

**PROPER CALENDAR
OF THE CONGREGATION OF THE
MISSIONARIES OF THE MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD**

February

4	Saint Maria de Mattias, virgin Foundress of the Congregation of the Sisters Adorers of the Blood of Christ	memorial
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May

12	The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Mercy	optional memorial
24	The Blessed Virgin Mary, Help of Christians Secondary Patron of the Congregation	memorial

July

1	The Most Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ Titular Solemnity of the Congregation	solemnity
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September

15	Our Lady of Sorrows, “Woman of the New Covenant”	memorial
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October

21	Saint Gaspar del Bufalo, priest Founder of the Congregation	solemnity
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December

3	Saint Francis Xavier, priest Patron of the Congregation	feast
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**PROPER CALENDAR
OF THE CONGREGATION OF THE
SISTERS ADORERS OF THE BLOOD OF CHRIST**

February

4	Saint Maria de Mattias, virgin Foundress of the Congregation	solemnity
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May

24	The Blessed Virgin Mary, Help of Christians	memorial
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July

1	The Most Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ Titular Solemnity of the Congregation	solemnity
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15	Our Lady of Sorrows, “Woman of the New Covenant” Patron of the Congregation	solemnity
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21	Saint Gaspar del Bufalo, priest Inspirer of the Congregation Founder of the Congregation of the Missionaries of the Most Precious Blood	feast
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December

3	Saint Francis Xavier, priest Secondary Patron of the Congregation	memorial
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February 4

**SAINT MARIA DE MATTIAS, VIRGIN
Foundress of Congregation of the Sisters
Adorers of the Blood of Christ**

**Solemnity for ASC
Memorial for CPPS**

Maria De Mattias was born on February 4, 1805, at Vallecorsa (Frosinone) in Italy. As a child, she learned from her father that Jesus, the Paschal Lamb, shed his Blood for us sinners. During the years of her adolescence, she discovered in the Crucified Christ the supreme proof of the infinite love of God for every person. She felt the need to consecrate her whole self to God through the adoration of the mystery of the Cross and through service to her brothers and sisters. Inspired by St. Gaspar del Bufalo, founder of the Missionaries of the Most Precious Blood, and guided by Venerable Giovanni Merlini, the third General Moderator of that Congregation, Maria discovered that God had a great plan for her. On March 4, 1834, at Acuto (Frosinone) she founded the Congregation of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ to collaborate in the work of the world's redemption. The spirit of the Congregation is expressed well in the words of Maria De Mattias: "Charity toward God and toward our dear neighbor". Maria De Mattias died at Rome on August 20, 1866.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

All you peoples, clap your hands,
shout to God with cries of gladness.
The Lord, our God,
has visited and redeemed us,
in his Son, Jesus Christ.

cf. Ps 47:1; 99:2; Lk 1:68

The Gloria is said where solemnity is celebrated

COLLECT

Father most holy, who in your loving plan
adorned Saint Maria De Mattias
with exceptional gifts of grace
so that in the Church she might be
a witness to the blood of Christ;
grant that, through her intercession, we may
faithfully adore the Lamb without blemish who died and rose for us,
celebrate with thanksgiving the new and eternal covenant in his blood

and with zeal proclaim to all peoples the power of the love of Christ crucified.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

FIRST READING

The word of the Lord was addressed to me.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah
1:4-9

The word of the LORD came to me thus:
Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
before you were born I dedicated you,
a prophet to the nations I appointed you.
“Ah, Lord GOD!” I said,
“I know not how to speak; I am too young.”

But the Lord answered me,
Say not, “I am too young.”
To whomever I send you, you shall go;
whatever I command you, you shall speak.
Have no fear before them,
because I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD.

Then the Lord extended his hand and touched my mouth saying,
See, I place my words in your mouth!

