French in 1975. The author provides an introduction in each book, situating the scripture texts and the homily in the celebration of that rite. Then he takes each of the readings from the ritual lectionary, gives a brief introduction, and some reflections. Depending on the selection of readings, the preacher has to combine the reflections into one whole. The translation reads smoothly.

Rather than calling these homilies, it would be fairer to classify them as notes and reflections that the preacher may use in preparing the homily. As well, they will also be helpful when these readings are used during the time of preparation for the celebrations, and in wakes. A set of these books would be helpful for pastoral workers. Recommended.

Building and Renovation Kit for Places of Catholic Worship, edited by Bill Brown, AIA (1982, Liturgy Training Publications, 155 East Superior Street, Chicago, IL 60611): large three-ring binder, five 8½ by 11 inch booklets, illustrations, 208 pages, 12 tabbed organizers. $49.00 (five or more, $40.00 each).

Architects and liturgists have worked together to prepare this kit and to make it helpful for communities which are planning to renovate or build a church. The many requirements to be considered in the early planning stages and step-by-step suggestions for educating the community and for deciding needs are clearly outlined. The five books are Introduction, Process, Tools, Resources, and Guidelines. Single titles may be purchased in lots of five or more, and binders in any number. Permission is granted to purchasers to duplicate parts of books I and III. The section on Guidelines reprints various official documents on building for worship. The layout and design are clear.

This kit will prove to be a valuable resource for any community which is planning to do extensive renovations or to build a new church, it will also be helpful to diocesan liturgy commissions in their work. Recommended.

Expressing personal faith in words is never simple. In this book a poet tries to put his faith into words of wonder and prayer. Helpful for moments or days of reflection.

* * *


Father Juknialis gives us a series of brief stories which reflect the spirit of the Hebrew and Christian scriptures with freshness. They lead the reader or listener to prayer. Recommended as helpful for parents, catechists, and clergy.

* * *


“What does it mean to confess faith in God today?” A group of Christians — women and men, black and white, lay and clergy, parents and theologians — spent six summers together discussing this question at the Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research in Collegeville, Minn. In this book, the authors have taken many reflections and comments, and joined them smoothly into a most readable and fascinating book. It opens up many deep insights into the faith and life of North American Christians. Recommended as a positive help for Christian individuals and groups who want to reflect on life, faith, practice, worship, and ecumenical relationships today.

* * *

A cross for communion ministers: 3-inch cross with medallion (Office of Worship, Box 69, La Crosse, WI 54601): $9.00, prepaid.

This emblem is a sturdy wooden cross with a metal medallion showing five loaves and two fishes (see Jn. 6: 9). The cross is made from walnut and the medallion from pewter. A braided black cord is worn around the neck. Made by local craftspeople, the emblem is an attractive sign of service when worn by ministers as they distribute communion in church, hospital, or homes.

* * *


Father Lawrence has been writing helpful books of reflections on liturgical texts since his 1950 work, The Week with Christ. This new book continues to lead us into the wealth to be found in the scriptures as proclaimed in the liturgy. He uses the texts of the lectionary and sacramentary to show us the meaning of the personal conversion to which we are being called in Lent. Each Sunday has about three pages of reflections, and weekdays two. Recommended as a valuable aid for reflection and prayer for preachers, religious, liturgy committees, and families.

* * *

CORRECTION: In Bulletin 84, page 143, we reviewed How to Reach out to Inactive Catholics, by William F. McKee, CSSR (1982, Liguori Publications, Liguori, MO 63057). The last sentence in that review should read: “The program offers many positive ideas for concerned parish communities. Recommended.”

In simple language Fr. Stair has written a reflective and penetrating booklet about the meaning and place of the sacrament of reconciliation in our lives. Sound theology about the renewal of this sacrament, scriptural reflections, and personal anecdotes pass on many important ideas to the reader. The eleven sections are three or four pages in length, and may be read one by one or all together. This booklet is helpful for penitents and confessors, for liturgy committees and catechists. It would be a good title for pamphlet racks, for retreat houses, and for parish libraries. Recommended.


This is an updated version of the 1954 pamphlet. It is intended for families who want to make Advent a prayerful season. The booklet contains prayers, music, recipes, and other seasonal activities. Recommended for wide distribution in the parish; it will also be a helpful resource for catechists and liturgy committees.


This is a continuation of the booklet on Advent customs. Family practices, morning and evening prayers, blessings, carols, and recipes are offered for families who wish to celebrate the Christmas season in the spirit of the liturgy. Recommended for families, liturgy committees, and catechists.


