



St Mary's Catholic Parish

**The
Church
at
Home
2022**

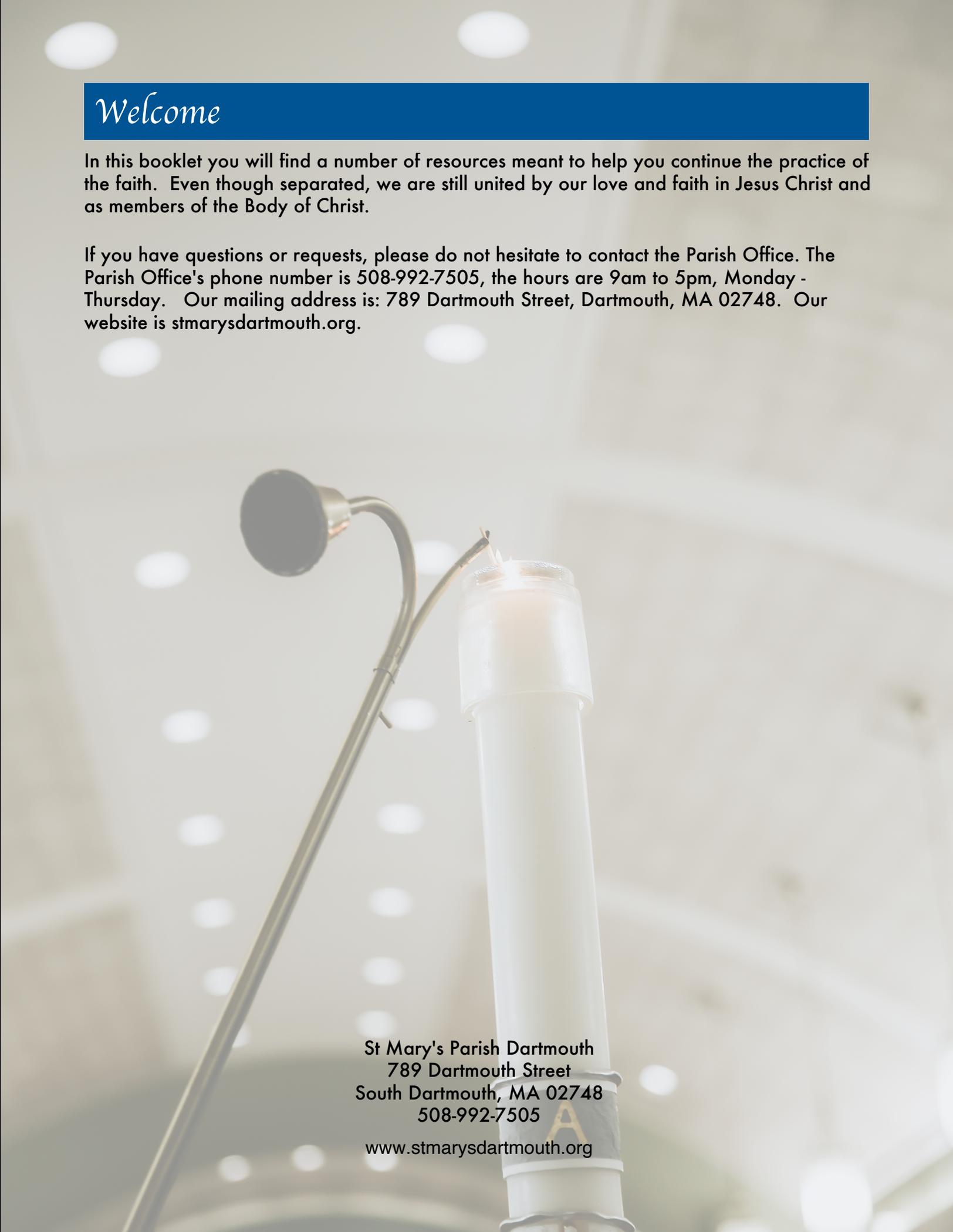


St Mary's
Dartmouth, MA

Welcome

In this booklet you will find a number of resources meant to help you continue the practice of the faith. Even though separated, we are still united by our love and faith in Jesus Christ and as members of the Body of Christ.

If you have questions or requests, please do not hesitate to contact the Parish Office. The Parish Office's phone number is 508-992-7505, the hours are 9am to 5pm, Monday - Thursday. Our mailing address is: 789 Dartmouth Street, Dartmouth, MA 02748. Our website is stmarysdartmouth.org.



