

# THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, STAR OF THE SEA



## LITURGY GUIDE



# **APOSTLESHIP OF THE SEA**

MOST REV. J. KEVIN BOLAND  
BISHOP PROMOTER  
BISHOP EMERITUS OF THE DIOCESE OF SAVANNAH, GA

PREPARED BY USCCB/APOSTLESHIP OF THE SEA  
3211 FOURTH STREET, NE  
WASHINGTON, DC 20017

[WWW.USCCB.ORG/AOS](http://WWW.USCCB.ORG/AOS)  
PHONE: (202) 541-3035 ~ FAX: (202) 541-5417



UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS  
SECRETARIAT OF CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN THE CHURCH  
PASTORAL CARE OF MIGRANTS, REFUGEES AND TRAVELERS

## ***Our Lady Star of the Sea***

*“Stella Maris (‘Star of the Sea’) has long been the favorite title by which seafaring people have called on her in whose protection they have always trusted: the Blessed Virgin Mary. Jesus Christ, her Son, accompanied his disciples in their boat, helped them in their labours and calmed the storms. Thus the Church also accompanies seafarers, taking care of the specific spiritual needs of those who for various reasons live and work in the maritime world”.*

*(From the Apostolic Letter Motu Proprio ‘On the Apostleship of the Sea’, Pope John Paul II, 31 January 1997).*

*The text for the Mass, **The Blessed Virgin Mary, Star of the Sea**, was approved permanently for use in the USA on 21 March 2006 and authorized by the Congregation of Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, in a Decree signed by Francis Cardinal Arinze, Rome, 2 February 2005.*

*The **Apostleship of the Sea logo** denotes the three beacons guiding and welcoming mariners to a safe haven, now and for eternity. The rays of light (faith) reach for and touch the life preserver (hope) while emanating from a warm heart (charity) upon the anchor of stability.*

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CONGREGATIO DE CULTU DIVINO  
ET DISCIPLINA SACRAMENTORUM

Prot. N. 221/06/L

Vatican City, 21 March 2006

Your Excellency,

The Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments is pleased to forward to you the Decree permitting the use of the Latin and English text for the Mass *The Blessed Virgin Mary, Star of the Sea* which is already approved for the Military Ordinariate of England and Wales and the Apostleship of the Sea in the same country.

With prayerful best wishes, I am,

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

( + Albert Malcolm Ranjith )  
Archbishop Secretary

Enclosures

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His Excellency  
The Most Rev. CURTIS J. GUILLORY, S.V.D., D.D.  
Bishop of Beaumont  
Bishop Promotor  
Apostleship of the Sea  
U.S.A.



CONGREGATIO DE CULTU DIVINO  
ET DISCIPLINA SACRAMENTORUM

Prot. N. 221/06 /L.

**BELLOMONTENSIS**

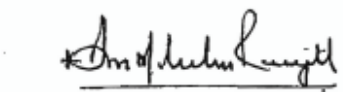
Instante Excellentissimo Domino Curtis J. Guillory, Episcopo Bellomontensi, Promotore Apostolatus Maris apud Conferentiam Episcoporum Civitatum Foederatarum Americae, litteris die 7 februarii 2006 datis, vigore facultatum huic Congregationi a Summo Pontifice BENEDICTO XVI tributarum, perlibenter concedimus ut textus *latinus et anglicus* Missae et Lectionarii in honorem Beatae Mariae Virginis, v.d. "*The Blessed Virgin Mary, Star of the Sea*", qui pro Ordinariatu Militari Magnae Britanniae: Apostolatus Maris, confirmatus est (die 4 iunii 2005, Prot. N. 229/03/L), adhiberi valeat.

In textu imprimendo inseratur ex integro hoc Decretum, quo ab Apostolica Sede petita confirmatio conceditur. Eiusdem textus impressi duo exemplaria ad hanc Congregationem transmittantur.

Contrariis quibuslibet minime obstantibus.

Ex aedibus Congregationis de Cultu Divino et Disciplina Sacramentorum, die 21 martii 2006.

  
( + Franciscus Card. Arinze )  
Praefectus

  
( + Albertus Malcolm Ranjith )  
Archiepiscopus a Secretis

## MASS OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, *STELLA MARIS*

### Entry Antiphon

A great portent appeared in heaven:  
a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon beneath her feet,  
and on her head a crown of twelve stars.

(Apocalypse 12,1)

### Opening Prayer

Lord God, redeemer and inspiration of souls,  
in the Blessed Virgin Mary, Star of the Sea,  
you have provided a light in the storm.  
By her favor and prayer,  
grant that we may set a course through these times  
to reach our safe haven in heaven with you.  
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God for ever and ever. Amen.

### Liturgy of the Word

1st Reading Wisdom 14:1-7

*"You have established a steady path through the waves".*

Again, one preparing for a voyage and about to traverse the wild waves cries out to wood more unsound than the boat that bears him. For the urge for profits devised this latter, and Wisdom the artificer produced it. But your providence, O Father! guides it, for you have furnished even in the sea a road, and through the waves a steady path, showing that you can save from any danger, so that even one without skill may embark. But you will that the products of your Wisdom be not idle; therefore men trust their lives even to frailest wood, and have been safe crossing the surge on a raft. For of old, when the proud giants were being destroyed, the hope of the universe, who took refuge on a raft, left to the world a future for his race, under the guidance of your hand. For blest is the wood through which justice comes about;

## **Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 106, 2-3; 4-5; 6-7; 8-9.

R/. Trust in the Lord, for his mercy endures for ever.

Who can tell the mighty deeds of the LORD,  
proclaim in full God's praise?  
Happy those who do what is right,  
whose deeds are always just.

