

The feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary was instituted to solemnize the exalted dignity bestowed upon her through a special grace of God, and in behalf of the merits of Christ – a dignity and choice that preserved her from the least stain of original sin.

We must look to the Orient for the first indications of this feast. In the Eastern Church it was observed as early as the Seventh Century, and in the Western Church it became known in the Ninth Century. Pope Sixtus IV introduced it (1476) into the Roman Church; Pope Gregory XV gave to it (1622) the title, "*Conceptio B. V.M. Immaculatre*"; Innocent XII raised it (1693) to a feast of the second class with an octave; Clement XI declared it (1708) a universal holyday; Pius IX gave it (1863) new Breviary hours and a new Mass; Leo XIII raised it (1879) to a feast of the first class with a vigil. The choice of December 8 was determined and approved solely in accordance with its tradition. The First Plenary Council of Baltimore, held in 1846, chose the Blessed Virgin Mary in her Immaculate Conception as the principal patron of the United States.

INTROIT Isaiah 61: 10

Gaudens gaudébo in Dómino, et exultábit ánima mea in Deo meo: quia índuit me vestiméntis salútis: et induménto justífiæ circúmdedit me, quasi sponsam ornátam monílibus suis. (Ps. 29: 2) Exaltábo te, Dómine, quóniam suscepisti me: nec delectásti inimícos meos super me. Glória Patri et Fílio et Spirítui Sancto, sicut erat in princípíio, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. Gaudens gaudébo in Dómino, et exultábit ánima mea in Deo meo: quia índuit me vestiméntis salútis: et induménto justífiæ circúmdedit me, quasi sponsam ornátam monílibus suis.

COLLECT

Deus, qui per immaculátam Vírginis Conceptionem dignum Fílio tuo habitáculum præparásti: quæsumus, ut, qui ex morte ejúsdem Fílii tui prævísa, eam ab omni labe præservásti, nec quoque mundos ejus intercessióne ad te pervenire concédas. Per eúndem Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spirítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

Commemoration of the Advent feria

Éxcita, Dómine, corda nostra ad præparándas Unigéniti tui vias: ut per ejus adventum, purificátis tibi méntibus servíre mereámur. Qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spirítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

LESSON Proverbs 8: 22-35

Dóminus possédit me in inítio víarum suárum, ántequam quidquam fáceret a princípíio. Ab ætérno ordináta sum, et ex antíquis ántequam terra fieret. Nondum erant abyssi, et ego jam concépta eram: necdum fontes aquárum erúperant: necdum montes gravi mole constíterant: ante colles ego parturíbar: adhuc terras non fécerat, et flúmina ante cárcines orbis terræ. Quando præparábat cælus, áderam: quando certa lege, et gyro vallábat abyssos: quando æthera firmábat sursum, et librábat fontes aquárum: quando circúmdabat mari términum suum, et legem ponébat aquis, ne transírent fines suas: quando appendébat fundaménta terræ. Cum eo eram cuncta compónens: et delectábar per singulos dies, ludens coram eo omni témpore: ludens in orbe terrárum: et delíciæ meæ esse cum fíliis hóminum. Nunc ergo, fílii, audíte me: Beáti, qui custódiunt vias meas. Audíte disciplinam, et estóte sapiéntes, et nolíte abjícere eam. Beátus homo, qui audit me, et qui vígilat ad fores meas quotidie, et obsérvat ad postes óstii mei. Qui me invénerit, invéniet vitam, et háuriet salutem a Dómino.

GRADUAL Judith 13: 23

Benedícta es tu, Virgo María, a Dómino Deo excélsio, præ omnibus muliéribus super terram. (Judith 13:10) Tu glória, Jerúsalem, tu lætítia Isráel, tu honorificéntia pópuli nostri.

LESSER ALLELUIA

Song of Solomon 4: 7

Allelúja, allelúja. Tota pulchra es, María, et mácula originális non est in te. Allelúja.

GOSPEL Luke 1: 26-28

In illo témpore: Missus est Ángelus Gábríel a Deo in civitátem Galilææ, cui nomen Názareth, ad Vírginem desponsátam viro, cui nomen erat Joseph, de dómo David et nomen Vírginis, de dómo David. Et ingressus Ángelus ad eam dixit: Ave, grátia plena: Dóminus tecum: benedícta tu in muliéribus.

OFFERTORY Luke 1: 28

Ave, María, gratia plena: Dóminus tecum: benedícta tu in muliéribus, allelúja.