St Mary's Parish Dartmouth
789 Dartmouth Street
South Dartmouth, MA 02748
508-992-7505

www.stmarysdartmouth.org

Current Schedules

Livestream

Our livestream is running 24/7! If you have access to the internet, go to stmarys.dartmouth.org and click on "Watch" at the top of the page to find the link to the Stream. The current schedule is:

Mass

Monday - Friday - 8AM
Monday - Wednesday - 5:30PM
Saturday - 4PM
Sunday - 8AM, 10AM, 12N, 5PM

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve - 4:00 pm, 6:00 pm, Midnight
Christmas Day - 10:00 am

Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday 6PM to 7PM
Sunday 3PM to 4PM

Making a Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if you were already there,
and I unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.

(Saint Alphonsus Liguori)

Unable to Go to Confession

1. In Prayer, express to the Lord your sorrow for your sins and what they are. Let Him know of your love and desire for Him.
2. Pledge that you will go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation as soon as you are able and it is safe to do so.
3. Make an Act of Contrition:

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against You Whom I should love above all things, I firmly intend, with Your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin.

ADVENT MORNING PRAYER

+God, come to my assistance; Lord, make haste to help me.

Glory to the Father, to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now and will be forever. Amen.

Psalm 5:2-10, 12-13

To my words give ear, O Lord,
give heed to my groaning.
Attend to the sound of my cries,
my King and my God.

It is you whom I invoke, O Lord.
In the morning you hear me;
in the morning I offer you my prayer,
watching and waiting.

You are no God who loves evil
no sinner is your guest.
The boastful shall not stand their ground
before your face.

You hate all who do evil:
you destroy all who lie.
The deceitful and bloodthirsty man
the Lord detests.

But I through the greatness of your love
have access to your house.
I bow down before your holy temple,
filled with awe.

Lead me, Lord, in your justice,
because of those who lie in wait;
make clear your way before me.

No truth can be found in their mouths,
their heart is all mischief,
their throat a wide-open grave,
all honey their speech.

All those you protect shall be glad

and ring out their joy.
You shelter them; in you they rejoice,
those who love your name.

It is you who bless the just man, Lord:
you surround him with favor as with a shield.

Reading: Romans 13:11-12

It is now the hour for you to wake from sleep,
for our salvation is closer than when we first
accepted the faith. The night is far spent; the
day draws near. Let us cast off deeds of
darkness and put on the armor of light.

Responsory

Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy on us.

- Christ, Son of the living God, have
mercy on us.

You are the one who is to come,
- Have mercy on us.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to
the Holy Spirit
- Christ, son of the living God, have
mercy on us.

Canticle of Zechariah:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he
has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born
of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old
that he would save us from the hands of all
who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham: to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way, to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

In a moment of quiet, offer to the Lord your prayers and intentions. Please pray for our Church, diocese and parish as well. Also, for those struggling physically, emotionally, spiritually and financially due to the pandemic.

Our Father.....

Prayer

Almighty Father, you have brought us to the light of a new day: keep us safe the whole day through from every sinful inclination. May all our thoughts, words and actions aim at doing what is pleasing in your sight. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

ADVENT EVENING PRAYER

+God, come to my assistance; Lord, make haste to help me.

Glory to the Father, to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now and will be forever. Amen.

Psalm 15

Lord, who shall be admitted to your tent and dwell on your holy mountain?

He who walks without fault;
he who acts with justice
And speaks the truth from his heart;
he who does not slander with his tongue;

He who does no wrong to his brother,
who cast no slur on his neighbor,
who holds the godless in disdain,
but honors those who fear the Lord;
He who keeps his pledge, come what may;
who takes no interest on a loan

and accepts to bribes against the innocent. Such a man will stand firm for ever.

Reading - Philippians 3:20b-21

We eagerly await the coming of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will give a new form to this lowly body of ours and remake it according to the pattern of his glorified body, by his power to subject everything to himself.

Responsory

Come and set us free, Lord God of power and might.

- Come and set us free, Lord God of power and might.

Let your face shine upon us and we shall be saved,

- Lord God of power and might.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit
- Come and set us free, Lord God of power and might.