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps. 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9

R. Lord, give us the joy of proclaiming your word.

O God, you are my God whom I seek;
for you my flesh pines and my soul thirsts
like the earth, parched, lifeless and without water. **R.**

Thus have I gazed toward you in the sanctuary
to see your power and your glory,
For your kindness is a greater good than life;
my lips shall glorify you. **R.**

Thus will I bless you while I live;
lifting up my hands, I will call upon your name.
As with the riches of a banquet
shall my soul be satisfied,

and with exultant lips my mouth shall praise you. **R.**

I will remember you upon my couch,
and through the night-watches I will meditate on you:
you are my help,
and in the shadow of your wings I shout for joy. **R.**

My soul clings fast to you;
your right hand upholds me. **R.**

SECOND READING

You are redeemed with the Precious Blood of Christ, as of a spotless unblemished Lamb.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Peter
1:16-21

Beloved, thus says the Lord: "You will be holy, because I am holy."
If you invoke as Father him who judges impartially
according to each one's works,
conduct yourselves with reverence during the time of your sojourning,
realizing that you were ransomed from your futile conduct,
handed on by your ancestors,
not with perishable things like silver or gold
but with the precious blood of Christ
as of a spotless unblemished Lamb.

He was known before the foundation of the world
but revealed in the final time for you,
who through him believe in God
who raised him from the dead and gave him glory,
so that your faith and hope are in God.

The word of the Lord.

VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL

From the Easter Sequence

R. Alleluia, alleluia.
Tell us, Mary:
what did you see along the way?
"The tomb of the living Christ,
the glory of Christ arisen."
R. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

She went immediately and announced to the disciples: "I have seen the Lord".

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
20:1-2, 11-18

On the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early in the morning,
while it was still dark,
and saw the stone removed from the tomb.

So she ran and went to Simon Peter
and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them,
“They have taken the Lord from the tomb,
and we don’t know where they put him.”

Mary stayed outside the tomb weeping.
And as she wept, she bent over into the tomb
and saw two angels in white sitting there,
one at the head and one at the feet
where the Body of Jesus had been.
And they said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?”
She said to them, “They have taken my Lord, and I don’t know where they laid him.”

When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus there,
but did not know it was Jesus.
Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?
Whom are you looking for?”
She thought it was the gardener and said to him,
“Sir, if you carried him away,
tell me where you laid him,
and I will take him.”

Jesus said to her, “Mary!”
She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni”,
which means “Teacher”.
Jesus said to her, “Stop holding on to me,
for I have not yet ascended to the Father.
But go to my brothers and tell them,
‘I am going to my Father and your Father,
to my God and your God.’”

Mary went and announced to the disciples,
“I have seen the Lord,”
and then reported what he told her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

The Profession of Faith is said where solemnity is celebrated

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Let the dew of your Spirit, O Lord,
descend upon these gifts that we devoutly offer you
on the feast of Saint Maria De Mattias,
and grant that, purified by the Blood of the Lamb,
like her, we may be consumed by apostolic love.
Through Christ our Lord.

PREFACE

The mission of Saint Maria De Mattias

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.

You, Father, are the source of life and font of holiness;
in your providential love, you chose Saint Maria De Mattias
and adorned her with the gifts of the Spirit,
so that in the Church, she might be
a herald of the light of the divine Word,
a messenger of reconciliation and peace,
a fearless witness of the Precious Blood of Christ,
and of the salvific glory of the cross.

In her life you offered us a sign of your love
for the poor, for sinners,
for exiles and the excluded.
Her example encourages us
to travel the highways of the world
directing our steps toward you.

And so, with all the Angels and Saints,
we sing the hymn of your praise
and acclaim without end:

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Blessed are those who have been called
to the wedding feast of the Lamb. **Rv. 19:9**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May the Body and Blood of Christ,
which we have joyfully received on the feast of Saint Maria De Mattias,
sustain us, as we journey toward the heavenly homeland,
so that our lives may become

an unending hymn of praise
and an everlasting thank-offering.
Through Christ our Lord.