R/. Trust in the Lord, for his mercy endures for ever.

Remember me, LORD, as you favor your people;  
come to me with your saving help,  
That I may see the prosperity of your chosen,  
rejoice in the joy of your people, and glory with your heritage.

R/. Trust in the Lord, for his mercy endures for ever.

We have sinned like our ancestors; we have done wrong and are guilty.  
Our ancestors in Egypt did not attend to your wonders.  
They did not remember your great love;  
they defied the Most High at the Red Sea.

R/. Trust in the Lord, for his mercy endures for ever.

Yet he saved them for his name's sake to make his power known.  
He roared at the Red Sea and it dried up.  
He led them through the deep as through a desert.

R/. Trust in the Lord, for his mercy endures for ever.

## **Alleluia**

Numbers 24, 17

A star shall come out of Jacob,  
and a scepter shall rise out of Israel.

## **Gospel**

Luke 1:26-38

*"You have established a steady path through the waves".*

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

### **Prayer over the gifts**

Accept, Lord, these gifts which we offer.  
As we honor the Virgin Mary, Star of the Sea,  
grant us the never-failing light  
of the word and example of your only Son  
to guide our steps.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Preface**

Father in heaven, almighty and eternal God,  
it is our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks  
through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ.

Salvation is in his name alone.  
Before his rule every knee shall bow,  
in heaven, on earth and under the earth.

In your kind providence  
you have established that the name of the Virgin Mary  
should be celebrated among the faithful,  
to look to her as a star shining in the firmament,  
to call upon her in danger,  
and to fly to her embrace in their needs.

And so we join the angels and saints  
in proclaiming your glory as we say:

### **Communion antiphon**

We saw his star rising in the East,  
and we have come to pay homage to the Lord.

(cf Matthew 2,2)

### **Closing Prayer**

You have nourished us, Lord, with this sacred banquet  
as we celebrate the Blessed Virgin Mary, Star of the Sea.  
With the light of Mary to guide us,  
may we come to enjoy the splendor of your only Son.  
We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God for ever and ever. Amen.



# THE BLESSED VIRGIN, MARY STAR OF THE SEA

## LITURGY OF THE HOURS

### The Office of Readings

#### Second Reading

From the writing of St. Bernard of Clairvaux

*(In praise of the Virgin Mary, Hom II, 17: SCh 390, PP168-170)*

*Depend upon the star, call upon Mary*

Let us say a few word on this name, Stella Maris, which means star of the sea, and which is appropriately accorded to the Virgin Mother. Fittingly is she compared to the stars, since just as a star gives light without burning itself out, so the virgin gave birth to her son without stain to herself. As a star's light does not lessen its own brightness so neither does the Son lessen the Virgin's wholeness. She is therefore that noble *star rising from Jacob* which casts light over the whole world; whose splendor shines to the heavens and reaches down into the deep; which crosses the earth, warming spirits rather than bodies; fostering goodness and purging sins.

And so I say that she is that bright and distinguished star to be raised above this vast ocean, sparkling with merit, shining with character. Whoever you may be, grasp that, as this age runs its course, you are tossed on the waves by gales and storms more than you walk upon dry land; do not turn your eyes from the beam of this star if you do not wish to be swamped by the storm! If the winds of temptation engulf you, if you are running onto the rocks of adversity, depend upon the star, call upon Mary. If you are thrown about on the waves of pride or ambition, speaking ill of others or jealousy, depend upon the star, call upon Mary. If anger or greed or the cares of the flesh batter your soul's boat, depend upon Mary. If you are unsettled by the hideousness of your sins, troubled by a bad conscience, terrified by the horror of the final judgment; if you are beginning to be dragged down into the pit of sadness, into the abyss of despair, reflect upon Mary. In danger; in distress, in doubt, reflect upon Mary, call upon Mary. Let her not leave your lips, let her not leave your heart and do not abandon your dealings with her if you wish to gain the object of your prayer.

Following her, you will not stray; praying to her, you will not despair; reflecting upon her, you will not go wrong. With her taking your hand, you will not fall down; with her protecting you, you will not fear; with her leading you, you will not grow weary; with her favor, you will accomplish; and thus you will learn for yourself how truly it is said: *And the Virgin's name was Mary.*

But now, having pause for a moment, let us all who are passing through this life gaze upon the brightness of such a light. For in the words of the Apostle, *It is good for us to be here*, and it is pleasing to contemplate in silence what which many words fail to explain. In the meantime, while contemplating devotedly the shining star, the debate will be rekindled in what follows.

Response:

R/. Virgin mother of Christ, you brought to birth the very likeness of God; shining star of the sea, watch over and protect us. \*As you give birth and rejoice, the hosts of heaven sing praises.

V/. Pray to God for us O Virgin Mary. \*As you give birth ...

Benedictus antiphon:

Mary and running streams, O bless the Lord: springs of water, O sing to the Lord, alleluia.

Magnificat antiphon:

This star is like a blazing fire, which shows the King of kings as God, alleluia.

Front Cover: *The **Icon of Our Lady Star of the Sea**, which adorns the cover of this program, was painted in the neo-Coptic style by internationally renowned iconographer Dr. Stephane Rene. The Coptic icon is the direct heir to the spirituality of the Desert Fathers who were the first Christian Monks (Coptic period 2nd to 7th centuries) and lived in the deserts of the Middle East. St. Jerome was a Desert Father and he indentified in his writings that Mary, the Mother of God was the 'Star of the Sea'.*

Back Cover: *Logo for the Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church, created by Laura James, an award winning artist of religious and secular art.*

