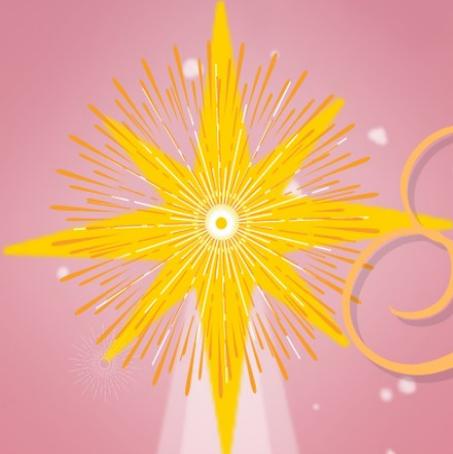


**20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!**



*Simbang Gabi*  
2020

**"REJOICE AND BE GLAD, FOR THE LORD IS LIGHT TO THOSE WHO SIT IN DARKNESS"**

**MASS PROGRAM FOR DECEMBER 15-23, 2020**





# Prayer for Advent

*Please join all attendees, whether you are present at a Simbang Gabi Mass, attending virtually, or attending at a different parish to complete your novena, praying in solidarity the following prayer:*

My hidden Lord Jesus, I love You and thank You with profound gratitude for uniting Yourself with fallen humanity. When You first entered into this world, You remained hidden for nine months in the immaculate womb of Your Blessed Mother. She carried You, body and blood, soul and divinity, within the sanctuary of her body. She also carried You within her heart as a result of her perfect love for You and her perfect obedience to the will of the Father.

Precious Lord, as I embrace this Advent Season, please open my eyes to see the great value and blessing of Your Incarnation. Help me to discover Your hidden presence in this world and within my own soul. I desire to see, understand and experience the profound effects that Your Incarnation has on my life and I desire to receive those effects more fully this Advent. May I become a sanctuary in which You dwell so that I, like Your dear Mother, may bring Your presence into the world.

My loving Jesus, I choose You, this Advent, as my King and my God. I abandon myself to You and seek to put all my trust in Your tender care. Draw me close to You and free me from my sin so that I may love You with a pure and holy heart.

Mother Mary, as You carried your dear Son in your immaculate womb, you also carried Him in your heart. Pray for me, this Advent, that I may surrender myself to the will of the Father in imitation of you. You said “Yes” to all that God asked of you and never hesitated to fully embrace His divine will. Pray that I may imitate your perfect example so as to share a deeper union with you and your divine Son.

Come, Lord Jesus,  
Come, Lord Jesus,  
Come, Lord Jesus!  
Amen.

## **INTRODUCTORY RITES**

Greeting

Penitential Rite

Collect

## **LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**First Reading**

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Second Reading** (on Sundays and Saturday Vigil)

**Gospel**

Homily

General Intercessions

## **LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

Presentation of the Gifts

Preparation of the Altar

Memorial Acclamation

Great Amen

## **COMMUNION RITE**

The Lord's Prayer

Sign of Peace

Lamb of God

Prayer after Communion

## **CONCLUDING RITE**

Blessing and Dismissal

# READINGS FOR THE MASS

*Tuesday, December 15*

## First Reading

**ZEP 3:1-2, 9-13**

Thus says the LORD:  
Woe to the city, rebellious and polluted,  
to the tyrannical city!  
She hears no voice,  
accepts no correction;  
In the LORD she has not trusted,  
to her God she has not drawn near.  
For then I will change and purify  
the lips of the peoples,  
That they all may call upon the name of the  
LORD,  
to serve him with one accord;  
From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia  
and as far as the recesses of the North,  
they shall bring me offerings.

On that day  
You need not be ashamed

of all your deeds,  
your rebellious actions against me;  
For then will I remove from your midst  
the proud braggarts,  
And you shall no longer exalt yourself  
on my holy mountain.  
But I will leave as a remnant in your midst  
a people humble and lowly,  
Who shall take refuge in the name of the  
LORD:  
the remnant of Israel.  
They shall do no wrong  
and speak no lies;  
Nor shall there be found in their mouths  
a deceitful tongue;  
They shall pasture and couch their flocks  
with none to disturb them.