May 12

THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, MOTHER OF MERCY (1)

Optional Memorial for CPPS

This memorial observes an extraordinary event that occurred in Rimini, Italy, in 1850, in the church of St. Clare, staffed by the Missionaries of the Most Precious Blood. In a painting of the Virgin Mary, under the title of Mother of Mercy, the eyes of the image were seen moving by countless citizens and visitors. “The pupils of the sacred image were raised up toward heaven and then lowered toward the faithful. At times the eyes were shining like stars, other times as if shedding tears. The face would appear sometime rose-colored and then pale”. The miracle was immediately submitted to the Bishop for the proper investigation; he declared the authenticity of the motion of the eyes that had taken place for several months, from May 12 to December, 1850.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Hail, Queen of mercy,
glorious Mother of Christ,
comfort of the repentant and hope of the poor.

OPENING PRAYER

O God, whose mercy is without measure,
through the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
mother of mercy,
grant that we may know your loving kindness on earth
and come at last to the glory of heaven.

We make our prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Or :

All-holy Father,
hear the prayers of your children,
weighed down by our sinfulness,
as we turn to you and call upon the merciful love
that moved you to send your Son as Savior of the world
and to enthrone holy Mary as queen of mercy.

We make our prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, for ever and ever.

FIRST READING

God, rich in mercy.

From the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

2:4-10

My brothers and sisters, God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love he had for us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with Christ, raised us up with him, and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so no one may boast. For we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 103

R. The Lord's mercy is everlasting.

Bless the Lord, my soul;
all my being, bless his holy name!
Bless the Lord, my soul;
do not forget all the gifts of God. **R.**

Who pardons all your sins,
heals all your ills,
delivers your life from the pit,
surrounds you with love and compassion. **R.**

The Lord does righteous deeds,
brings justice to all the oppressed.
Merciful and gracious is the Lord,
slow to anger, abounding in kindness. **R.**

As a father has compassion on his children,
so the Lord has compassion on the faithful.
But the Lord's kindness is forever,
He favors the children's children
of those who keep his covenant. **R.**

VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Hail, Mother of the Lord,
queen of mercy,
you are comfort for the world

and hope for the downcast.

R. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

From generation to generation his mercy is on those who fear him.

From the Gospel according to Luke

11:39-55

During those days, Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

And Mary said:

"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;
my spirit rejoices in God my savior.
For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness;
behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed.
The Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is from age to age
to those who fear him.
He has shown might with his arm,
dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart.
He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones
but lifted up the lowly.
The hungry he has filled with good things;
the rich he has sent away empty.
He has helped Israel his servant,
remembering his mercy,
according to his promise to our fathers,

to Abraham and to his descendants
forever."

The gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
receive the gift of your people,
and grant that as we look up
to the Blessed Virgin, mother of mercy,
we may show ourselves merciful to others
and receive your pardon toward us.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

PREFACE

Mary queen of compassion and mother of mercy

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And also with you.

V. Lift up your hearts.

R. We lift them up to the Lord.

V. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R. It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Father, all-powerful and ever-living God,
we do well always and everywhere
to give you thanks,
and, as we celebrate the memory of the blessed Virgin Mary,
to proclaim with fitting praise
the greatness of your name.

She is the gracious queen
who has herself uniquely known your loving kindness
and stretches out her arms
to embrace all who take refuge in her
and call upon her help in their distress.

She is the mother of mercy,
always attentive to the voice of her children,
seeking to win your compassion for them,
and asking your forgiveness for their sins.

She is the handmade of your love,
never ceasing to pray for us to your Son
that he may enrich our poverty with his grace

and strengthen our weakness with his power.