SECRET

Salutárem hóstiam, quam in solemnitate Immaculátæ Conceptionis beátæ Vírginis Mariæ tibi, Dómine, offérimus, súscipe et præsta: ut, sicut illam tua grátia præveniénte ab omni labe immúnem profitémur; ita ejus intercessióne a culpís ómnibus liberémur. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spirítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

Commemoration of the Advent feria

Placáre, quæsumus, Dómine, humilitátis nostræ préciibus et hóstiis: et ubi nulla súppetunt suffrágia meritórum, tuis nobis succúrre præsiidiis. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spirítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

PREFACE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Vere dignum et justum est, æquum et salútare, nos tibi semper, et ubique gratias ágere: Dómine Dómine, Pater omnipotens, ætérne Deus. Et te in solemnitate immaculátæ conceptionis beátæ Mariæ semper vírginis collaudáre, benedícere, et prædicáre. Quæ et Unigénitum tuum Sancti Spirítus obumbratióne concépit: et virginitátis glória permanénite, lumen ætérnum mundo effúdit, Jesum Christum Dóminum nostrum. Per quem majestátem tuam laudant Ángeli, adórant Dominatiónes, tremunt Potestátes. Cæli cælórúmque Virtútes, ac beáta Séraphim, sócia exultatióne concélebrant. Cum quibus et nostras voces, ut admitti júbeas, deprecámur, súpplici confessióne dicéntes:

COMMUNION

Gloriósia dicta sunt de te, María: quia fecit tibi magna qui potens est.

POSTCOMMUNION

Sacramenta quæ súmpsimus, Dómine Deus noster: illius in nobis culpæ vúlnera réperit: a qua immaculátam beátæ Mariæ Conceptionem singularíter præservásti. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spirítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

Commemoration of the Advent feria

Repleti cibo spirituális alimóniæ, súpplices te, Dómine, deprecámur: ut nos participatióne mysterii, dóceas hujus terrénæ percipere et amare cælestia. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spirítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, and my soul shall be joyful in my God: for He hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, and with the robe of justice He hath covered me, as a bride adorned with her jewels. (Ps. 29: 2) I will extol Thee, O Lord, for Thou hast upheld me: and hast not made my enemies to rejoice over me. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, and my soul shall be joyful in my God: for He hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, and with the robe of justice He hath covered me, as a bride adorned with her jewels.

O God, Who, by the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin, didst prepare a worthy dwelling-place for Thy Son: we beseech Thee, that as by the foreseen death of the same Thy Son, Thou didst preserve her from all stain, so Thou wouldst grant unto us also, through her intercession, to come unto Thee with clean hearts. Through the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way of Thine only-begotten Son: that through His coming we may attain to serve Thee with purified minds. Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

The Lord possessed me in the beginning of His ways, before He made anything, from the beginning. I was set up from eternity, and of old, before the earth was made. The depths were not as yet, and I was already conceived; neither had the fountains of waters as yet sprung out; the mountains with their huge bulk had not as yet been established: before the hills I was brought forth; He had not yet made the earth, nor the rivers, nor the poles of the world. When He prepared the heavens, I was there; when with a certain law and compass He enclosed the depths; when He established the sky above; and poised the fountains of waters; when He compassed the sea with its bounds, and set a law to the waters that they should not pass their limits; when He balanced the foundations of the earth; I was with Him, forming all things, and was delighted every day, playing before Him at all times, playing in the world: and my delight is to be with the children of men. Now therefore, ye children, hear me: blessed are they that keep my ways. Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not. Blessed is the man that heareth me, and that watcheth daily at my gates, and waiteth at the posts of my doors. He that shall find me, shall find life, and shall have salvation from the Lord.

Blessed art thou, O Virgin Mary, by the Lord the most high God, above all women upon the earth. (Judith 13:10) Thou art the glory of Jerusalem, thou art the joy of Israel, thou art the honor of our people.

Alleluia, alleluia. Thou art all fair, O Mary, and there is in thee no stain of original sin.

At that time: the Angel Gabriel was sent from God into a city of Galilee, called Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David: and the virgin's name was Mary. And the Angel being come in, said unto her: Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.

Hail Mary, full of grace; the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women, alleluia.

Receive the saving Victim we offer to Thee, O Lord, on the solemn feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary: and grant that, as we confess that by Thy preventing grace she was kept free from every stain of sin; so, by her intercession, we may be delivered from all our offenses. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Be appeased, we beseech Thee, O Lord, by the prayers and sacrifices of our humility: and where no pleadings of merit suffice, do Thou, by Thine aid, assist us. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who with Thee lives and reigns in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

It truly meet and just, right and for our salvation, that we always and everywhere give thanks unto Thee, O holy Lord, Father almighty, everlasting God: and that we should praise and bless, and proclaim Thee, in the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Mary, ever-Virgin: Who also conceived Thine only-begotten Son by the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit, and the glory of her virginity still abiding, gave forth to the world the everlasting Light, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through whom the Angels praise Thy Majesty, the Dominations adore it, the Powers tremble: the heavens and the hosts of heaven, and the blessed Seraphim, together celebrate in exultation. With whom, we pray Thee, command that our voices of supplication also be joined in acknowledging Thee saying:

Glorious things are told of thee, O Mary, for He Who is mighty has done great things unto thee.

May the Sacraments which we have received, O Lord, our God, from which in us the wounds of that sin, from which Thou didst alone preserve the Immaculate Conception of Blessed Mary. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Filled with the food of spiritual nourishment, we humbly entreat Thee, O Lord, that by our partaking of this Mystery, Thou wouldst teach us to despise the things of earth, and to love those of heaven. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.