

DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE LEGAL PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN (JANUARY 22)

Liturgical Resource

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM), no. 373, designates January 22 as a particular day of prayer and penance, called the “Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children”:

In all the Dioceses of the United States of America, January 22 (or January 23, when January 22 falls on a Sunday) shall be observed as a particular day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion. The liturgical celebrations for this day may be the “Mass For Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life” (no. 48/1 of the Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions), celebrated with white vestments, or the Mass “For the Preservation of Peace and Justice” (no. 30 of the Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions), celebrated with violet vestments.”

The “Mass for Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life” is included in the Roman Missal, Third Edition. It was created specifically for the needs of the United States and may be used for occasions to celebrate the dignity of human life.

Choices of Readings

On January 22, the celebrant may use the readings of the day, any readings from the “Mass for Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life,” (Lectionary for Mass Supplement, nos. 947A-947E), or any readings from the “Mass for Peace and Justice” (Lectionary for Mass, vol. IV, nos. 887-891).

Mass for Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life

The readings listed in nos. 947A-947E are as follows:

947A - Old Testament

- ◆ First option: Genesis 1:1–2:2
- ◆ Second option: 2 Maccabees 7:1, 20-31
- ◆ Third option: Isaiah 49:1-6

947B - New Testament

- ◆ First option: Romans 11:33-36
- ◆ Second option: Ephesians 1:3-14
- ◆ Third option: Ephesians 3:14-21
- ◆ Fourth option: Colossians 1:12-20
- ◆ Fifth option: 1 John 3:11-21

947C - Responsorial Psalm

- ◆ First option: Psalm 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9
- ◆ Second option: Psalm 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 14c-15

947D - Gospel Acclamation

- ◆ First option: Psalm 119:88
- ◆ Second option: See John 6:63c, 68c
- ◆ Third option: See John 17:17b, 17a

947E - Gospel

- ◆ First option: Matthew 18:1-5, 10, 12-14
- ◆ Second option: Mark 9:30-37
- ◆ Third option: Luke 1:39-56
- ◆ Fourth option: Luke 17:11-19
- ◆ Fifth option: Luke 23:35-43
- ◆ Sixth option: John 1:1-5, 9-14, 16-18
- ◆ Seventh option: John 6:24-35

Mass for Peace and Justice

The readings listed in nos. 887-891 are as follows:

887 - Old Testament

- ◆ First option: Isaiah 9:1-6
- ◆ Second option: Isaiah 32:15-18
- ◆ Third option: Isaiah 57:15-19

888 - New Testament

- ◆ First option: Philippians 4:6-9
- ◆ Second option: Colossians 3:12-15
- ◆ Third option: James 3:13-18

889 - Responsorial Psalm

- ◆ First option: Ps 72:2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 11-12, 13-14
- ◆ Second option: Ps 85:9 and 10, 11-12, 13-14
- ◆ Third option: Ps 122:1-2, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9

890 - Gospel Acclamation

- ◆ First option: Matthew 5:9
- ◆ Second option: John 14:27

891 - Gospel

- ◆ First option: Matthew 5:1-12a
- ◆ Second option: Matthew 5:38-48
- ◆ Third option: John 14:23-29
- ◆ Fourth option: John 20:19-23



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