Through him the angels of heaven
offer their prayer of adoration
as they rejoice in your presence for ever
May our voices be one with theirs
in their triumphant hymn of praise:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
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.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON “Be merciful as your Father is merciful.” **Lk 6:36**

Or:

The Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is His Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him in every
generation. **Lk 1:49-50**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord God,
you have given us food and drink from heaven;
grant that we may always praise your mercy
in company with the Blessed Virgin
and rejoice in her protection,
for we acknowledge her as our queen,
compassionate to sinners
and merciful to the poor.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

*(1) From the Masses of the Blessed Virgin Mary, n. 39
Lectionary of the Masses of the Blessed Virgin Mary, n 39, II*

May 24

BLESSED VIRGIN MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS (1)

Memorial for CPPS and ASC

The liturgical celebration of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Help of Christians, was instituted in 1814 by Pope Pius VII during a difficult time of the Church and for the end of his exile. St. Gaspar del Bufalo, who also returned to Rome at the same time after four years in exile, wished to have the Blessed Virgin Mary, Help of Christians as patron of his Congregation. He consecrated all his ministries to her and directed that her image be exposed for veneration during the missions, and that her feast be celebrated annually in the churches of the Congregation. St. Maria De Mattias also loved this devotion very much, as we read in the Rule of 1838 and in many of the letters addressed to her daughters.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Your deed of hope will never be forgotten
by those who tell of the might of God. **Jdt 13:19**

OPENING PRAYER

Lord our God,
you chose the mother of your beloved Son
to be the mother and help of Christians;
grant that we may live under her protection
and that your Church may enjoy unbroken peace.
We make our prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

FIRST READING

A great sign appeared in the sky.

From the book of Revelation of St. John the Apostle
12:1-3, 7-12, 17

A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was with child and wailed aloud in pain as she labored to give birth.

Then another sign appeared in the sky; it was a huge red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on its heads were seven diadems.

Then war broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels battled against the dragon. The dragon and its angels fought back, but they did not prevail and there was no longer any place for them in heaven.

The huge dragon, the ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, who deceived the whole world, was thrown down to earth, and its angels were thrown down with it. Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say:

"Now have salvation and power come,
and the kingdom of our God
and the authority of his Anointed.
For the accuser of our brothers is cast out,
who accuses them before our God
day and night.
They conquered him
by the blood of the Lamb
and by the word of their testimony;
love for life did not deter them from death.
Therefore, rejoice, you heavens,
and you who dwell in them."

Then the dragon became angry with the woman
and went off to wage war
against the rest of her offspring,
those who keep God's commandments and bear witness to Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

Or:

I will put enmity between you and the woman.

From the book of Genesis

3:1-6, 13-15

Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the animals that the Lord God had made. The serpent asked the woman, "Did God really tell you not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?" The woman answered the serpent: "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; it is only about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden that God said, 'You shall not eat it or even touch it, lest you die.'"

But the serpent said to the woman: "You certainly will not die! No, God knows well that the moment you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods who know what is good and what is bad."

The woman saw that the tree was good for food, pleasing to the eyes, and desirable for gaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

The Lord God then asked the woman, "Why did you do such a thing?" The woman answered, "The serpent tricked me into it, so I ate it."

Then the Lord God said to the serpent:
"Because you have done this, you shall be banned from all the animals
and from all the wild creatures;
on your belly shall you crawl, and dirt shall you eat
all the days of your life.
I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
He will strike at your head,
while you strike at his heel."

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM
Jdt 16: 13-15

R. Exalt and invoke the name of the Lord.

A new hymn I will sing to my God.
O Lord, great are you and glorious,
wonderful in power and unsurpassable. **R.**

Let your every creature serve you;
for you spoke, and they were made,
You sent forth your spirit, and they were created;
no one can resist your word. **R.**

The mountains to their bases,
and the seas, are shaken;
the rocks, like wax, melt before your glance.
But to those who fear you, you are very merciful. **R.**

VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL
Cf Lk 1: 45

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed are you, O Virgin Mary,
because you believed;
the word of the Lord was fulfilled in you.

R. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Thus Jesus began his miracles.

From the Gospel according to John

2: 1-11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding.

When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servers, "Do whatever he tells you."

Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings, each holding twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus told them, "Fill the jars with water." So they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, "Draw some out now and bring it to the headwaiter." So they brought it to him.

And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine, without knowing where it came from (although the servers who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves good wine first, and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one; but you have kept the good wine until now."

Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs at Cana in Galilee and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
we offer you this sacrifice of praise
as we rejoice in this memorial of the mother of your Son;
grant that through the help of so great a mother
we may find you coming to our rescue in every trial.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

PREFACE

Virgin Mary Mother and Help of the Christian people

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

V. Lift up your hearts.

R. We lift them up to the Lord.

V. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
R. It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Father, all-powerful and ever-living God,
we do well always and everywhere
to give you thanks
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

You chose the immaculate Virgin Mary,
the mother of your Son
to be the mother and help of Christians,
so that under her protection
we might be fearless in waging the battle of faith,
steadfast in holding the teachings of the apostles,
and tranquil in spirit in the storm of this world,
until we reach the joy of your heavenly city.

With steadfast love
we sing your unending praise;
we join with the host of heaven
in their triumphant song:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
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.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON He is your glory; He, your God who has done
for you those great things. **cf. Dt 10:21**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord God,
refreshed by this heavenly sacraments
and relying on the help of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
we ask that we may cast aside old ways of sin
and put on Jesus Christ,
the author of the new creation,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

*From Masses of the Blessed Virgin Mary, n. 42
Lectionary of the Masses of the Blessed Virgin Mary, pg. 42*

July 1

**THE MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
Titular Solemnity of the Congregations**

Solemnity for CPPS and ASC

In the church of St. Nicholas in Chains at Rome, traditionally known for the devotion to the Blood of Christ, Fr. Francesco Albertini instituted a religious association in 1808. It was inaugurated with the preaching of his friend, Fr. Gaspar del Bufalo, “the greatest apostle of the blood of Christ” (Bl. Pope John XXIII), who founded the Congregation of the Missionaries of the Most Precious Blood in 1815. During a mission that Fr. Gaspar conducted at Vallecorsa in 1822, young Maria De Mattias was profoundly struck by his preaching. It contributed to her discernment regarding the beginning of a Congregation of sisters, which she later founded in Acuto, under the title of Adorers of the Most Precious Blood. After Bl. Pope Pius IX returned to Rome from his exile in Gaeta, he published the decree *Redempti sumus* on August 10, 1849, extending the feast of the Most Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ to the universal Church. In 1914, Pope St Pius X fixed the date of the feast as July 1. And Pope Pius XI, in memory of the Jubilee of our Redemption in 1934, raised it to the level of solemnity. With the reform of the liturgical calendar under Pope Paul VI, it was joined to the solemnity of *Corpus Christi*, that is, “The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ”. Congregations inspired by the spirituality of the Blood of Christ, continue to celebrate the Most Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ on July 1.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

You have redeemed us, O Lord, by your blood,
from every tribe and tongue, from every nation and people.

Cf Rv 5:9

The Gloria is said.

COLLECT

Father, who through the blood of Jesus your Son,
the Lamb sacrificed on the cross,
redeemed us, sanctified us, and made us your people;
grant that all may accept this gift of your love,
celebrate it joyfully in the Spirit,
and drink of it in the Eucharistic chalice,
the sign of your covenant and blessing.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

FIRST READING

This is the blood of the covenant which the Lord has made with you.

A reading from the book of Exodus

24: 3-8

When Moses came to the people
and related all the words and ordinances of the LORD,
they all answered with one voice,
"We will do everything that the LORD has told us."
Moses then wrote down all the words of the LORD and,
rising early the next day,
he erected at the foot of the mountain an altar
and twelve pillars for the twelve tribes of Israel.
Then, having sent certain young men of the Israelites
to offer holocausts and sacrifice young bulls
as peace offerings to the LORD,
Moses took half of the blood and put it in large bowls;
the other half he splashed on the altar.
Taking the book of the covenant, he read it aloud to the people,
who answered, "All that the LORD has said, we will heed and do."
Then he took the blood and sprinkled it on the people, saying,
"This is the blood of the covenant
that the LORD has made with you
in accordance with all these words of his."

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps.16: 1b-3, 4-6, 6-8, 9-10, 11.

