



The Grace to “See” and Become Signs of God’s Love

This First Friday of December is specially devoted to deepen our love for the Sacred Heart of Jesus and learn to express it in a practical manner. Both the Advent Season and the First Friday devotion are powerful ways to renew our awareness that our love for the Sacred Heart cannot be limited to devotional practices. It has to manifest itself through acts of respect and care for those around us, and an ardent zeal for the propagation of the Catholic faith.

The two blind men in the Gospel passage asked for the grace of physical sight and got their wish. In our Eucharistic celebration let us ask for the grace to see God’s love in our neighbor and to become signs of His love to all.



INTRODUCTORY RITES



Entrance Antiphon

(To be recited only when no Entrance Hymn is sung.)

Behold, the Lord will come descending with splendor to visit his people with peace, and he will bestow on them eternal life.

Greeting

P –Glory and praise to Jesus who gives us the spiritual vision to see everything the way God does. May his love and peace be with you all.

All –And with your spirit.

Penitential Act

P –As we are about to start the celebration of the Eucharist on this First Friday of Advent, let us pause for a short while and realize how much we need to

have our spiritual vision cleared from every encumbrance of sin.
(Pause)

P –Lord Jesus, you restored the sight of the blind who approached you with faith.
Lord, have mercy.

All –Lord, have mercy.

P –Lord Jesus, you are the light of the world. Christ, have mercy.

All –Christ, have mercy.

P –Lord Jesus, you are the way to the Father. Lord, have mercy.

All –Lord, have mercy.

P –May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life.

All –Amen.

Collect (Opening Prayer)

P –Stir up your power, we pray, O Lord, and come, that with you to protect us, we may find rescue

from the pressing dangers of our sins, and with you to set us free, we may be found worthy of salvation.

Who lives and reigns with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

All –Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD



1st Reading

Is 29:17-24

The heartwarming words of the prophet Isaiah, addressed to the dispirited Israelites uncertain about their future, apply also to us at the start of the Advent Season, surrounded by so many difficulties. Our faith tells us that the intervention of the Lord always makes a tremendous difference for the better.

R –A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord God: But a very little while, and Lebanon shall be changed into an orchard, and the orchard be regarded as a forest! On that day the deaf shall hear the words of a book; and out of gloom and darkness, the eyes of the blind shall see. The lowly will ever find joy in the Lord, and the poor rejoice in the Holy One of Israel. For the tyrant will be no more and the arrogant will have gone. All who are alert to do evil will be cut off, those whose mere word condemns a man, who ensnare his defender at the gate, and leave the just man with an empty claim.

Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of the house of Jacob, who redeemed Abraham: "Now Jacob shall have nothing to be ashamed of, nor shall his face grow pale. When his children see the work of my hands in his midst, they shall keep my name holy. They shall reverence the Holy One of Jacob, and be in awe of the God of Israel. Those who err in spirit shall acquire understanding, and those who find fault shall receive instruction."

The Word of the Lord.
All—Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 27: 1, 4, 13-14

R —*The Lord is my light and my salvation.*

* The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear? The Lord is my life's refuge; of whom should I be afraid? **R.**

* One thing I ask of the Lord; this I seek: to dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, that I may gaze on the loveliness of the Lord and contemplate his temple. **R.**

* I believe that I shall see the bounty of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord with courage; be stouthearted, and wait for the Lord. **R.**

Gospel Acclamation

All—Alleluia, Alleluia.
 Behold, our Lord shall

come with power; he will enlighten the eyes of his servants.
 Alleluia, Alleluia.

Gospel *Mt 9:27-31*

Jesus is "the Light of the World" who enables us to see the wonders of God in our lives and around us. But for this to happen, our faith must be as strong as that of the two blind men who obtained from Jesus the gift of sight, as narrated in today's Gospel.

P —The Lord be with you.
All—And with your spirit.

P —A proclamation from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

All—Glory to you, O Lord.

As Jesus passed by, two blind men followed him, crying out, "Son of David, have pity on us!" When he entered the house, the blind men approached him and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I can do this?" "Yes, Lord," they said to him. Then he touched their eyes and said, "Let it be done for you according to your faith." And their eyes were opened. Jesus warned them sternly, "See that no one knows about this." But they went out and spread word of him through all that land.

The Gospel of the Lord.
All—Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

Prayer of the Faithful

P —Aware of the need to be spiritually healed by the Lord, on this First Friday of Advent, let us humbly direct our petitions to Him for ourselves and the needs of all mankind. Let our response be:

All—Lord, graciously hear us.

C —For the entire Catholic Church: May Her preparation to relive the mystery of the Incarnation of God's Son bring Her an abundance of grace, peace and goodwill. Let us pray. **R.**

C —For the Holy Father, our bishops and all our local reli-

gious leaders: May they be comforted by the positive response of their flock to their efforts to bring everybody closer to God. Let us pray. **R.**

C —For our political and civil leaders: May they set a good example in opening their hearts to the Gospel values and in living them out in the fulfillment of their tasks. Let us pray. **R.**

C —For all the homeless, the unemployed and all those who feel neglected by the authorities and the powerful: May the spirit of this season of hope rekindle in them the trust in God's providential love. Let us pray. **R.**

P —God our Father, in the power of the Holy Spirit, renew in us the desire to receive Your Son Jesus in our hearts, so as to be guided by him in our daily lives, today and for ever.

