

Virtual Eucharistic Adoration

Create a prayerful setting for this special time with the Lord and access an on-line chapel.

May this time of prayer and adoration before the Blessed Sacrament be an opportunity to grow in awareness of the incomparable treasure which Christ entrusted to his Church.

"God is the father of peace, not of disturbance.

Therefore, let us continue to move forward and trust in God ... rest in the heart of Jesus."

(Bl. John Merlini, Letter 274)

DECEMBER CONTEMPLATION

There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

—*Ephesians 4:4-6*

Opening Prayer

Lord Jesus, in the Eucharist You make your dwelling among us and become our traveling companion; sustain our Christian communities so that they may be ever more open to listening and accepting your Word. May they draw from the Eucharist a renewed commitment to spreading in society, by the proclamation of your Gospel, the signs and deeds of an attentive and active charity. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Silent Reflection

Let us keep silence before God – silent within ourselves – that our hearts and ears may be open.

Prayer Before Reading Scripture

Jesus Christ, our Master, You are the Way and the Truth and the Life. Grant that we may learn the sublime knowledge of Your charity in the Spirit of St. Paul the Apostle and of the Catholic Church. Send Your Holy Spirit to teach us and remind us of what You have preached. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Scripture Reading (*Hebrews 12:1-8*)

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Keep on loving each other as brothers. Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering. Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?" Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. (Psalm 118)

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: (Psalm 112:6-9)

Response: Their hearts are steadfast, trusting in the Lord.

Surely the righteous will never be shaken; they will be remembered forever.

They will have no fear of bad news; their hearts are steadfast, trusting in the Lord. **R/**

Their hearts are secure, they will have no fear; in the end they will look in triumph on their foes. **R/**

They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor, their righteousness endures forever;

their horn will be lifted high in honor. **R/**

Glory Be...

Reflection from the Catechism: Faith is Certain

It is more certain than all human knowledge because it is founded on the very word of God who cannot lie. To be sure, revealed truths can seem obscure to human reason and experience, but "the certainty that the divine light gives is greater than that which the light of natural reason gives."³¹ "Ten thousand difficulties do not make one doubt."³² (CCC, 157)

³¹St. Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae*, II-II 171, 5, obj. 3.

³² John Henry Cardinal Newman, *Apologia pro vita sua* (London Longman, 1878) 239.

Prayer for December

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our glory is to stand before the world as your own sons and daughters. May the simple beauty of Jesus' birth summon us always to love what is most deeply human, and to see your Word reflected in those whose lives we touch. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Silent Reflection

Meditation from the Nicene Creed

Amen.

The creed ends with the Hebrew word "Amen." In Hebrew, amen comes from the same root as the word "believe." This root expresses solidity, trustworthiness, and faithfulness. And so we can understand why "Amen" may express both God's faithfulness towards us and our trust in him. In the book of the prophet Isaiah, we find the expression "God of truth" (literally "God of the Amen"), that is, the God who is faithful to his promises. Thus, the Creed's final "Amen" repeats and confirms its first words: "I believe." To believe is to say "Amen" to God's words, promises and commandments; to entrust oneself completely to him who is the "Amen" of infinite love and perfect faithfulness. The Christian's everyday life will then be the "Amen" to the "I believe" of our baptismal profession of faith (Taken from CCC, 1061-64).

* The Meditations this year will focus on the **Nicene Creed**. Pope Leo XIV visited Turkey in observance of the 1700th anniversary of the Ecumenical Council of Nicaea which drafted the first Nicene Creed in 325. Today nearly all Christian denominations regard the Nicene Creed as a foundational and authoritative statement of faith. Thus approximately 98.5% of the world's Christians adhere to the Nicene Creed's Trinitarian and Christological doctrines.

Intentions

Let us pray together the Daily Offering with the intentions of the Holy Father and our personal intentions:

R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

All: Eternal Father, we offer you in union with Mary, Mother of the Redeemer of humankind, the Blood Jesus shed with love in his passion and every day is offered on the altar. In union with the Victim offered for the salvation of the world, we offer today's actions in expiation for our sins, for the conversion of sinners, for the souls in purgatory, for the needs of the holy Church, and especially:

For the Holy Father's Intention for Single-parent Families

Let us pray for families experiencing the absence of a mother or father, that they may find support and accompaniment in the Church, and help and strength in the Faith during difficult times, we pray to the Lord. **R/**

God of compassion, look with favor upon all who work and pray for the unity of divided Christian communities, we pray to the Lord. **R/**

Lord, You have promised to be with your Church always, may the Holy Spirit inspire many more vocations to the priesthood and religious life, we pray to the Lord. **R/**

For those who've asked the help of our prayers, for those who have no one to pray for them, and for the intentions we hold in the silence of our hearts, we pray to the Lord. **R/**

The Blood of Christ is Life for all Our Needs

Eternal Father, we offer you the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ, poured out on the cross and offered daily on the altar:

- ⊕ For the glory of your name, for the coming of your kingdom and for the salvation of all.
- ⊕ For the propagation of faith, for Pope Francis, for bishops, priests, and religious and for the sanctification of all the people of God.
- ⊕ For the conversion of sinners, for the loving acceptance of your Word, and for the union of all Christians.
- ⊕ For civil authorities, for the strengthening of public morals, and for peace and justice among all nations.
- ⊕ For the sanctification of our work and suffering, for the poor, sick and afflicted, and for all who rely on our prayers.
- ⊕ For our own spiritual and temporal needs, for those of our relatives, benefactors, and also for those of our enemies.
- ⊕ For those who are to die this day, for the souls in purgatory, and for our final union with Christ in Glory.

Our Father...

Silent Reflection

Closing Prayer: Precious Blood Prayer

All: Almighty and Eternal God, you have appointed your only-begotten Son the Redeemer of the world and willed to be appeased by his Blood. Grant we beg of you, that we may worthily adore this price of our salvation, and through its power be safeguarded from the evils of this present life, so that we may rejoice in its fruits forever in heaven. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen

Our Lady of the Most Precious Blood, pray for us.

St. Gaspar, pray for us, St. Maria De Mattias, pray for us,

St. Francis Xavier, pray for us.