## Responsorial Psalm

**PS 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 AND 23**

***Response: The Lord hears the cry of the poor.***

I will bless the LORD at all times;  
his praise shall be ever in my mouth.  
Let my soul glory in the LORD;  
the lowly will hear me and be glad.  
**R. The Lord hears the cry of the poor.**

Look to him that you may be radiant with joy,  
and your faces may not blush with shame.  
When the poor one called out, the LORD heard,  
and from all his distress he saved him.  
**R. The Lord hears the cry of the poor.**

The LORD confronts the evildoers,  
to destroy remembrance of them from the  
earth.  
When the just cry out, the LORD hears them,  
and from all their distress he rescues them.  
**R. The Lord hears the cry of the poor.**

The LORD is close to the brokenhearted;  
and those who are crushed in spirit he saves.  
The LORD redeems the lives of his servants;  
no one incurs guilt who takes refuge in him.  
**R. The Lord hears the cry of the poor**

## Gospel

**MT 21:28-32**

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of  
the people:  
“What is your opinion?  
A man had two sons.  
He came to the first and said,  
‘Son, go out and work in the vineyard today.’  
The son said in reply, ‘I will not,’  
but afterwards he changed his mind and went.  
The man came to the other son and gave the  
same order.  
He said in reply, ‘Yes, sir,’ but did not go.  
Which of the two did his father’s will?”

They answered, “The first.”  
Jesus said to them, “Amen, I say to you,  
tax collectors and prostitutes  
are entering the Kingdom of God before you.  
When John came to you in the way of righteous-  
ness,  
you did not believe him;  
but tax collectors and prostitutes did.  
Yet even when you saw that,  
you did not later change your minds and believe  
him.”

**First Reading**

**IS 45:6C-8, 18, 21C-25**

I am the LORD, there is no other;  
I form the light, and create the darkness,  
I make well-being and create woe;  
I, the LORD, do all these things.  
Let justice descend, O heavens, like dew from  
above,  
like gentle rain let the skies drop it down.  
Let the earth open and salvation bud forth;  
let justice also spring up!  
I, the LORD, have created this.  
For thus says the LORD,  
The creator of the heavens,  
who is God,  
The designer and maker of the earth  
who established it,  
Not creating it to be a waste,  
but designing it be lived in:  
I am the LORD, and there is no other.  
Who announced this from the beginning

and foretold it from of old?  
Was it not I, the LORD,  
besides whom there is no other God?  
There is no just and saving God but me.  
Turn to me and be safe,  
all you ends of the earth,  
for I am God; there is no other!  
By myself I swear,  
uttering my just decree  
and my unalterable word:  
To me every knee shall bend;  
by me every tongue shall swear,  
Saying, "Only in the LORD  
are just deeds and power.  
Before him in shame shall come  
all who vent their anger against him.  
In the LORD shall be the vindication and the  
glory  
of all the descendants of Israel."

**Responsorial Psalm**

**PS 85:9AB AND 10, 11-12, 13-14**

***Response: Let the clouds rain down the Just One, and the earth bring forth a Savior.***

I will hear what God proclaims;  
the LORD—for he proclaims peace to his people.  
Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear  
him,  
glory dwelling in our land.  
**R. Let the clouds rain down the Just One,  
and the earth bring forth a Savior.**

Kindness and truth shall meet;  
justice and peace shall kiss.  
Truth shall spring out of the earth,

and justice shall look down from heaven.  
**R. Let the clouds rain down the Just One,  
and the earth bring forth a Savior.**

The LORD himself will give his benefits;  
our land shall yield its increase.  
Justice shall walk before him,  
and salvation, along the way of his steps.  
**R. Let the clouds rain down the Just One,  
and the earth bring forth a Savior.**

**Gospel**

**LK 7:18B-23**

At that time,  
John summoned two of his disciples and sent  
them to the Lord to ask,  
"Are you the one who is to come, or should we  
look for another?"  
When the men came to the Lord, they said,  
"John the Baptist has sent us to you to ask,  
'Are you the one who is to come, or should we  
look for another?'"  
At that time Jesus cured many of their diseases,  
sufferings, and evil spirits;  
he also granted sight to many who were blind.

And Jesus said to them in reply,  
"Go and tell John what you have seen and  
heard:  
the blind regain their sight,  
the lame walk,  
lepers are cleansed,  
the deaf hear, the dead are raised,  
the poor have the good news proclaimed to  
them.  
And blessed is the one who takes no offense at  
me."

**First Reading**

**GN 49:2, 8-10**

Jacob called his sons and said to them:  
“Assemble and listen, sons of Jacob,  
listen to Israel, your father.