Gospel Canticle

My + soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he has remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

In a moment of quiet, offer to the Lord your prayers and intentions. Please pray for our Church, diocese and parish as well. Also, for those struggling physically, emotionally, spiritually and financially due to the pandemic.

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CHRISTMAS MORNING PRAYER

+God, come to my assistance; Lord, make haste to help me.

Glory to the Father, to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now and will be forever. Amen.

Psalms 63:2-9

O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water.
So I gave on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.

For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise.
So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy.

On my bed I remember you.
On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast.

Reading: Hebrews 1:1-2

In times past, God spoke in fragmentary and varied ways to our fathers through the prophets; in this, the final age, he has spoken to us through his Son, whom he has made heir of all things and through whom he first created the universe.

Responsory:

The Lord has made known, alleluia, alleluia.
- The Lord has made known, alleluia, alleluia.

His saving power.
- Alleluia, alleluia.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit
- The Lord has made known, alleluia, alleluia.

Canticle of Zechariah:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham: to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the

Lord to prepare his way, to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

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CHRISTMAS EVENING PRAYER

+God, come to my assistance; Lord, make haste to help me.

Glory to the Father, to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now and will be forever. Amen.

Psalm 110:1-5,7

The Lord's revelation to my Master:
"Sit on my right:
Your foes I will put beneath your feet."

The Lord will wield from Zion
your scepter of power:
rule in the midst of all your foes.

A prince from the day of your birth
on the holy mountains;
from the womb before the dawn I begot
you.

The Lord has sworn an oath he will not
change.
"You are a priest for ever,
a priest like Melchizedek of old."

The Master standing at your right hand
will shatter kings in the day of his great
wrath.

He shall drink from the stream by the
wayside
and therefore he shall lift up his head.

Reading 1John 1:1-3

This is what we proclaim to you:
what was from the beginning,
what we have heard, what we have heard,
what we have seen with our eyes,
what we have looked upon
and our hands have touched—
we speak of the word of life.

(This life became visible;
we have seen and bear witness to it,
and we proclaim to you the eternal life
that was present to the Father
and became visible to us.)

What we have seen and heard
we proclaim in turn to you
so that you may share life with us.
This fellowship of ours is with the Father
and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

Responsory

The Word was made flesh, alleluia, alleluia.
- The Word was made flesh, alleluia,
alleluia.

He lived among us.
- Alleluia, Alleluia.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to
the Holy Spirit.
- The Word was made flesh, alleluia,
alleluia.

Gospel Cantic

My + soul proclaims the greatness of the
Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior
for he has looked with favor on his lowly
servant.

From this day all generations will call me
blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm,
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
the promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be forever. Amen.

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NIGHT PRAYER

+God, come to my assistance; Lord, make haste to help me.

Glory to the Father, to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now and will be forever. Amen.

Take a moment for an examination of conscience.

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

Psalm 91

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
And abides in the shade of the Almighty
Says to the Lord: 'My refuge,
My stronghold, my God in whom I trust!'

It is he who will free you from the snare

of the fowler who seeks to destroy you;
he will conceal you with his pinions
and under his wings you will find refuge.

You will not fear the terror of the night
Nor the arrow that flies by day,
Nor the plague that prowls in the darkness
Nor the scourge that lays waste at noon.

A thousand may fall at your side,
Ten thousand fall at your right,
You, it will never approach;
His faithfulness is buckler and shield.

Your eyes have only to look
To see how the wicked are repaid,
You who have said: 'Lord, my refuge!'
And have made the Most High your dwelling.

Upon you no evil shall fall,
No plague approach where you dwell.
For you has he commanded his angels,

Canticle of Simeon

Lord, now you let your servant go in peace;
Your word has been fulfilled:

My own eyes have seen the salvation
Which you have prepared in the sight of
every people;

A light to reveal you to the nations
And the glory of your people Israel.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
And to the Holy Spirit:
As it was in the beginning, is now and will
be forever. Amen.

Concluding Prayer

Lord, We have celebrated today the mystery
of the rising of Christ to new life. May we
now rest in Your peace, safe from all that
can harm us,
And rise refreshed and joyful,
To praise you throughout another day.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

May the all-powerful Lord grant us a restful
night and a peaceful death. Amen.