Blessings, practices, decorations, prayers, songs, recipes: these are offered to families wishing to celebrate the Easter season in the spirit of the liturgy. Recommended as a practical help for families, liturgy committees, and catechists.


Father Kwatera has written an informative and helpful booklet for servers. Aware of the many practical details involved in good serving, he writes with a light touch that servers will enjoy. Line drawings throughout help to bring home the points being made. The booklet is addressed to servers themselves, and includes a prayer each may say before and after serving, and a suggested investiture ceremony. Recommended for parishes who care about the ministry of servers in the liturgy.


Ushers have a ministry of Christian hospitality. In this booklet, Fr. Smith offers many practical suggestions for helping ushers to grow in their understanding of their ministry, and to be more involved
in the renewal of the liturgy for themselves and for the whole assembly. A suggested rite for installing ushers is also included. Giving a copy to each usher will help to promote greater reverence and deeper prayer in your community's worship. Recommended.

• • •


This book has been designed for popular use of morning and evening prayer in tune with the liturgical seasons. It provides one or more sets of morning and evening prayer for each season, with a full week for ordinary time. Votive offices of the Holy Spirit, Mary, and for the dead are also included. Since the book is designed for individual celebration rather than communal use, a selection of hymns (words only) is included in an appendix. The book may easily be used by couples, families, and small groups. It might have been more helpful if moments for silent prayer were encouraged after each psalm and the reading. The format and layout are attractive and uncluttered, and the large print is clear. Recommended for individuals who wish to pray in the spirit of the liturgy of the hours.

• • •


- **Our Family Prays: Lent and Holy Week** (1982): 5 3/8 by 4 1/4 inches, 64 pages. 50¢. Four sets of prayers for each week in Lent, and prayers for each day of Holy Week.

- **Our Family Prays: Advent and Christmas** (1980): same format, 65 pages. 50¢. Prayers for the first weeks of Advent, the eight days before Christmas, and the twelve days of Christmas.

- **Our Family Prays** (1980): same format, 64 pages. 50¢. Twenty-five days of prayer, and five special occasions, for use in ordinary time.

- **Our Family Prays: Illustrated Edition** (1980): 8 1/4 by 5 1/4 inches, photographs, 64 pages. 75¢. Same material for ordinary time, in larger format.

Each of the days contain these elements: a call to prayer (in Lent, a cry for forgiveness), a short scripture reading, a meditation, a prayer-response, and concluding rites. In the small booklets, these are spread across two pages; in the illustrated edition, a photo is on the left page and the texts on the right.

Priced for wide distribution, these booklets may be used by families and by groups who wish to pray briefly and in tune with the liturgical seasons. Recommended.

• • •


The papers from the Tenth Annual Conference of the Notre Dame Center for Pastoral Liturgy, held in 1981, are published in this book. Nine speakers look at Sunday in the scriptures and in our Christian tradition. The Sunday assembly is also discussed in our tradition and in its future. The authors of the papers are well known theologians and liturgists in the United States. From different points of view — scriptural, liturgical, sociological, historical — they approach the meaning and value of Sunday in today's Church and world.

A careful reading of these papers will benefit clergy, liturgy committees, and students of theology and liturgy. Recommended.

The author is a cantor in a parish, and has written this booklet for new cantors. It offers practical advice for those who are beginning in this role. Within the Christian assembly, which is the first minister of music, the work of cantor is described as animation and proclamation: "The ministry of parish cantor is to bring the song of the assembled community to life, and to assist the people so that their song may be prayer, for the heart as well as the head" (page 7). Throughout this booklet, the author offers many practical suggestions based on knowledge of the liturgy and parish experience. Recommended for cantors and for the parish liturgy committee.

* * *


Each issue of this quarterly brings one important topic to our attention, and leads us into a fresh and refreshing look at it. Tensions, problems, and different views are included, and we are helped to see the place of this topic in the life and worship of believers today. Scripture and the Assembly speaks to all Christians, and in a special way to those who serve the community as ministers of the word: readers, cantors, and preachers. Recommended also for parish liturgy committees.

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This book — a landmark in liturgical studies — was first published in 1945, and has been reprinted occasionally since then. The present book is a reprint of the second edition of 1945, with a brief introduction and 34 additional notes (pages 765-777). A marginal reference is added to the original work, and a note — updating, explaining the point more fully, or reporting on later evidence or publication — is given at the end of the book. (It would have been more helpful if the note also carried the page reference to the place in the book.) Every serious student of liturgy should have this book in his or her library: it continues to remain a valuable resource, and is even better in this new edition. Recommended.