“You, Judah, shall your brothers praise  
–your hand on the neck of your enemies;  
the sons of your father shall bow down to you.  
Judah, like a lion’s whelp,

you have grown up on prey, my son.  
He crouches like a lion recumbent,  
the king of beasts—who would dare rouse him?  
The scepter shall never depart from Judah,  
or the mace from between his legs,  
While tribute is brought to him,  
and he receives the people’s homage.”

**Responsorial Psalm**

**PS 72:1-2, 3-4AB, 7-8, 17**

***Response: Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.***

O God, with your judgment endow the king,  
and with your justice, the king’s son;  
He shall govern your people with justice  
and your afflicted ones with judgment.  
**R. Justice shall flourish in his time, and  
fullness of peace for ever.**

Justice shall flower in his days,  
and profound peace, till the moon be no more.  
May he rule from sea to sea,  
and from the River to the ends of the earth.  
**R. Justice shall flourish in his time, and  
fullness of peace for ever.**

The mountains shall yield peace for the people,  
and the hills justice.  
He shall defend the afflicted among the people,  
save the children of the poor.  
**R. Justice shall flourish in his time, and  
fullness of peace for ever.**

May his name be blessed forever;  
as long as the sun his name shall remain.  
In him shall all the tribes of the earth be  
blessed;  
all the nations shall proclaim his happiness.  
**R. Justice shall flourish in his time, and  
fullness of peace for ever.**

**Gospel**

**MT 1:1-17**

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ,  
the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Abraham became the father of Isaac,  
Isaac the father of Jacob,  
Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers.  
Judah became the father of Perez and Zerah,  
whose mother was Tamar.  
Perez became the father of Hezron,  
Hezron the father of Ram,  
Ram the father of Amminadab.  
Amminadab became the father of Nahshon,  
Nahshon the father of Salmon,  
Salmon the father of Boaz,  
whose mother was Rahab.  
Boaz became the father of Obed,  
whose mother was Ruth.  
Obed became the father of Jesse,  
Jesse the father of David the king.

David became the father of Solomon,  
whose mother had been the wife of Uriah.  
Solomon became the father of Rehoboam,

Rehoboam the father of Abijah,  
Abijah the father of Asaph.  
Asaph became the father of Jehoshaphat,  
Jehoshaphat the father of Joram,  
Joram the father of Uzziah.  
Uzziah became the father of Jotham,  
Jotham the father of Ahaz,  
Ahaz the father of Hezekiah.  
Hezekiah became the father of Manasseh,  
Manasseh the father of Amos,  
Amos the father of Josiah.  
Josiah became the father of Jechoniah and his  
brothers  
at the time of the Babylonian exile.

After the Babylonian exile,  
Jechoniah became the father of Shealtiel,  
Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,  
Zerubbabel the father of Abiud.  
Abiud became the father of Eliakim,  
Eliakim the father of Azor,  
Azor the father of Zadok.  
Zadok became the father of Achim,

Achim the father of Eliud,  
Eliud the father of Eleazar.  
Eleazar became the father of Matthan,  
Matthan the father of Jacob,  
Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of  
Mary.  
Of her was born Jesus who is called the Christ.

Thus the total number of generations  
from Abraham to David  
is fourteen generations;  
from David to the Babylonian exile, fourteen  
generations;  
from the Babylonian exile to the Christ,  
fourteen generations.

## Friday, December 18

### First Reading

**JER 23:5-8**

Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD,  
when I will raise up a righteous shoot to David;  
As king he shall reign and govern wisely,  
he shall do what is just and right in the land.  
In his days Judah shall be saved,  
Israel shall dwell in security.  
This is the name they give him:  
"The LORD our justice."  
Therefore, the days will come, says the LORD,  
when they shall no longer say, "As the LORD

lives,  
who brought the children of Israel out of the  
land of Egypt";  
but rather, "As the LORD lives,  
who brought the descendants of the house of  
Israel  
up from the land of the north"—  
and from all the lands to which I banished  
them;  
they shall again live on their own land.

### Responsorial Psalm

**PS 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19**

***Response: Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.***

O God, with your judgment endow the king,  
and with your justice, the king's son;  
He shall govern your people with justice  
and your afflicted ones with judgment.  
**R. Justice shall flourish in his time, and  
fullness of peace for ever.**

For he shall rescue the poor when he cries out,  
and the afflicted when he has no one to help  
him.  
He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor;

### 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

the lives of the poor he shall save.  
**R. Justice shall flourish in his time, and  
fullness of peace for ever.**

Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,  
who alone does wondrous deeds.  
And blessed forever be his glorious name;  
may the whole earth be filled with his glory.  
**R. Justice shall flourish in his time, and  
fullness of peace for ever.**

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 be with child 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.