Antiphon in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary

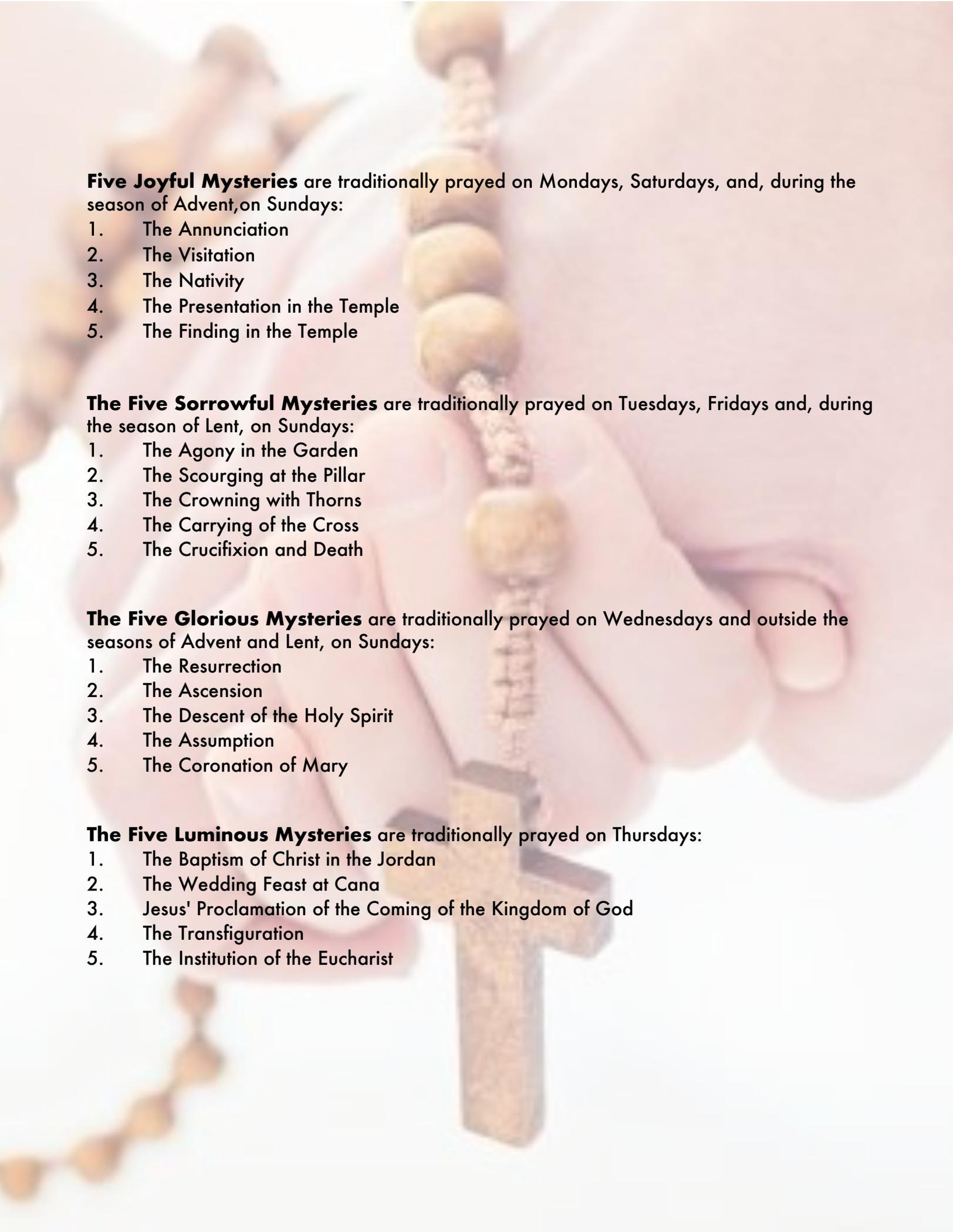
Hail, holy Queen, mother of mercy,
Our life, our sweetness and our hope.
To you do we cry,
Poor banished children of Eve.
To you do we send up our sighs
Mourning and weeping in this vale of tears.
Turn then, most gracious advocate,
Your eyes of mercy toward us,
And after this exile
Show us the blessed fruit of your womb,
Jesus.
O clement, O loving,
O sweet Virgin Mary.