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The seven letters of the title are Philemon, 1 Thessalonians, 1-2 Corinthians, Philippians, Galatians, and Romans. Authorities are unanimous in considering these as authentic letters of Paul. Fr. Ellis studies them with care, giving the full RSV text, section by section, with a commentary and notes on the structure. Basing his work on 14 years of teaching, the author writes clearly for serious students of St. Paul's letters. The special form of parallelism used in the letters is A B A' — with the third part reflecting back on the first; knowing this, the reader is helped to understand the turnings of Paul's thoughts. Recommended as a useful guide for students of these letters, including those who preach on them.

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The author is a Benedictine priest who has taught courses on the bible in the United States and Mexico. In simple language he answers 50 common questions about the scriptures and about different events and stories recorded in them. Helpful for those who read Spanish.
Funeral Guidelines: Diocese of La Crosse (n.d., Office of Sacred Worship, Box 69, La Crosse, WI 54601): paper, 8½ by 11 inches, 18 pages. $3.00.

After a long process of consultation and revision, these guidelines are commended by the diocesan bishop. Notes on the meaning of death for Christians lead to theological and liturgical reflections on the rites. Many practical problems are looked at from a pastoral viewpoint. This reverent and clear guide is recommended as a useful booklet for diocesan liturgical commissions, chancery offices, pastors, and liturgy committees.

Planning My Funeral (n.d., Office of Sacred Worship, Box 69, La Crosse, WI 54601): paper, 7 by 8½ inches, 17 pages. $1.00; 51 or more copies, 80¢ each.

Individuals are invited to use this booklet to indicate their wishes concerning their own funeral services and burial. Simple notes help the average parishioner to understand the choices — of rites, prayers, readings — and to note them down. A list of the readings from the lectionary for funerals is also included. We would suggest that families planning their funerals in advance consult their pastor concerning the feasibility of their wishes, and so avoid any later misunderstandings in time of grief. Recommended.


Sr. Mary Terese has written these prayers for use by children from six to ten. Children are led simply to concentrate, meditate, and contemplate. Parents or children may lead children to personal prayer in their hearts through use of this booklet. Recommended as helpful.


Fr. Champlin has been active in the liturgical apostolate in the United States for many years. Each of his books shares his experiences and observations on liturgical events and developments, and leads us to want to celebrate better with deeper faith and understanding. His style is simple, clear, and easy to read. In the first part of this book, we see the progress made in the liturgy during the past 20 years, and we see some problems as well. The second section provides a clear “check list or examination of conscience” (page 14) for clergy, liturgy committees, and other ministers. References to official guidelines are included throughout. Recommended as a practical book for those who plan and lead community worship.

The author of this family book is the mother of four children. She presents a page on each Sunday of the three cycles. By reflecting on one of the readings — usually the gospel — each week, we are led to talk about it, do a little project, and then pray. The project is a small scripture symbol, based on the reading; the symbol may be placed on a banner to illustrate the full Church year. This book may be used at home or in school, regularly or occasionally, in preparation for the Sunday liturgy. Permission is given to reproduce the weekly page in parish bulletins. Recommended for parents, catechists, and liturgy committees.


This is a book about prayer — personal, family, community prayer. Prayer and the sacraments, especially eucharist and reconciliation, are spoken of quietly. We are led to reflect on their meaning, and on our own experiences in life and in prayer. Every Christian wishing to grow in prayer may benefit from using this little book, which helps us to relate our individual prayer and public worship. Recommended.


In September 1929, a monthly review for sisters was first issued. At that time it was called Sponsa Regis (Spouse of the King); in 1965, its title became Sisters Today. The present book brings us a rich selection of articles from the first fifty years of this publication. These are arranged according to general topics, and each section is introduced by brief editorial notes. Sisters in particular will find it helpful to browse through this book occasionally, and may also use it to follow particular developments through the last five decades. Recommended as a practical addition to each community's library or reading room.


Within the framework of the liturgical year, Abbot Boultwood has written a series of reflections on God's way of saving us in Christ. They are not intended to match each Sunday, but rather move according to the spirit of the liturgical seasons (with a gap between Christmas and Lent). These pages can lead us to deeper appreciation of God's love, which we celebrate in the liturgical year, and to our response of thanks and praise. Recommended for all who wish to grow in prayer in tune with the Church's year of praise.


This collection of articles on the eucharist has been selected from issues of Worship published between 1965 and 1981. Fifteen authors share their studies and concerns about the eucharist in our world, and lead us into many areas of reflection and action. Every bishop, priest, deacon, seminarian, and student of theology and liturgy should be familiar with these pages: they form a good basis for prayer and study. Recommended as a "must" anthology for modern eucharistic studies.