**First Reading**

**JGS 13:2-7, 24-25A**

There was a certain man from Zorah, of the clan of the Danites,  
whose name was Manoah.  
His wife was barren and had borne no children.  
An angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her,  
“Though you are barren and have had no children,  
yet you will conceive and bear a son.  
Now, then, be careful to take no wine or strong drink  
and to eat nothing unclean.  
As for the son you will conceive and bear,  
no razor shall touch his head,  
for this boy is to be consecrated to God from the womb.  
It is he who will begin the deliverance of Israel  
from the power of the Philistines.”

The woman went and told her husband,  
“A man of God came to me;  
he had the appearance of an angel of God,  
terrible indeed.  
I did not ask him where he came from, nor did he tell me his name.  
But he said to me,  
‘You will be with child and will bear a son.  
So take neither wine nor strong drink, and eat nothing unclean.  
For the boy shall be consecrated to God from the womb,  
until the day of his death.’”  
The woman bore a son and named him Samson.  
The boy grew up and the LORD blessed him;  
the Spirit of the LORD stirred him.

**Responsorial Psalm**

**PS 71:3-4A, 5-6AB, 16-17**

***Response: My mouth shall be filled with your praise, and I will sing your glory!***

Be my rock of refuge,  
a stronghold to give me safety,  
for you are my rock and my fortress.  
O my God, rescue me from the hand of the wicked.  
**R. My mouth shall be filled with your praise, and I will sing your glory!**

For you are my hope, O LORD;  
my trust, O God, from my youth.  
On you I depend from birth;

from my mother's womb you are my strength.  
**R. My mouth shall be filled with your praise, and I will sing your glory!**

I will treat of the mighty works of the LORD;  
O God, I will tell of your singular justice.  
O God, you have taught me from my youth,  
and till the present I proclaim your wondrous deeds.  
**R. My mouth shall be filled with your praise, and I will sing your glory!**

**Gospel**

**LK 1:5-25**

In the days of Herod, King of Judea,  
there was a priest named Zechariah  
of the priestly division of Abijah;  
his wife was from the daughters of Aaron,  
and her name was Elizabeth.  
Both were righteous in the eyes of God,  
observing all the commandments  
and ordinances of the Lord blamelessly.  
But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren  
and both were advanced in years.  
Once when he was serving as priest  
in his division's turn before God,  
according to the practice of the priestly service,  
he was chosen by lot

to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to burn incense.  
Then, when the whole assembly of the people was praying outside  
at the hour of the incense offering,  
the angel of the Lord appeared to him,  
standing at the right of the altar of incense.  
Zechariah was troubled by what he saw, and fear came upon him.  
But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid,  
Zechariah,  
because your prayer has been heard.  
Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son,  
and you shall name him John.  
And you will have joy and gladness,

and many will rejoice at his birth,  
for he will be great in the sight of the Lord.  
He will drink neither wine nor strong drink.  
He will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from  
his mother's womb,  
and he will turn many of the children of Israel  
to the Lord their God.  
He will go before him in the spirit and power of  
Elijah  
to turn the hearts of fathers toward children  
and the disobedient to the understanding of the  
righteous,  
to prepare a people fit for the Lord."  
Then Zechariah said to the angel,  
"How shall I know this?  
For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced  
in years."  
And the angel said to him in reply,  
"I am Gabriel, who stand before God.  
I was sent to speak to you and to announce to  
you this good news.  
But now you will be speechless and unable to

talk  
until the day these things take place,  
because you did not believe my words,  
which will be fulfilled at their proper time."  
Meanwhile the people were waiting for  
Zechariah  
and were amazed that he stayed so long in the  
sanctuary.  
But when he came out, he was unable to speak  
to them,  
and they realized that he had seen a vision in  
the sanctuary.  
He was gesturing to them but remained mute.  
Then, when his days of ministry were  
completed, he went home.  
After this time his wife Elizabeth conceived,  
and she went into seclusion for five months,  
saying,  
"So has the Lord done for me at a time when he  
has seen fit  
to take away my disgrace before others."