R. Your blood, O Lord, is the source of life.

Keep me, O God, for in you I take refuge.
I say to the LORD, "My LORD are you, you are my only good."
Worthless are all the false gods of the land.
Accursed are all who delight in them. **R.**

They multiply their sorrows who court other gods.
Blood libations to them I will not pour out,
nor will I take their names upon my lips.
Lord, my allotted portion and my cup,
you have made my destiny secure. **R.**

Pleasant places were measured out for me;
fair to me indeed is my inheritance.
I bless the Lord who counsels me;
even at night my heart exhorts me.
I keep the Lord always before me;
with the Lord at my right, I shall never be shaken. **R.**

Therefore my heart is glad and my soul rejoices,
my body, too, dwells secure,
For you will not abandon me to Sheol,
nor let your faithful servant see the pit. **R.**

You will show me the path to life,
fullness of joys joy in your presence,
the delights at your right hand forever. **R.**

SECOND READING

Christ is our peace; he has made two peoples into one.

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians.
2:13-20

Brothers and sisters:
Now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off
have become near by the blood of Christ.

For he is our peace, he who made both one
and broke down the dividing wall of enmity, through his flesh,
abolishing the law with its commandments and legal claims,
that he might create in himself one new person in place of the two,
thus establishing peace,
and might reconcile both with God,
in one body, through the cross,
putting that enmity to death by it.
He came and preached peace to you who were far off
and peace to those who were near,
for through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners,
but you are fellow citizens with the holy ones
and members of the household of God,
built upon the foundation of the Apostles and prophets,
with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone.

The word of the Lord.

VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
which will be shed for you.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Lk 22: 20

GOSPEL

This is my body given for you. This is my blood poured out for you.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

22: 14-20

When the hour came, Jesus took his place at table with the apostles.
He said to them,

“I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer,
for, I tell you, I shall not eat it again
until there is fulfillment in the kingdom of God.”

Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and said,

“Take this and share it among yourselves;

for I tell you that from this time on

I shall not drink of the fruit of the vine
until the kingdom of God comes.”

Then he took the bread, said the blessing,

broke it, and gave it to them, saying,

“This is my body, which will be given for you;

do this in memory of me.”

And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying,

“This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which will be shed for you.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

The Profession of Faith is said.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Father most holy, accept the gifts of bread and wine,
our food and drink, which we offer,
so that, made holy by the power of your Spirit,
they become signs of the new covenant
and transform us into witnesses of reconciliation and peace.
Through Christ our Lord.

PREFACE

Christ consecrates the new covenant in his blood.

It is truly right and just,
all-holy and merciful Father,
always and everywhere to raise
a hymn of praise and thanks to you
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
the true Passover Lamb.

He, the Eternal High Priest,
offered himself to you as a perfect sacrifice;
sharing our sufferings, he gave us his body,
and through the cross, our shining hope,

he consecrated the new covenant in his blood.

Your Church, imbued with the Holy Spirit,
basks in the glory of this mystery of love;
She refreshes us with the precious blood of Christ
as a foretaste of eternal joys.

And so, with all the Angels and Saints,
we joyfully sing the hymn of your glory
and acclaim without end:

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The cup of blessing that we bless
is communion with the blood of Christ.
The bread that we break
is communion with the body of Christ.
1 Cor 10:16

AFTER COMMUNION

Father, grant that we, who have celebrated the memorial
of the new covenant by sharing in the Eucharistic bread
and in the one chalice of the blood of your Son Jesus,
may always embrace your work of justice and peace.
Through Christ our Lord.

September 15

**OUR LADY OF SORROWS
“WOMAN OF THE NEW COVENANT”**

**Solemnity for ASC
Memorial for CPPS**

Saint Maria De Mattias’ devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows, as is clearly seen in her writings and the testimony of her companions, is intense and closely connected to her devotion to Jesus Christ crucified, the precious Cross, and the Blood of the New Covenant. During their XIII General Assembly (1979) the Sisters Adorers of the Blood of Christ promoted, within the Congregation, the commemoration of Our Lady of Sorrows on September 15, with the title of “Woman of the New Covenant”. The Adorers of the Blood of Christ see in her an authentic model of a woman consecrated to God and to her sisters and brothers, fully dedicated to the Person and the saving work of Christ, Son of God and Son of the Virgin.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Hail, holy Mary:
we venerate you as Mother of Sorrows;
we acclaim you as Woman of the New Covenant,
ratified in the precious blood of your Son.

