



ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS
Office of Sacred Worship

LITURGY NOTES



AS ADVENT APPROACHES

By: Father Joesph Martin, Priest of the Archdiocese of St. Louis

In Missouri, November is a dramatic month. The Fall colors reach their peak. The days grow ever shorter. The nights become cold and still. When I was young, these were the nights when my Dad would take me with him on a deer hunt. I did not know what to do the first time, so I stayed by him and followed his instructions. We would rise long before the sun and make our way out into the darkness to keep watch in silence. The cold is most intense at these early hours, especially when sitting motionless, and when the cold sets in, time itself seems to stand still. All of this anticipation and deprivation has a strong and very salutary effect, however, especially for a teenage boy. Spotting a deer for the first time is unforgettable. Even if no deer arrive, the sunlight and the fireplace and breakfast never feel so welcome as they do on these mornings!

God invented deer season primarily in order to bring joy to Missouri youth. But deer season also can be a helpful analogy for understanding the liturgical season of Advent, when Christians everywhere keep watch for Jesus our Savior. The Church is a wise and caring Mother, and she knows how to encourage us to keep watch. When evening falls on that final Saturday of the liturgical year, the Church dons purple garments symbolizing penance and vigilance. Some of the most joyful prayers are omitted, such as *Gloria* in the Mass and the *Te Deum* in the Divine Office. The Church exhorts us to detach from the world and its allurements through prayer and small acts of self-denial, and this at a time when the world is most focused on material goods. All of the external practices of Advent have one goal: to draw our attention and love to the arrival of Jesus. Each year, we need the Church's beautiful prayers and practices to make us appreciate the arrival of Jesus into our world on that first Christmas night, and to look forward to His final arrival in glory on the last day.

About the Author: Father Joseph Martin is a newly-ordained priest of the Archdiocese of St. Louis. He graduated from a home school program before attending St. Louis University and Kenrick-Glennon Seminary. He is now assigned as an associated pastor, along with Father Josh Deters, at St. Joseph's Parish in Cottleville, Missouri

ADVENT AT THE SEMINARY

By: Quinton Durer, Seminarian for the Archdiocese of St. Louis

As I prayed the Rosary beneath the shadow of the seminary's tower, I realized that the first few Joyful mysteries are about the first Advent. Receptivity is a prominent theme in these mysteries. Mary receives Jesus into herself, goes out to receive Elizabeth, and finally receives



the shepherds and magi into her home. Our traditions at the seminary help us prepare for Christmas as Mary did, embracing receptivity.

Of course, we decorate for the season. Christmas lights, trees, and nutcrackers start filling the halls, as well as Advent wreaths, nativity scenes, and purple fabrics. The result is dozens of reminders throughout the building of the Infant Jesus. Each little reminder then becomes another prayer welcoming Christ deeper into our hearts. These prayers allow Christ to work through us and receive others with us, just as Mary received Christ into her womb before receiving others.

Another one of our Advent traditions is the yearly Christmas collection. This fundraiser is one of our largest of the year, and every seminarian is sent out to a parish to promote it. Throughout my college seminary years, when I did not have a parish assignment, this was a highlight of the year. I loved serving at the parish and greeting the people after mass. In this little way, all of the seminarians are sent out to receive, just like Mary went out to receive Elizabeth.

Just as the Nativity is the crown of the Joyful Mysteries, the seminary's Advent Novena is the crown of our Advent traditions. We welcome everyone into our house and greet them with prayer and song. The Novena consists of nine candlelit nights with songs and chants from our choir, a reading and homily from the formation staff, and community with seminarians and other Catholics. Each day is based on an O Antiphon which are ancient prayers for the end of Advent. It is a beautiful tradition. I often find myself behind the computer livestreaming the event out on our youtube channel, so those who cannot make it in person can share in the glory. Through the Advent Novena, we welcome others into our house just as Mary received shepherds and magi many years ago.

Our seminary traditions help us enter into Advent like Mary did by welcoming Jesus into ourselves before going out and welcoming in. Then we bring our Advent spirit back to our homes, away from the tower, to celebrate the third Joyful Mystery with our families on Christmas day.

About the Author: Quinton Durer is a seminarian for the Archdiocese of St. Louis. His home parish is St. Clare of Assisi in Ellisville, and he graduated from Marquette High School in 2020. He is currently studying at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary and is in his Configuration I year.

More information: Details about the Advent Novena and how you can participate can be found [here](#).

Important dates

- Sunday, December 1, 2024:** Advent begins
- Monday, December 9, 2024:** The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (**Not a Holyday of Obligation this year.**)
- Tuesday, December 24, 2024:** Advent ends
- Wednesday, December 25, 2024:** Christmas Day
- Wednesday, January 1, 2025:** Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God and The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord (**A Holyday of Obligation this year.**)

For more information, please view the [Liturgical Calendar for 2025](#).



There is still time to sign up for our upcoming workshop, [The Importance of Sacred Music in the Liturgy](#). For registration information, please visit our [website](#).

*All parish priests, music directors, liturgists, parish cantors,
choir members and instrumentalists are invited to:*

THE IMPORTANCE OF SACRED ART AND MUSIC IN THE LITURGY

NOV. 22, 2024
FEAST OF ST. CECILIA
9AM - 3:30PM

CATHEDRAL
BASILICA OF
ST. LOUIS

\$55 per
person

Coffee,
pastries and
lunch included



*Guest speakers include: Dr. Larry Feingold from
Kenrick-Glennon Seminary and Dr. Peter Latona from the
Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception*



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CHRISTIAN INITIATION



Please note that the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults is now available for purchase through many liturgical publishers. Order of Christian Initiation of Adults: **As per the USCCB, orders may begin shipping November 1, 2024.** This revised ritual edition may be used as of

December 1, 2024 (First Sunday of Advent). Mandatory use begins Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025.

From Joe Milner, the Director of the Office of Christian Initiation: [Order of Christian Initiation](#)

RECLAMATION



Thank you to those who visited, volunteered at, and supported the Reclamation Center this past year. As Advent approaches and we enter into this new year of the Church, may we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Infant King.

Please note that there have been changes to the website. We appreciate your patience as we navigate the new online catalog. Click [here](#) for more information.

Please see attached resources on Advent from the Reclamation Center: [Advent Resources](#)

The Office of Worship wishes you a prayerful Advent as we all anticipate the coming of our Infant King!



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