### *Saturday Vigil & Sunday, December 20*

#### **First Reading**

**2 SM 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16**

When King David was settled in his palace,  
and the LORD had given him rest from his  
enemies on every side,  
he said to Nathan the prophet,  
"Here I am living in a house of cedar,  
while the ark of God dwells in a tent!"  
Nathan answered the king,  
"Go, do whatever you have in mind,  
for the LORD is with you."  
But that night the LORD spoke to Nathan and  
said:  
"Go, tell my servant David, "Thus says the  
LORD:  
Should you build me a house to dwell in?"  
"It was I who took you from the pasture  
and from the care of the flock  
to be commander of my people Israel.  
I have been with you wherever you went,  
and I have destroyed all your enemies before  
you.  
And I will make you famous like the great ones  
of the earth.

I will fix a place for my people Israel;  
I will plant them so that they may dwell in their  
place  
without further disturbance.  
Neither shall the wicked continue to afflict them  
as they did of old,  
since the time I first appointed judges over my  
people Israel.  
I will give you rest from all your enemies.  
The LORD also reveals to you  
that he will establish a house for you.  
And when your time comes and you rest with  
your ancestors,  
I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from  
your loins,  
and I will make his kingdom firm.  
I will be a father to him,  
and he shall be a son to me.  
Your house and your kingdom shall endure  
forever before me;  
your throne shall stand firm forever."

#### **Responsorial Psalm**

**PS 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29**

#### ***Response: For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.***

The promises of the LORD I will sing forever;  
through all generations my mouth shall  
proclaim your faithfulness.  
For you have said, "My kindness is established

forever";  
in heaven you have confirmed your faithfulness.  
**R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the  
Lord.**

“I have made a covenant with my chosen one,  
I have sworn to David my servant:  
Forever will I confirm your posterity  
and establish your throne for all generations.”  
**R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

## Second Reading

Brothers and sisters:  
To him who can strengthen you,  
according to my gospel and the proclamation of  
Jesus Christ,  
according to the revelation of the mystery kept  
secret for long ages  
but now manifested through the prophetic

## Gospel

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, full of grace! 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,

“He shall say of me, ‘You are my father,  
my God, the Rock, my savior.’  
Forever I will maintain my kindness toward  
him,  
and my covenant with him stands firm.”  
**R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

## ROM 16:25-27

writings and,  
according to the command of the eternal God,  
made known to all nations to bring about the  
obedience of faith,  
to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ  
be glory forever and ever.  
Amen.

## LK 1:26-38

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.  
Therefore the child to be born  
will be called holy, the Son of God.  
And behold, Elizabeth, your relative,  
has also conceived a son in her old age,  
and this is the sixth month for her who was  
called barren;  
for nothing will be impossible for God.”  
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.

## Monday, December 21

## First Reading (Option 1)

Hark! my lover—here he comes  
springing across the mountains,  
leaping across the hills.  
My lover is like a gazelle  
or a young stag.  
Here he stands behind our wall,  
gazing through the windows,  
peering through the lattices.  
My lover speaks; he says to me,  
“Arise, my beloved, my dove, my beautiful  
one, and come!  
“For see, the winter is past,  
the rains are over and gone.

## SG 2:8-14

The flowers appear on the earth,  
the time of pruning the vines has come,  
and the song of the dove is heard in our land.  
The fig tree puts forth its figs,  
and the vines, in bloom, give forth fragrance.  
Arise, my beloved, my beautiful one,  
and come!

“O my dove in the clefts of the rock,  
in the secret recesses of the cliff,  
Let me see you, let me hear your voice,  
For your voice is sweet,  
and you are lovely.”

## First Reading (Option 2)

**Zep 3:14-18a**

Shout for joy, O daughter Zion!  
Sing joyfully, O Israel!  
Be glad and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter Jerusalem!  
The LORD has removed the judgment against  
you,  
he has turned away your enemies;  
The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst,  
you have no further misfortune to fear.

On that day, it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
Fear not, O Zion, be not discouraged!  
The LORD, your God, is in your midst,  
a mighty savior;  
He will rejoice over you with gladness,  
and renew you in his love,  
He will sing joyfully because of you,  
as one sings at festivals.

## Responsorial Psalm

**PS 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21**

**Response: Exult, you just, in the Lord! Sing to him a new song.**

Give thanks to the LORD on the harp;  
with the ten-stringed lyre chant his praises.  
Sing to him a new song;  
pluck the strings skillfully, with shouts of  
gladness.

