

ADVENT VIGIL FOR HUMAN LIFE

Marian Procession, Rosary & Benediction



Marian Procession

The procession consists of: incense, cross, candles, those leading the scriptural rosary carrying the Advent Candle(s) and other vigil candles, bearers of an image of the Blessed Virgin, and the presider. The procession should move from the entrance of the church to the sanctuary. It should have a solemn character, executed only with musical accompaniment and not singing, in expiation for all the attacks on life from conception to natural death.

Having arrived at the sanctuary, the image of Our Lady is enthroned at the Gospel side of the Altar and the Advent Candle is deposited in the wreath situated nearby. The other vigil candles are placed at the foot of the image. The image may be incensed at this point. The presider then gives an opening admonition, a Marian hymn is sung, followed by the reading.

Presider: Opening Admonition

Hymn: The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came, #316 CBW III

Reading (Genesis 3:9-15)

When Adam had eaten from the tree, the Lord God called to him, and said, "Where are you?" The man said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." God said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

EXPOSITION OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT

The presider puts on the humeral veil and brings the sacrament from the place of reservation; he is accompanied by servers with lighted candles. After the sacrament is exposed in the monstrance on the altar, the minister incenses the sacrament.

Exposition Hymn: Come, O Long Expected Jesus, #300 CBW III

Period of Adoration

After a short period of silence, the presider goes to the chair, from which he presides at the recitation of the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary.

RECITATION OF THE JOYFUL MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY

The recitation of the rosary may be distributed among different people/groups. The first mystery (Annunciation) could be recited by parents who are expecting a child; the second mystery (Visitation) could be recited by a sick or handicapped child and his parents; the third mystery (Nativity) could be recited by a family; the fourth mystery (Presentation) could be recited by grandparents and grandchildren; the fifth mystery (Finding of the child Jesus) by teachers.

The Annunciation - (Luke 1:26-35, 38)

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Our Father, 10 Hail Marys, Glory Be...

A period of adoration, meditation and silent personal prayer.

The Visitation - (Luke 1:39-45)

During those days Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

Our Father, 10 Hail Marys, Glory Be...

A period of adoration, meditation and silent personal prayer.

The Nativity of Our Lord - (Luke 2:4-7)

Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Our Father, 10 Hail Marys, Glory Be...

A period of adoration, meditation and silent personal prayer.

The Presentation - (Luke 2:22, 24-25, 27-35, 27-35)

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord . . . to offer the sacrifice of "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons," in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord.

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the holy Spirit was upon him. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, he took him into his arms and blessed God, saying:

"Now, Master, you may let your servant go
in peace, according to your word,
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you prepared in sight of all the peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and glory for your people Israel."

The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted (and you yourself a sword will pierce) so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

Our Father, 10 Hail Marys, Glory Be...

A period of adoration, meditation and silent personal prayer.

The Finding of the Child Jesus - (Luke 2:41-51)

Each year his parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom. After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers.

When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart.

Our Father, 10 Hail Marys, Glory Be...

A period of adoration, meditation and silent personal prayer.

Supplications for Life

Following the recitation on the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary, in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, the solemn supplication for life takes place.

Presider: Let us pray to God, the Father of Life and Font of all Mercy:

All: Lord, have mercy on all who have sinned against life.

Presider: You knit us in our mother's womb,

All: Preserve all children from bodily harm from the moment of conception.

Presider: Your Son ennobled all human life when he became flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary,

All: Enlighten our minds to see the dignity of every human life from its earliest embryonic beginnings.

Presider: You are author of science and knowledge,

All: Bring an end to the destruction of human embryos in all research facilities and fertility clinics.

Presider: You are the law-giver and ruler of the world,

All: Help us to overturn unjust laws that permit the destruction of innocent lives, and guide our public officials to defend the littlest among us.

Presider: You love those who are afflicted,

All: Help parents of unborn children with disabilities to cherish the baby you have entrusted to their care.

Presider: Your Son, Jesus, healed the sick,

All: Guide all doctors to be guardians of life, especially the lives of unborn children with serious health conditions.

Presider: Lord, you are love and mercy itself,

All: Draw all who have acted against innocent human life to repentance and forgiveness, and heal them through an outpouring of grace.

Prayer of Pope John Paul II

Following a period of silence, the presider approaches the Altar, kneels, and recites the prayer of Blessed John Paul II contained in *Evangelium Vitae*.

Presider

We entreat the Blessed Virgin Mary to present our prayers to her Son, the Life of the world.

All

O Mary,
bright dawn of the new world,
Mother of the living,
to you do we entrust the cause of life
Look down, O Mother,
upon the vast numbers
of babies not allowed to be born,
of the poor whose lives are made difficult,
of men and women
who are victims of brutal violence,
of the elderly and the sick killed
by indifference or out of misguided mercy.

Grant that all who believe in your Son
may proclaim the Gospel of life
with honesty and love
to the people of our time.

Obtain for them the grace
to accept that Gospel
as a gift ever new,
the joy of celebrating it with gratitude
throughout their lives
and the courage to bear witness to it
resolutely, in order to build,
together with all people of good will,
the civilization of truth and love,
to the praise and glory of God,
the Creator and lover of life.

—*Evangelium Vitae*, 105

Homily (Optional)

During the homily, the meaning and significance of the celebration of this vigil at the outset of the Liturgical Year are explained.

BENEDICTION OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT

The presider goes to the altar, genuflects, and kneels. Then the *Tantum Ergo* is sung while the minister incenses the sacrament.

<i>Tantum ergo Sacramentum</i>	<i>Genitori, Genitoque</i>
<i>Veneremur cernui:</i>	<i>Laus et jubilatio,</i>
<i>Et antiquum documentum</i>	<i>Salus, honor, virtus quoque</i>
<i>Novo cedat ritui:</i>	<i>Sit et benedictio:</i>
<i>Praestet fides supplementum</i>	<i>Procedenti ab utroque</i>
<i>Sensuum defectui.</i>	<i>Compar sit laudatio. Amen.</i>

The following is sung or recited in the vernacular.

Presider: You have given them bread from heaven.

All: Having within it all sweetness and delight.

Presider: Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, you gave us the Eucharist as the memorial of your suffering and death. May our worship of this sacrament of your body and blood help us to experience the salvation won for us and the peace of the kingdom where you live with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

R. Amen.

After the prayer the minister puts on the humeral veil, genuflects, and takes the monstrance. He makes the sign of the cross over the people with the monstrance in silence. Placing the monstrance on the altar, the minister genuflects and returns to the front of the altar where he again kneels. The *Divine Praises* follow.

The Divine Praises

Blessed be God.

Blessed be his holy name.

Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true man.

Blessed be the name of Jesus.

Blessed be his most Sacred Heart.

Blessed be his most precious Blood.

Blessed be Jesus in the most holy Sacrament of the altar.

Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete.

Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most holy.

Blessed be her holy and Immaculate Conception.

Blessed be her glorious Assumption.

Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.

Blessed be Saint Joseph, her most chaste spouse.

Blessed be God in his angels and in his Saints.

Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Following benediction, the Blessed Sacrament is reposed in the tabernacle to the accompaniment of the closing hymn.

Closing Hymn: Awake, Awake: Fling Off the Night, #304 CBW III

Acknowledgements

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, www.usccb.org/prolife
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