SEASON OF ADVENT 2019
Sunday Cycle A; Weekdays Year II
30 November 2019 – 24 December 2019

The liturgical year begins on the First Sunday of Advent. This year, the Season of Advent begins with Evening Prayer I on Saturday evening, November 30, 2019, and ends after Midafternoon Prayer (Nones) on Tuesday, December 24, 2019.

SEASONAL FOCUS

"Advent has a twofold character, for it is a time of preparation for the Solemnities of Christmas, in which the First Coming of the Son of God to humanity is remembered, and likewise a time when, by remembrance of this, minds and hearts are led to look forward to Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. For these two reasons, Advent is a period of devout and expectant delight." (*UNLY* #39)

LECTIONARY

⌘ Beginning with the First Sunday of Advent, 2019, **Cycle A** readings are proclaimed. **Year II** readings are proclaimed for weekdays.

⌘ A homily is always done on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. "On other days it is recommended, especially on the weekdays of Advent…" (*GIRM* #66)

KEY DATES

⌘ **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – December 1, 2019 [Violet]**
>   Lectionary #1
>   Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122:1-9; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:37-44

⌘ **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – December 8, 2019 [Violet]**
>   Lectionary #4
>   Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72: 1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Romans 15:4-9, 11-12; Matthew 3:1-12

⌘ **SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BVM – Monday, December 9, 2019 [White]**

> **PLEASE NOTE: While the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is transferred to Monday, the obligation to attend Mass <u>does not transfer</u>. The Optional Memorial of Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin, December 9, is omitted this year.**

>   Lectionary #689
>   Gloria is said or sung.
>   Genesis 3:9-15,20; Psalm 98:1-4; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38

⌘ **FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE – Thursday, December 12, 2019 [White]**

>   Lectionary #690A
>   Gloria is said or sung.
>   Zechariah 2:14-17 or Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; (Ps.) Judith 13:18bcde, 19;
>   Luke 1:26-38 or Luke 1:39-47 or any readings from the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary
>   (Lectionary #707-712)

⌘ **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – December 15, 2019 [Rose or Violet]**
   Lectionary #7
   Isaiah 35:1-6a; Psalm 146:6-10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

⌘ **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – December 22, 2019 [Violet]**
   Lectionary #10
   Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 24:1-3, 4ab, 5-6; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24

O ANTIPHONS

The "O" Antiphons sung at Vespers may be used more extensively the final days of Advent, December 17 to 24 (e.g. as verses for the Gospel Acclamation).
   ⌘ O Wisdom – December 17
   ⌘ O Adonai – December 18
   ⌘ O Flower of Jesse's Stem – December 19
   ⌘ O Key of David – December 20
   ⌘ O Radiant Dawn – December 21
   ⌘ O King of all Nations – December 22
   ⌘ O Emmanuel – December 23

RITUAL CELEBRATIONS

⌘ The funeral Mass may not be used on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception or on the Sundays of Advent. The funeral liturgy outside Mass may be celebrated on any day during Advent. (*GIRM* #380, *OCF* #271)

⌘ The nuptial Mass may not be used on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception or on the Sundays of Advent. The Order for Celebrating Matrimony without Mass may be celebrated on any day during Advent. (*OCM* #34)

⌘ The norms for music and worship environment during the season of Advent (outlined below) apply equally to ritual celebrations during this time, such as weddings and funerals.

⌘ A communal celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation according to Rite II of the Rite of Penance is one way of assisting the people of God in preparing for the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord. Such a liturgy might best be celebrated during the latter part of the Advent Season, and on a weekday rather than a Sunday.

MUSIC

⌘ "In Advent the use of the organ and other musical instruments should be marked by a moderation suited to the character of this time of year, without expressing in anticipation the full joy of the Nativity of the Lord." (*GIRM* #313)

⌘ The Gloria is not sung or recited on the Sundays of Advent. However, it is sung or recited on major Feasts within the Advent Season, for example, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (Dec. 9) and the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Dec. 12). (*GIRM* #53)

⌘ Common Psalms: "The psalm as a rule is drawn from the Lectionary ... Nevertheless, in order that the people may be able to join in the responsorial psalm more readily, some texts of responses and psalms have been chosen, according to the different seasons of the year and classes of saints, for optional use, whenever the psalm is sung, in place of the text corresponding to the reading." (Lectionary #173/174)

    ⌘ Common Response for the Season of Advent [Lectionary #173]
        "Come, O Lord, and set us free."

    ⌘ Common Psalms for the Season of Advent [Lectionary #174]
        Psalm 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14 – "To you, O Lord, I lift my soul."
        Psalm 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 – "Lord, show us your mercy and love."

WORSHIP ENVIRONMENT

⌘ "The official color for the season of Advent is violet. The use of blue vestments for Advent is not approved for the United States." (*Ordo*)

⌘ "The color rose may be used, where it is the practice, on *Gaudate* Sunday (Third Sunday of Advent)…" (*GIRM* #346)

⌘ "Moderation should be observed in the decoration of the altar. During Advent the floral decoration of the altar should be marked by a moderation suited to the character of this time of year, without expressing in anticipation the full joy of the Nativity of the Lord." Christmas decorations should not encroach on the Advent season. (*GIRM* #305)

⌘ "Plans for seasonal decorations should include other areas besides the sanctuary. Decorations are intended to draw people to the true nature of the mystery being celebrated rather than being ends in themselves. Natural flowers, plants, wreaths and fabric hangings, and other seasonal objects can be arranged to enhance the primary liturgical points of focus. The altar should remain clear and free-standing, not walled in by massive floral displays or the Christmas crib, and pathways in the narthex, nave, and sanctuary should remain clear." (*BLS* #124)

⌘ "Objects such as the Advent Wreath…proportioned to the size of the space and to the other furnishings can enhance the prayer and understanding of the parish community." (*BLS* #128)

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH (See *Book of Blessings* #1509-1540)

1509 – The use of the Advent Wreath is a traditional practice which has found its place in the Church as well as in the home. The blessing of the Advent Wreath takes place on the First Sunday of Advent or on the evening before the First Sunday of Advent. The blessing may be celebrated during Mass, a celebration of the word of God, or Evening Prayer.

> **Order of Blessing within Mass**
> Homily
> General Intercessions
> Prayer of Blessing (#1519 or #1520 in *Book of Blessings*, done by presider)
> Lighting of the First Candle

1510 – Customarily the Advent Wreath is constructed of a circle of evergreen branches into which are inserted four candles. According to tradition, three of the candles are violet and the fourth rose. However, four violet or white candles may also be used.

1511 – The candles represent the four weeks of Advent and the number of candles lighted each week corresponds to the number of the current week of Advent. The rose candle is lighted on the Third Sunday of Advent, also known as *Gaudete* Sunday.

1512 – If the Advent Wreath is to be used in church, it should be of sufficient size to be visible to the congregation. It may be suspended from the ceiling or placed on a stand. … It should not interfere with the celebration of the liturgy, nor should it obscure the altar, lectern, or chair.

1513 – When the Advent Wreath is used in church, on the Second and succeeding Sundays of Advent the candles are lighted either before Mass begins or immediately before the opening prayer; no additional rites or prayers are used.

1516 – The Advent Wreath may be blessed by a priest, deacon, or a lay minister [outside Mass].

BB = Book of Blessings
BLS = Built of Living Stones
GIRM = General Instruction of the Roman Missal

OCF = Order of Christian Funerals
OCM = Order of Celebrating Matrimony
UNLY = Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year