**R. Exult, you just, in the Lord! Sing to  
him a new song.**

But the plan of the LORD stands forever;  
the design of his heart, through all generations.  
Blessed the nation whose God is the LORD,

the people he has chosen for his own  
inheritance.

**R. Exult, you just, in the Lord! Sing to  
him a new song.**

Our soul waits for the LORD,  
who is our help and our shield,  
For in him our hearts rejoice;  
in his holy name we trust.

**R. Exult, you just, in the Lord! Sing to  
him a new song.**

## Gospel

**LK 1:39-45**

Mary set out in those days  
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."

*Tuesday, December 22*

## First Reading

**1 SM 1:24-28**

In those days,  
Hannah brought Samuel with her,  
along with a three-year-old bull,  
an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine,  
and presented him at the temple of the LORD in  
Shiloh.  
After the boy's father had sacrificed the young  
bull,  
Hannah, his mother, approached Eli and said:  
"Pardon, my lord!

As you live, my lord,  
I am the woman who stood near you here,  
praying to the LORD.  
I prayed for this child, and the LORD granted  
my request.  
Now I, in turn, give him to the LORD;  
as long as he lives, he shall be dedicated to the  
LORD."  
She left Samuel there.

## Responsorial Psalm

**1 SAMUEL 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8ABCD**

**Response: My heart exults in the Lord, my Savior.**

“My heart exults in the LORD,  
my horn is exalted in my God.  
I have swallowed up my enemies;  
I rejoice in my victory.”

**R. My heart exults in the Lord, my Savior.**

“The bows of the mighty are broken,  
while the tottering gird on strength.  
The well-fed hire themselves out for bread,  
while the hungry batten on spoil.  
The barren wife bears seven sons,  
while the mother of many languishes.”

**R. My heart exults in the Lord, my Savior.**

“The LORD puts to death and gives life;  
he casts down to the nether world;  
he raises up again.

The LORD makes poor and makes rich,  
he humbles, he also exalts.”

**R. My heart exults in the Lord, my Savior.**

“He raises the needy from the dust;  
from the dung heap he lifts up the poor,  
To seat them with nobles  
and make a glorious throne their heritage.”

**R. My heart exults in the Lord, my Savior.**

**Gospel**

**LK 1:46-56**

Mary said:

“My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;  
my spirit rejoices in God my savior.

for he has looked upon 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,  
and 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 remembered his promise of mercy,  
the promise he made to our fathers,  
to Abraham and his children for ever.”

Mary remained with Elizabeth about three  
months

and then returned to her home.

*Wednesday, December 23*

**First Reading**

**MAL 3:1-4, 23-24**

Thus says the Lord GOD:

Lo, I am sending my messenger  
to prepare the way before me;  
And suddenly there will come to the temple  
the LORD whom you seek,

And the messenger of the covenant whom you  
desire.

Yes, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts.  
But who will endure the day of his coming?

And who can stand when he appears?  
For he is like the refiner's fire,  
or like the fuller's lye.

He will sit refining and purifying silver,  
and he will purify the sons of Levi,

Refining them like gold or like silver

that they may offer due sacrifice to the LORD.

Then the sacrifice of Judah and Jerusalem  
will please the LORD,  
as in the days of old, as in years gone by.

Lo, I will send you

Elijah, the prophet,

Before the day of the LORD comes,  
the great and terrible day,

To turn the hearts of the fathers to their chil-  
dren,

and the hearts of the children to their fathers,

Lest I come and strike

the land with doom.

**Responsorial Psalm**

**PS 25:4-5AB, 8-9, 10 & 14**

**Response: Lift up your heads and see; your redemption is near at hand.**

Your ways, O LORD, make known to me;  
teach me your paths,  
Guide me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are God my savior.  
**R. Lift up your heads and see; your  
redemption is near at hand.**

Good and upright is the LORD;  
thus he shows sinners the way.  
He guides the humble to justice,  
he teaches the humble his way.  
**R. Lift up your heads and see; your  
redemption is near at hand.**

## Gospel

When the time arrived for Elizabeth to have her  
child  
she gave birth to a son.  
Her neighbors and relatives heard  
that the Lord had shown his great mercy toward  
her,  
and they rejoiced with her.  
When they came on the eighth day to  
circumcise the child,  
they were going to call him Zechariah after his  
father,  
but his mother said in reply,  
“No. He will be called John.”  
But they answered her,  
“There is no one among your relatives who has  
this name.”