To mark the fiftieth anniversary of The Liturgical Press, this book of scriptural studies has been prepared. The title and the topics flow from Lk. 24: 44-49 — on what the scriptures say about Jesus, his paschal mystery, and his Spirit. The authors of these twenty-seven articles are experts in the scriptures, and share many insights on sin, salvation, and the Spirit. Our liturgy is a celebration of these same topics, and so this book is valuable for liturgists too. Recommended as an excellent book for those who want to understand the scriptures and the paschal mystery as a foundation of our liturgical celebrations.

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Christians and Nonviolence in the Nuclear Age: Scripture, the Arms Race, and You, by Gerard A. Vanderhaar (1982, Twenty-Third Publications, PO Box 180, Mystic, CT 06355): paper, 128 pages, discussion questions. $5.95.

How can Christians celebrate liturgy as the body of Christ, the prince of peace, and not work at the same time to "advance the peace and salvation of all the world"? The author points out that nonviolence means both a no to "forces that propel us on the road to nuclear destruction, and a strong yes to ways of affirming human life and dignity" (page 9). He also shows how individuals can do something about it all. Recommended for all who want peace in the world.

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Each month offers a scriptural reflection, and suggests four family activities. Sundays and major feasts are indicated. This calendar encourages family prayer and action in the spirit of the liturgical year. Two-page spread for each month. Recommended for each home.

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A. Baptism Preparation, by Jerry van Regan: 40 pages. $1.75.
B. First Eucharist, Reconciliation, Confirmation Preparation, by Mary Malone: 32 pages. $1.50.
C. Marriage Preparation, by Basil Arbour: 32 pages. $1.50.
D. Liturgy Planning, by Kenneth Pearce: 56 pages. $2.50.
E. Readers at Liturgy, by Molly Callaghan: 40 pages. $1.75.
F. Musicians at Liturgy, by Corbin T. Eddy: 40 pages. $1.75.
G. Lay Presiders at Liturgy, from notes by Gabriel Gingras: 32 pages. $1.50.
H. Health Care Ministers, by Nancy McGee: 48 pages. $2.00.
J. Parish Council, by Bernadette Gasslein: 40 pages. $1.75.

Bulk prices for ten or more of each booklet; set of ten, $17.50; $15.00 each for ten sets or more.

Each booklet offers a practical guide to one parish ministry. The booklets are intended for ministers, and the complete book is for parish clergy and those who are responsible for various ministries in the community. Simple guidance, step-by-step learning, and helpful references come together for practical parish use. Recommended as a useful aid.
1983 marks the twentieth anniversary of the Constitution on the liturgy, issued by the Second Vatican Council as its first major document on December 4, 1963.

_ Twenty Good Years_ is the title of the next issue of the Bulletin. We pause and look back 20 years to the Constitution on the liturgy. How have we put its principles into effect? What further challenges does the Council still make to us today? This issue looks at practical, pastoral applications.

Bulletin 87 contains 48 pages, and will be ready for mailing in late January. Prices are as given on the inside front cover of this issue. Information on subscriptions for 1983 is given on page 230.

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**BULLETINS FOR THIS YEAR**

It is still not too late to subscribe to the 1982 issues of the _National Bulletin on Liturgy_. Bulletins 82-86 look at these practical topics in a pastoral way:

- No. 82: _Eucharist: Worship ‘81_
- No. 83: _Steps to Better Liturgy_
- No. 84: _Funeral liturgies_
- No. 85: _Advent in Our Home_
- No. 86: _Lent in Our Home_

Subscriptions for 1982, for nos. 82-86, are $6.00 in Canada; $8.00 (U.S. funds) in other countries; airmail to other countries, $4.00 extra (U.S. funds). Send your cheque or money order today to Publications Service, 90 Parent Ave., Ottawa, Ontario K1N 7B1 Canada.

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**MARIAN ANTHEM**

_Blessed are you, mother of my Lord, for you have believed the word of God. In faith and love, you have pondered the words and actions of God in your life and the life of his holy people._

_With Jesus we call you mother. Pray for us, and ask your Son to lead us to the Father._

All answer  _Amen!_
National Bulletin on Liturgy

Acclaimed in many countries for its practical and broad scope, the Bulletin offers concise yet thorough treatment of all aspects of liturgical questions. It is written for those who are involved in planning and celebrating liturgy. Many past issues are still in print: these are listed below. Act now to complete your set, or to order one or more copies of issues on topics of particular interest. You will find the Bulletin useful for personal reading, discussion groups, classes, workshops, conferences, seminars, and for introducing new aspects of the renewal.

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