DEVOTIONS - The Rosary

(from usccb.org)

The Rosary is a Scripture-based prayer. It begins with the Apostles' Creed, which summarizes the great mysteries of the Catholic faith. The Our Father, which introduces each mystery, is from the Gospels. The first part of the Hail Mary is the angel's words announcing Christ's birth and Elizabeth's greeting to Mary. St. Pius V officially added the second part of the Hail Mary. The Mysteries of the Rosary center on the events of Christ's life. There are four sets of Mysteries: Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious and—added by Saint John Paul II in 2002—the Luminous.

The repetition in the Rosary is meant to lead one into restful and contemplative prayer related to each Mystery. The gentle repetition of the words helps us to enter into the silence of our hearts, where Christ's spirit dwells. The Rosary can be said privately or with a group.



Five Joyful Mysteries are traditionally prayed on Mondays, Saturdays, and, during the season of Advent, on Sundays:

1. The Annunciation
2. The Visitation
3. The Nativity
4. The Presentation in the Temple
5. The Finding in the Temple

The Five Sorrowful Mysteries are traditionally prayed on Tuesdays, Fridays and, during the season of Lent, on Sundays:

1. The Agony in the Garden
2. The Scourging at the Pillar
3. The Crowning with Thorns
4. The Carrying of the Cross
5. The Crucifixion and Death

The Five Glorious Mysteries are traditionally prayed on Wednesdays and outside the seasons of Advent and Lent, on Sundays:

1. The Resurrection
2. The Ascension
3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit
4. The Assumption
5. The Coronation of Mary

The Five Luminous Mysteries are traditionally prayed on Thursdays:

1. The Baptism of Christ in the Jordan
2. The Wedding Feast at Cana
3. Jesus' Proclamation of the Coming of the Kingdom of God
4. The Transfiguration
5. The Institution of the Eucharist

Praying the Rosary



Familiarize yourself and/or your group with the prayers of the rosary.

1. Make the Sign of the Cross.
2. Holding the Crucifix, say the Apostles' Creed.
3. On the first bead, say an Our Father.
4. Say one Hail Mary on each of the next three beads.
5. Say the Glory Be
6. For each of the five decades, announce the Mystery (perhaps followed by a brief reading from Scripture) then say the Our Father.
7. While fingering each of the ten beads of the decade, next say ten Hail Marys while meditating on the Mystery. Then say a Glory Be.

(After finishing each decade, some say the following prayer requested by the Blessed Virgin Mary at Fatima: O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell; lead all souls to Heaven, especially those who have most need of your mercy.)

8. After saying the five decades, say the Hail, Holy Queen, followed by this dialogue and prayer:

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray: O God, whose Only Begotten Son,
by his life, Death, and Resurrection,
has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life,
grant, we beseech thee,
that while meditating on these mysteries
of the most holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
we may imitate what they contain
and obtain what they promise,
through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

DEVOTIONS - Divine Mercy

(from usccb.org)

Optional Opening Prayers:

You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world.

O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us.

(Repeat 3 times) O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fountain of Mercy for us, I trust in You!

Our Father, Hail Mary and the Apostle's Creed

For each of the five decades (On each "Our Father" bead of the rosary, pray)

Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

(On each of the 10 "Hail Mary" beads, pray)

For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

Concluding prayer (Repeat 3 times)

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

Optional Closing Prayer

Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself.

PRAYERS

Act of Faith

O my God, I firmly believe
that you are one God in three divine
Persons,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
I believe that your divine Son became man
and died for our sins and that he will come
to judge the living and the dead.
I believe these and all the truths
which the Holy Catholic Church teaches
because you have revealed them
who are eternal truth and wisdom,
who can neither deceive nor be deceived.
In this faith I intend to live and die.
Amen.

Act of Hope

O Lord God,
I hope by your grace for the pardon
of all my sins
and after life here to gain eternal happiness
because you have promised it
who are infinitely powerful, faithful, kind,
and merciful.
In this hope I intend to live and die.
Amen.

Act of Love

O Lord God, I love you above all things
and I love my neighbor for your sake
because you are the highest, infinite and
perfect
good, worthy of all my love.
In this love I intend to live and die.
Amen.

Act of Contrition

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my
heart.
In choosing to do wrong and failing to do
good,
I have sinned against You Whom I should
love above all things,
I firmly intend, with Your help, to do
penance, to sin no more, and to avoid
whatever leads me to sin.
Our Savior Jesus Christ, suffered and died
for us. In His name, my God, have mercy.
Amen.

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our
Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy
Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and
the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of the saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Angelus

The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.
And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary...