All the paths of the LORD are kindness and  
constancy  
toward those who keep his covenant and his  
decrees.  
The friendship of the LORD is with those who  
fear him,  
and his covenant, for their instruction.  
**R. Lift up your heads and see; your  
redemption is near at hand.**

## LK 1:57-66

So they made signs, asking his father what he  
wished him to be called.  
He asked for a tablet and wrote, “John is his  
name,”  
and all were amazed.  
Immediately his mouth was opened, his tongue  
freed,  
and he spoke blessing God.  
Then fear came upon all their neighbors,  
and all these matters were discussed  
throughout the hill country of Judea.  
All who heard these things took them to heart,  
saying,  
“What, then, will this child be?”  
For surely the hand of the Lord was with him.



# Guidelines for the Reception of Holy Communion

*On November 14, 1996, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops approved the following guidelines on the reception of Communion. These guidelines replace the guidelines approved by the Administrative Committee of the NCCB in November 1986. The guidelines, which are to be included in missalettes and other participation aids published in the United States, seek to remind all those who may attend Catholic liturgies of the present discipline of the Church with regard to the sharing of Eucharistic Communion.*

## **For Catholics**

As Catholics, we fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist when we receive Holy Communion. We are encouraged to receive Communion devoutly and frequently. In order to be properly disposed to receive Communion, participants should not be conscious of grave sin and normally should have fasted for one hour. A person who is conscious of grave sin is not to receive the Body and Blood of the Lord without prior sacramental confession except for a grave reason where there is no opportunity for confession. In this case, the person is to be mindful of the obligation to make an act of perfect contrition, including the intention of confessing as soon as possible (canon 916). A frequent reception of the Sacrament of Penance is encouraged for all.

## **For our fellow Christians**

We welcome our fellow Christians to this celebration of the Eucharist as our brothers and sisters. We pray that our common baptism and the action of the Holy Spirit in this Eucharist will draw us closer to one another and begin to dispel the sad divisions which separate us. We pray that these will lessen and finally disappear, in keeping with Christ's prayer for us "that they may all be one" (Jn 17:21).

Because Catholics believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life, and worship, members of those churches with whom we are not yet fully united are ordinarily not admitted to Holy Communion. Eucharistic sharing in exceptional circumstances by other Christians requires permission according to the directives of the diocesan bishop and the provisions of canon law (canon 844 §4). Members of the Orthodox Churches, the Assyrian Church of the East, and the Polish National Catholic Church are urged to respect the discipline of their own Churches. According to Roman Catholic discipline, the Code of Canon Law does not object to the reception of Communion by Christians of these Churches (canon 844 §3).

## **For those not receiving Holy Communion**

All who are not receiving Holy Communion are encouraged to express in their hearts a prayerful desire for unity with the Lord Jesus and with one another.

## **For non-Christians**

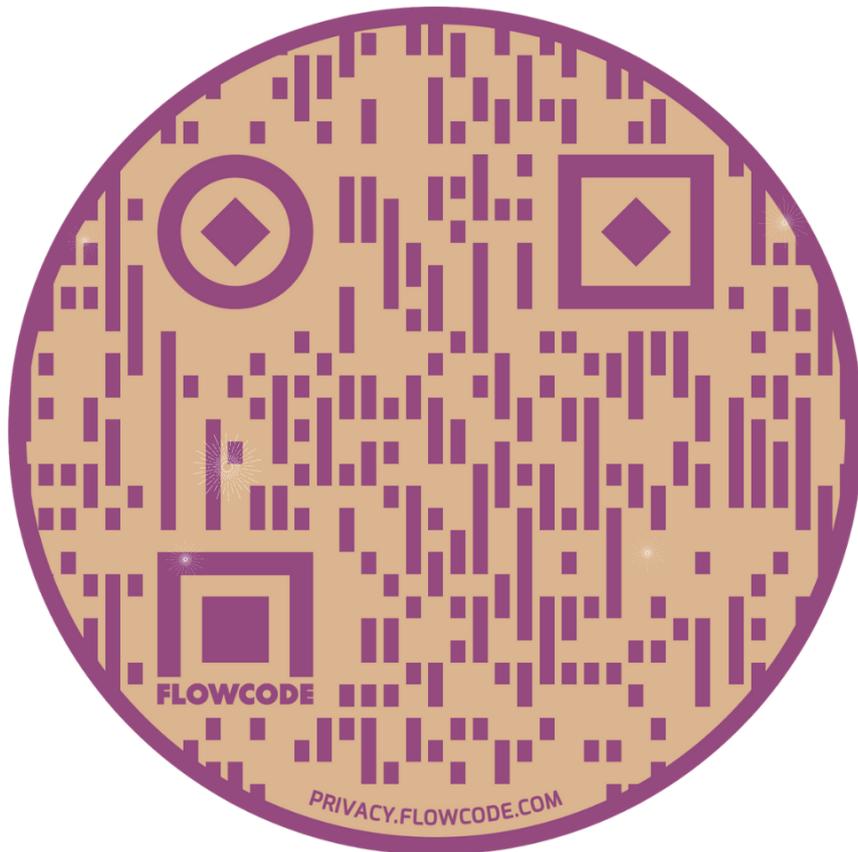
We also welcome to this celebration those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ. While we cannot admit them to Holy Communion, we ask them to offer their prayers for the peace and the unity of the human family.

