

# How To Pray The Divine Office In Common

(+) Indicates that the sign of the cross is to be made by everyone.

## Prior To Prayer

Among the group, there must be four individuals selected to help guide the Divine Office prayer and they are: Leader, Acolyte One, Acolyte Two and Reader. The group is divided into two sections: Acolyte One's Side and Acolyte Two's Side.

## St. Francis's Prayer

*"We adore you, most Holy Lord Jesus Christ, here and in all your churches throughout the world, and we bless you because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world."*

(To be recited prior to and at the end of praying the Divine Office)

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## DIVINE OFFICE PRAYER

Leader: (+) *"O God, come to our assistance"*

Everyone Else: *"Lord, make haste to help us"*

Leader: *"Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit"*

Everyone Else: *"As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen. Alleluia."*

**Hymn**: All sing the designated hymn or recite it antiphonally

## PSALMODY

At certain points in the Divine Office prayer, instead of a psalm there is a canticle. Prayers for canticles follow the same guidelines for psalms.

### First Psalm

#### *Antiphon 1*

Acolyte One: ALONE, prays Antiphon 1 and the first verse of the first strophe of the psalm

Acolyte One's Side: Join Acolyte One at the SECOND verse of the first strophe of the psalm and pray the remainder of the first strophe together

Acolyte Two's Side: TOGETHER, all pray the second strophe

Acolyte One's Side: TOGETHER, all pray the third strophe

~ Acolyte One and Two's side continue to pray the remaining strophes alternatively, back and forth, until the psalm is completed.

~ After the psalm is completed, which ever side completed the psalm, the other side prays, *"Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and the Holy Spirit"* and the side that completed the psalm responds, *"As it was in the beginning is now and will be forever. Amen."*

### Psalm Prayer

Acolyte One: ALONE, prays the psalm prayer.

#### *Antiphon 1*

Everyone: TOGETHER, repeat Antiphon 1.

## **Second Psalm**

### ***Antiphon 2***

Acolyte Two: ALONE, prays Antiphon 2 and the first verse of the first strophe of the psalm

Acolyte Two's Side: Join Acolyte Two at the SECOND verse of the first strophe of the psalm and pray the remainder of the first strophe together

Acolyte One's Side: TOGETHER, all pray the second strophe

Acolyte Two's Side: TOGETHER, all pray the third strophe

~ Same guidelines as noted in First Psalm

### ***Psalm Prayer***

Acolyte Two: ALONE, prays the psalm prayer.

### ***Antiphon 2***

Everyone: TOGETHER, repeat Antiphon 2.

## **Third Psalm**

To be prayed as per guidelines for the First Psalm.

## **READING**

Reader: The Reader reads the Scripture passage and once finished, PAUSES to give everyone a few moments for reflection.

## **RESPONSORY**

Reader: ALONE, the Reader reads the first part of the Responsory

Everyone Else: Reply with the second part (typically noted with a dashed line)

## **CANTICLE OF MARY**

Acolyte One: (+) ALONE prays the Canticle antiphon and the first verse of the first strophe

Acolyte One's Side: Join Acolyte One at the SECOND verse of the first strophe and pray the remainder of the first strophe together

Acolyte Two's Side: TOGETHER, pray the second strophe

Acolyte One's Side: TOGETHER, pray the third strophe

~ Same guidelines as noted in First Psalm

## **INTERCESSIONS**

Leader: Announces the intercessions

Everyone Else: Respond with the italicized part

Acolyte One: Prays the first part of the intercession

Everyone Else: Responds with the second part (typically noted with a dashed line)

~ At the end of the intercessions, there is a quiet moment to silently think about prayer intentions.

Leader: ALONE begins to pray the Lord's Prayer.

Everyone else: Immediately joins in.

Leader: ALONE, prays the closing prayer and the appropriate blessing (+) "*May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life. Amen*"