Behold the handmaid of the Lord.
Be it done unto me according to your
word.

Hail Mary...

And the Word was made Flesh.
And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary...

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.
That we may be made worthy of the
promises of Christ.

LET US PRAY

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your
grace into our hearts, that we to whom the
Incarnation of Christ your Son was made
known by the message of an angel, may by
His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory
of His Resurrection. Through the same Christ
Our Lord. Amen.



ADVENT

Prayers for Lighting the Advent Wreath Candles

First Week

All-powerful God, increase our strength of will for doing good that Christ may find an eager welcome at his coming and call us to his side in the kingdom of heaven, where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

Second Week

God of power and mercy open our hearts in welcome. Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy so that we may share his wisdom and become one with him when he comes in glory, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

Third Week

Lord God, may we, your people, who look forward to the birthday of Christ experience the joy of salvation and celebrate that feast with love and thanksgiving. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Fourth Week

All-powerful God, your eternal Word took flesh on our earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of your plan. Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces his glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for his coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

- Author Unknown

An Advent Prayer

Lord God, we adore you because you have come to us in the past.

You have spoken to us in the Law of Israel.

You have challenged us in the words of the prophets.

You have shown us in Jesus what you are really like.

Lord God, we adore you because you still come to us now.

You come to us through other people and their love and concern for us.

You come to us through men and women who need our help.

You come to us as we worship you with your people.

Lord God, we adore you because you will come to us at the end.

You will be with us at the hour of death.

You will still reign supreme when all human institutions fail.

You will still be God when our history has run its course.

We welcome you, the God who comes.

Come to us now in the power of Jesus Christ our Lord.

- Caryl Micklem, "Contemporary Prayers for Public Worship"

CHRISTMAS MASS

Gathering Hymn - O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him,
Born the King of angels;

Refrain

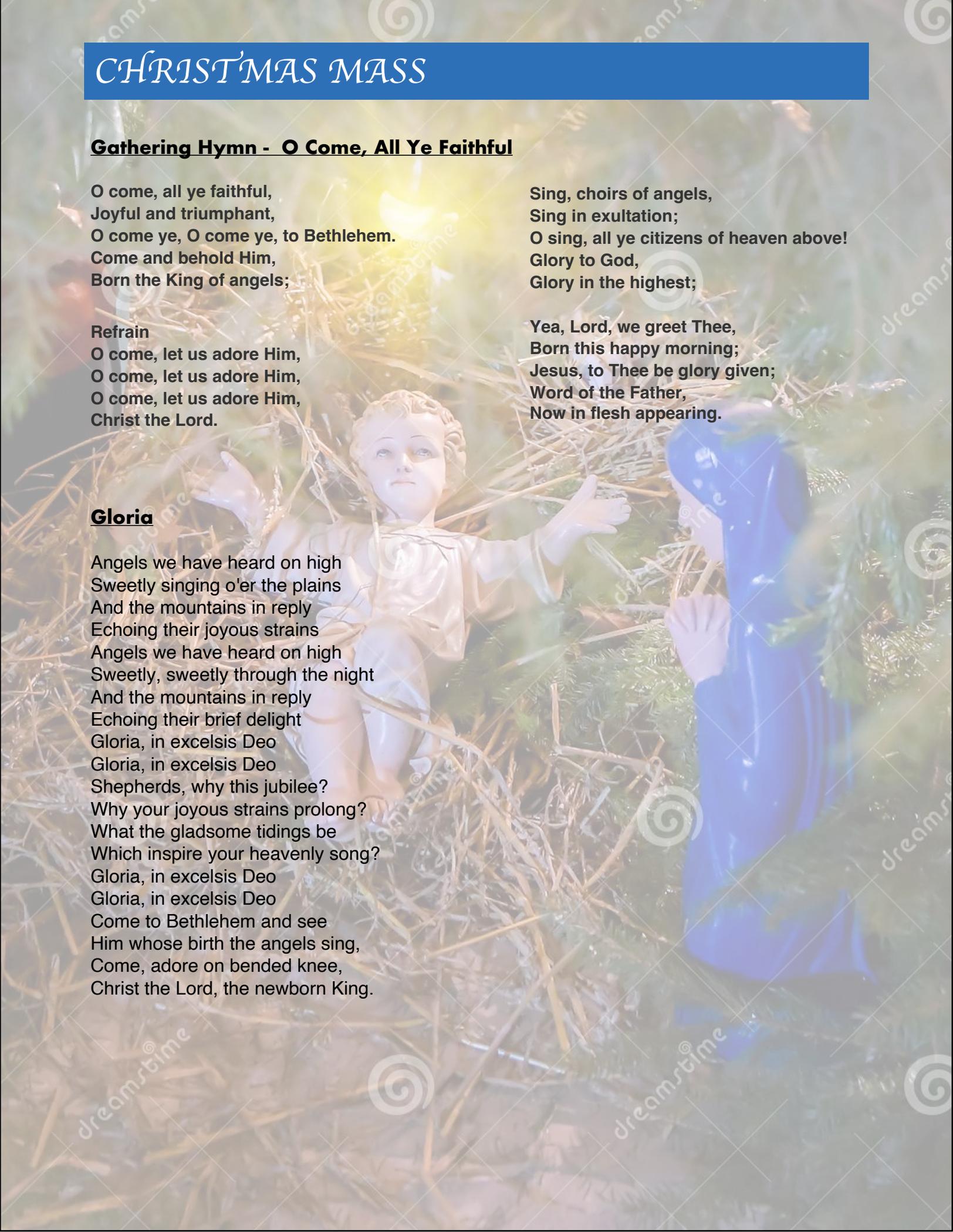
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God,
Glory in the highest;