**PHOTO, PRESS, AUDIO, AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA RELEASE**

By your attendance at our Diocesan Simbang Gabi Masses and Receptions, you authorize the Catholic Diocese of Arlington, its parishes, its schools, and/or the Arlington Catholic Herald and the Fil-Am ministry to use the photograph, videos, and/or audio recording taken for educational, news stories, illustration and/or marketing purposes.

This applies to both adults and minors

**For the most up-to-date Simbang Gabi Mass info,  
including livestream links, in-person Mass locations,  
cancelations and more, visit  
[www.arlingtondiocese.org/SimbangGabi](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/SimbangGabi)  
or simply scan the QR code below**



## ***My Sincerest Thanks...***

The year 2020 has not been a typical one. So many events and closely held traditions were forced to change and adapt, and the celebration of Simbang Gabi is no different. To all those who worked tirelessly to bring Simbang Gabi to the Diocese of Arlington during this year of a global pandemic, I thank you from the very bottom of my heart.

This includes but is not limited to:

- ◆ Pastors, parish priests, and parish staff;
- ◆ Simbang Gabi Coordinators and parish volunteers;
  - ◆ Mass celebrants and con-celebrants;
  - ◆ Mass participants, ushers, and choirs;
- ◆ Videographers and technical support offering livestream and recorded Masses;
  - ◆ Volunteers and professionals who assisted in cleaning the churches;
  - ◆ Those staying home, those attending in person;
- ◆ Anyone who gave their time, talent, and treasure to making Simbang Gabi a safe and healthy option for any one who joined in this nine day novena of Masses.

Without your help, it could not have been possible!

May you have a blessed Advent, a very Merry Christmas, and a joyous New Year!

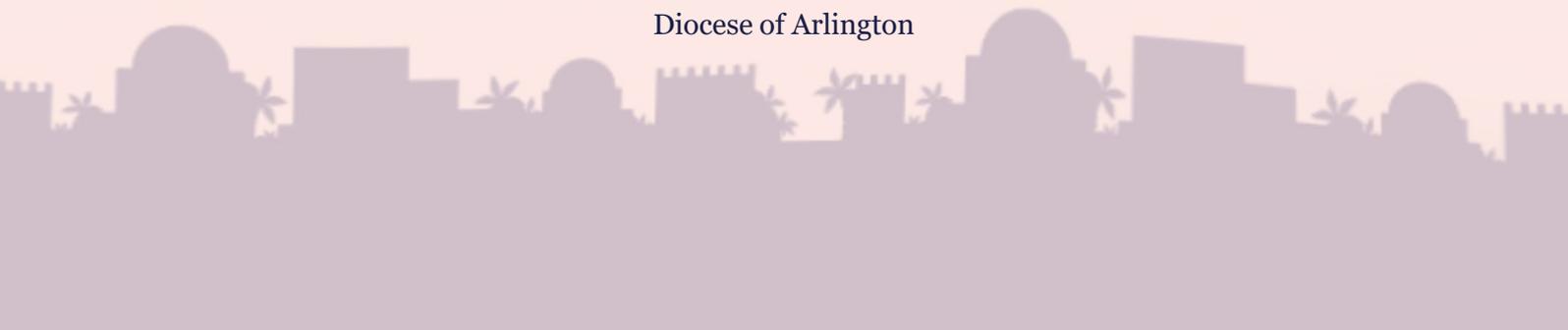
We look forward to seeing you at future Simbang Gabi Celebrations!

*Your Sister in Christ,*

**Bridget Wilson**

Director, Office of Multicultural Ministries

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