



OPENING PRAYER

+In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen

Father God, thank you for this time with you. May the Holy Spirit be upon me, that I may receive wisdom from your Word, be open to Your holy Will and give glory to You always. Through Christ our Lord, Amen
Our Father + Hail Mary + Glory Be

LECTIO DIVINA

Invite the Holy Spirit - Read - Reflect - Respond in Prayer - Rest in Silence

Gospel Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. John was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

What virtues are necessary to be a good witness for Christ? Discipleship involves the need to repent and share the Good News; why is it necessary? How might you prepare the way during the Advent season?

Reading 1 - Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service is at an end, her guilt is expiated; indeed, she has received from the hand of the LORD double for all her sins. A voice cries out: In the desert prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low; the rugged land shall be made a plain, the rough country, a broad valley. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken. Go up on to a high mountain, Zion, herald of glad tidings; cry out at the top of your voice, Jerusalem, herald of good news! Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah: Here is your God! Here comes with power the Lord GOD, who rules by his strong arm; here is his reward with him, his recompense before him. Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom, and leading the ewes with care.

In the reading, how does God show comfort to His people? What does it mean to have a covenant relationship with God? What does it mean to share glad tidings and what does this look like for you?

Notes

RESPONSORIAL PSALM RESPONSE:

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Reading II: 2 Peter 3:8-14

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day. The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard “delay,” but he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar and the elements will be dissolved by fire, and the earth and everything done on it will be found out. Since everything is to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be, conducting yourselves in holiness and devotion, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved in flames and the elements melted by fire. But according to his promise we await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you await these things, be eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace.

Time is not an issue for God. Why is God patiently waiting? We experience peace when we are in right relationship with God. What does it mean to be eager without spot or blemish? How can you be a more faithful follower of Christ?

St. Andrew Novena

“Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born Of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold.

In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech thee, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires Through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of his Blessed Mother. Amen.”

Unlike a traditional novena, which spans nine days, this lasts from the feast of St. Andrew on Nov. 30 to Christmas Eve. On each of these days, it is repeated 15 times, either all at once or throughout the day. The novena has a reputation for answered prayers.

Feast days this week

- 10 Sun Servant of God Bernard of Quintavalle
- 11 Mon Saint Damasus I, pope
- 12 Tue Our Lady of Guadalupe
- 13 Wed Saint Lucy of Syracuse, virgin and martyr
- 14 Thu Saint John of the Cross
- 15 Fri Blessed Mary Frances Schervier
- 16 Sat Blessed Honoratus Kozminski

reflect

Am I in right relationship with God at this moment?

pray

Father God, help me to live in holiness and devotion so that I am always ready for You. Through Christ our Lord, Amen

live

Be actively engaged in repentance and live the way of the Lord.