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing.

Gloria

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains
Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly, sweetly through the night
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their brief delight
Gloria, in excelsis Deo
Gloria, in excelsis Deo
Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria, in excelsis Deo
Gloria, in excelsis Deo
Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing,
Come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.



First Reading Isaiah 62:1-5

For 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.

Responsorial Psalm

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading - Acts 13:16-17, 22-25

When 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.'"

Gospel [Mt 1:18-25](#)

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.

Homily

Prayer of the Faithful

Preparation - Came Upon A Midnight Clear

It came upon the midnight clear
That glorious song of old
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold
Peace on the earth, good will to men
From heaven's all gracious king
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing

Communion - Little Town of Bethlehem

Oh little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth, the everlasting light
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above
While mortals sleep the angels keep their watch of wondering love
Oh morning stars together, proclaim thy holy birth.
And praises sing to God the king, and peace to men on earth.
Oh little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth, the everlasting light
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

Communion - Away in A Manger

Away in a manger
No crib for His bed
The little Lord Jesus
Lay down His sweet head
The stars in the sky
Look down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus
Asleep on the hay
The cattle are lowing
The poor Baby wakes
But little Lord Jesus
No crying He makes
I love Thee, Lord Jesus
Look down from the sky
And stay by my side
Til morning is nigh

Meditation Hymn -Silent Night

Silent night, holy night
All is calm, all is bright
'Round yon virgin Mother and Child
Holy infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar;
Heavenly hosts sing Al-le-lu-ia!
Christ the Savior is born!
Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night
Son of God, oh, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth

Sending Forth- Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room
And Heaven and nature sing
And Heaven and nature sing
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing

Joy to the World, the Savior reigns
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and
plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy



God With Us!

In choosing to be born with us, God chose to be known by us. He therefore reveals himself in this way, in order that this great sacrament of his love may not be an occasion for us of great misunderstanding.