All—Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST



Preparation of the Gifts

P —Pray, brethren . . .
All—May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

Prayer over the Offerings

P —Be pleased, O Lord, with our humble prayers and offerings, and, since we have no merits to plead our cause, come, we pray, to our rescue with the protection of your mercy.

Through Christ our Lord.
All—Amen.

Preface of Advent I

P —The Lord be with you.
All—And with your spirit.

P —Lift up your hearts.

All—We lift them up to the Lord.

P —Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All—It is right and just.

P —It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through

Christ our Lord.

For he assumed at his first coming the lowliness of human flesh, and so fulfilled the design you formed long ago, and opened for us the way to eternal salvation, that, when he comes again in glory and majesty and all is at last made manifest, we who watch for that day may inherit the great promise in which now we dare to hope.

And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions, and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven, we sing the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim:
All – Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Memorial Acclamation

P –The mystery of faith.

All–Save us, Savior of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

COMMUNION RITE



All–Our Father . . .

P –Deliver us, Lord . . .

All–For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever.

Sign of Peace

Breaking of the Bread

All–Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. (2×)

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Communion

P –This is the Lord Jesus who opens the eyes of the blind. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his Supper.

All–Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Antiphon

(To be recited only when no Communion Hymn is sung.)

We await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will change our mortal bodies, to conform with his glorified body.
(Cf. Phil 3:20-21)

Prayer after Communion

P –Replenished by the food of spiritual nourishment, we humbly beseech you, O Lord, that, through our partaking in this mystery, you may teach us to judge wisely the things of earth and hold firm to the things of heaven.

Through Christ our Lord.

All–Amen.

CONCLUDING RITES



P –The Lord be with you.

All–And with your spirit.

P –Bow down for the blessing.
(Pause)

–May God grant you a fruitful season of Advent and a deep yearning for the coming of His Son Jesus into your hearts.

All–Amen.

P –May almighty God bless you: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All–Amen.

P –Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

All–Thanks be to God.

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NOVENA PRAYER TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

Divine Jesus, you have said, • “Ask, and you shall receive; • seek, and you shall find; • knock, and it shall be opened unto you.” • Behold me kneeling at your feet, • filled with a lively faith and confidence • in the promises dictated by your Sacred Heart • and pronounced by your adorable lips. • I come to ask this favor:
(Silently mention your petitions.)

To whom can I turn if not to you • whose heart is the source of all graces and merits? • Where should I seek if not in the treasure • which contains all the riches of your kindness and mercy? • Where should I knock • if not at the door through which God gives himself to us • and through which we go to God? • I have recourse to you, Heart of Jesus. • In you I find consolation when afflicted, • protection when persecuted, • strength when burdened with trials, • and light in doubt and darkness.

Dear Jesus, I firmly believe • that you can grant me the grace I implore, • even though it should require a miracle. • You have only to will it, • and my prayer will be granted. • I admit that I am most unworthy of your favors, • but this is not a reason for me to be discouraged. • You are the God of mercy • and you will not refuse a contrite heart. • Cast upon me a look of mercy, I beg of you, • and your kind heart will find in my miseries and weaknesses • a reason for granting my prayer.

O Sacred Heart, • whatever may be your decision with regard to my request, • I will never stop adoring, loving, praising, and serving you. • My Jesus, be pleased to accept this my act of perfect resignation • to the decrees of your adorable heart • which I sincerely desire may be fulfilled • in and by me and by all your creatures for ever.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, • I know that there is but one thing impossible to you: • to be without pity for those who are suffering or in distress. • Look upon me, I beg of you, dear Jesus, • and grant me the grace for which I humbly implore you • through the Immaculate Heart of your most sorrowful Mother. • You have entrusted me to her as her child, • and her prayers are all-powerful with you. • Amen.

THE FAITH THAT MAKES US “SEE”

by Jess P. Balon

The two blind men in the Gospel remind us how precious the gift of sight truly is. Having lived in darkness for so long, they knew what it meant to see—and their joy overflowed when Jesus restored their sight. What we often take for granted, they received with awe and gratitude.

Yet, the miracle of their eyes opening was only part of the story. Even before they could see with their eyes, they already saw with their hearts. Calling Jesus “Son of David,” they recognized Him as the long-awaited Messiah. Their faith gave them a deeper kind of vision—one that many, though physically sighted, could not attain.

Faith, then, is a light that allows us to see beyond appearances. It reveals God’s presence in what others call coincidence, and His guidance in what others call chance. Through faith, we

discover meaning and purpose woven into the events of our lives.

As we look back on the year, faith helps us perceive how God’s hand has led us—protecting, forgiving, strengthening, and inspiring us along the way. It opens our eyes to the truth that everything and everyone around us is a gift, a sign of God’s love.

Faith also transforms how we see others and ourselves. It helps us recognize God’s image in every person and calls us to live as children of light—grateful, generous, and compassionate.

One day, when faith has completed its work, it will lead us to the vision we long for: to see God face to face. Then the light of faith will give way to the fullness of eternal sight, where darkness and doubt will be no more. rious vigor of a plant or tree full of life and colors.

2026 Executive Desk Calendar

Word And Life Publications

Our 2026 Executive Desk Calendar features key moments in the life of Pope Leo XIV. Let's explore more about our Holy Father, Robert Francis Prevost. These milestones show how Pope Leo XIV has profoundly influenced the Church and still guides its followers with compassion and wisdom.

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