

Questions for Reflection and Sharing

What connections or new insights did you gain from the readings?

During these days of Advent, how is your Family bringing Good News to those in your community who are poor or broken-hearted?

As pastoral leaders, how will you "become messengers of faith, grace, and joy" during these days of Advent?

Intercessions

For what or for whom should we pray?

Lord's Prayer

Closing Prayer

Mary, Mother of the Church and our Mother,
Present our prayer of thanksgiving to your Son.
Beg from Him the graces we need to be faithful disciples who follow Him with enthusiasm and joy,
May our witness to the love of God bear fruit in our archdiocese, parishes, homes and hearts.
Teach us to be God's joyful witnesses, to radiate Christ in all we do, so that all people might know, love and follow your Son through this life and into the next.
Amen.



December 2026

Opening Prayer

Let us pray, (Pause for silent prayer)
that all people might know, love, and follow your Son
through this life and into the next. Amen.

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that your Church may always remain
that holy people, formed as one
by the unity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
which manifest to the world
the Sacrament of your holiness and unity
and leads it to the perfection of your charity.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, forever and ever. Amen.

Reading from Sacred Scripture

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor,
to heal the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives
and release to the prisoners,
to announce a year of favor from the LORD
and a day of vindication by our God.
I rejoice heartily in the LORD,
in my God is the joy of my soul;
for he has clothed me with a robe of salvation
and wrapped me in a mantle of justice,
like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem,
like a bride bedecked with her jewels.
As the earth brings forth its plants,
and a garden makes its growth spring up,
so will the Lord GOD make justice and praise
spring up before all the nations.

Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11 (Third Sunday of Advent)

Excerpt from Archbishop Robert G. Casey's Pastoral Letter "That They All May Be One: A Pastoral Letter on the Eucharist as the Sacrament of Unity"

Memorial of St. Robert Bellarmine, September 17, 2026

53. At every Mass, we are given the grace to be renewed, to be reminded of our purpose, and to be loved once more through the sacrifice that Christ made for us. That grace must compel us to action and assist us to renew, remind and love the world. Especially when we encounter in the world fear, sin, and sadness, we must become messengers of faith, grace, and joy. We must allow our reception of Holy Communion to transform us into a people of joy sent on mission to share God's love wherever it is most needed.

54. Joy fuels our discipleship. Joy is not determined by our current state, whether we find ourselves burdened by the weight of the cross or raised up in a moment of resurrection. Joy is found when we unite ourselves to Christ. Those who choose to follow Jesus Christ, build up his Church, and carry out her mission of charity in the world do so not out of a sense of arduous obligation, but through an experience of God's love and an abiding awareness of the joy that is ours in Christ our Savior. Why do more and more people find their way to the Eucharist each year? Because the love and joy revealed through our works of charity are infectious. "It is not by proselytizing that the Church grows," Pope Francis recognized, "but by attraction."¹¹ Jesus models this for us in the Gospel of John, when he gets down on his hands and knees and washes his disciples' feet as an example of servant leadership, saying, "I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do" (Jn 13:15).