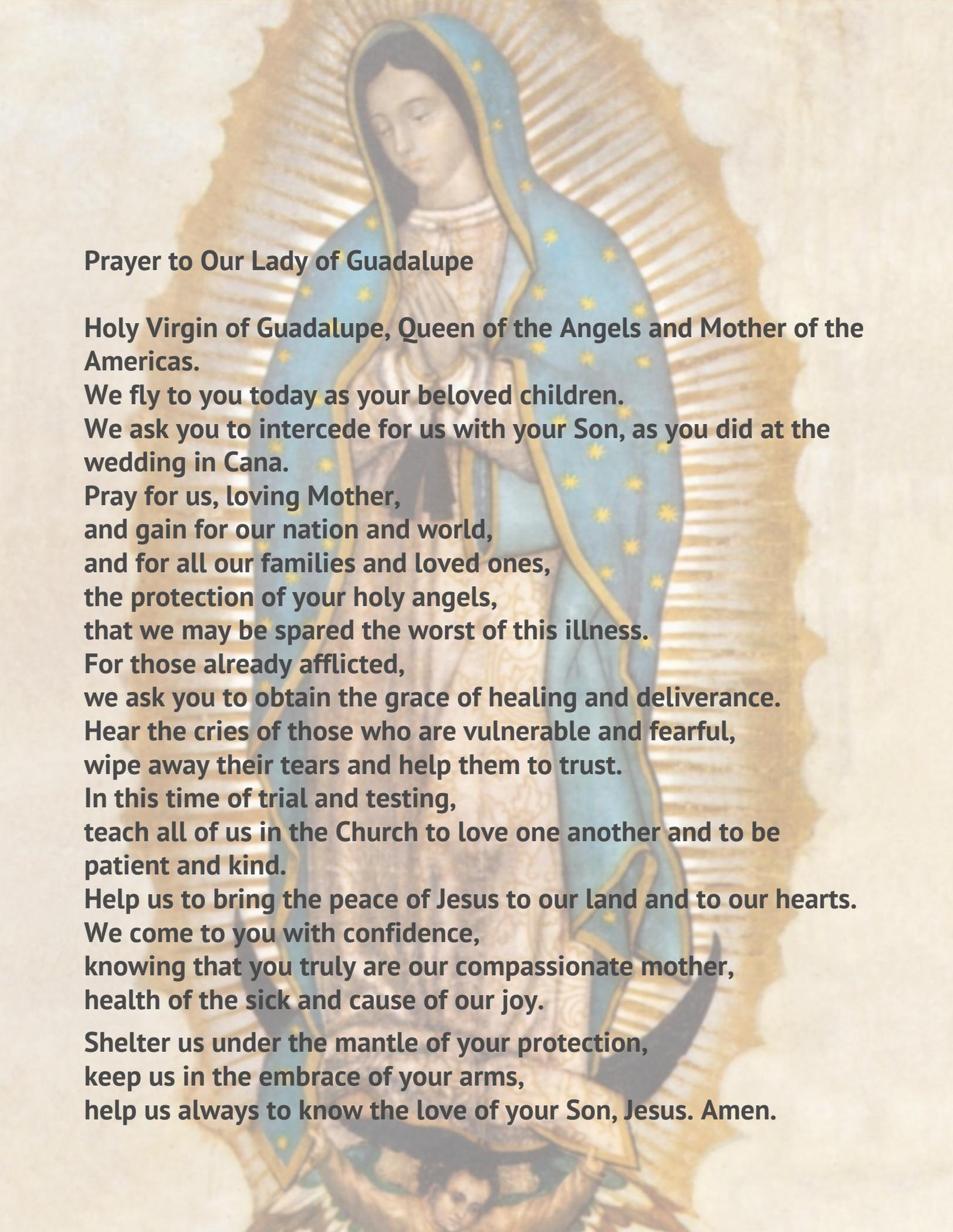
Today the magi find, crying in a manger, the one they have followed as he shone in the sky. Today the magi see clearly, swaddling clothes, the one they have long awaited as he lay hidden among the stars.

Today the magi gaze in deep wonder at what they see: heaven on earth, earth in heaven, humanity in God, God in humanity, one whom the whole universe cannot contain how enclosed in a tiny body. As they look, they believe and do not question, as their symbolic gifts bear witness: incense for God, gold for a king, myrrh for one who is to die...

Today Christ enters the Jordan to wash away the sin of the world. John himself testifies that this is why he has come: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world...

Today Christ works the first of his signs from heaven by turning water into wine. But water mixed with wine has still to be changed into the sacrament of his blood, so that Christ may offer spiritual drink from the chalice of his body.

- St. Peter Chrysologus



Prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe

Holy Virgin of Guadalupe, Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas.

We fly to you today as your beloved children.

We ask you to intercede for us with your Son, as you did at the wedding in Cana.

**Pray for us, loving Mother,
and gain for our nation and world,
and for all our families and loved ones,
the protection of your holy angels,
that we may be spared the worst of this illness.**

**For those already afflicted,
we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance.
Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful,
wipe away their tears and help them to trust.**

**In this time of trial and testing,
teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be
patient and kind.**

**Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to our hearts.
We come to you with confidence,
knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother,
health of the sick and cause of our joy.**

**Shelter us under the mantle of your protection,
keep us in the embrace of your arms,
help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus. Amen.**

Remember,
You are always in
our thoughts and
prayers

- Your family of faith at St Mary's Dartmouth

Merry Christmas