The Gloria is said where solemnity is celebrates

COLLECT

Father most holy, who willed to associate Our Lady of Sorrows,
Woman of the New Covenant,
to the sacrifice of your Son;
through the merits of his precious blood,
grant, we pray, that your Church, born of Christ’s pierced side,
may always celebrate the memorial of his work of redemption
with the love of our Mother Mary showed.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

FIRST READING

The mother was admirable and bore everything because of her hope placed in the Lord.

A reading from the second book of Maccabees

7:1, 20-29

In those days, it happened that seven brothers with their mother were arrested and tortured with whips and scourges by the king, to force them to eat pork in violation of God's law.

Most admirable and worthy of everlasting remembrance was the mother, who saw her seven sons perish in a single day, yet bore it courageously because of her hope in the LORD. Filled with a noble spirit that stirred her womanly heart with manly courage, she exhorted each of them in the language of their forefathers with these words: "I do not know how you came into existence in my womb; it was not I who gave you the breath of life, nor was it I who set in order the elements of which each of you is composed. Therefore, since it is the Creator of the universe who shapes each man's beginning, as he brings about the origin of everything, he, in his mercy, will give you back both breath and life, because you now disregard yourselves for the sake of his law."

Antiochus, suspecting insult in her words, thought he was being ridiculed. As the youngest brother was still alive, the king appealed to him, not with mere words, but with promises on oath, to make him rich and happy if he would abandon his ancestral customs: he would make him his friend and entrust him with high office. When the youth paid no attention to him at all, the king appealed to the mother, urging her to advise her boy to save his life.

After he had urged her for a long time, she went through the motions of persuading her son. In derision of the cruel tyrant, she leaned over close to her son and said in their native language: "Son, have pity on me, who carried you in my womb for nine months, nursed you for three years, brought you up, educated and supported you to your present age. I beg you, child, to look at the heavens and the earth and see all that is in them; then you will know that God did not make them out of existing things; and in the same way the human race came into existence. Do not be afraid of this executioner, but be worthy of your brothers and accept death, so that in the time of mercy I may receive you again with them."

The word of the Lord.

REPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 18: 1-3, 5-6, 7, 19-20

R. In my distress I call to you: save me, O Lord.

I love you, O LORD, my strength,
O LORD, my rock, my fortress, my deliverer,
my God, my rock of refuge, my shield,
my horn of salvation, my stronghold! R.

The breakers of death surged round about me,
the destroying floods overwhelmed me;
The cords of the nether world enmeshed me,
the snares of death overtook me. R.

In my distress I called upon the LORD
and cried out to my God;
From his temple he heard my voice,
and my cry to him reached his ears. R.

They attacked me on a day of distress,
but the LORD came to my support.
He set me free in the open;
he rescued me because he loves me. R.

SECOND READING

A great sign appeared in the heavens.

A reading from the Book of Revelation
12:1-3, 7-12. 17

A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun,
with the moon beneath her feet,
and on her head a crown of twelve stars.
She was with child and wailed aloud in pain as she labored to give birth.
Then another sign appeared in the sky;
it was a huge red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns,
and on its heads were seven diadems.

Then war broke out in heaven;
Michael and his angels battled against the dragon.
The dragon and its angels fought back,
but they did not prevail
and there was no longer any place for them in heaven.
The huge dragon, the ancient serpent,
who is called the Devil and Satan,
who deceived the whole world,
was thrown down to earth,
and its angels were thrown down with it.

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say:
“Now have salvation and power come,
and the kingdom of our God
and the authority of his Anointed.
For the accuser of our brothers is cast out,
who accuses them before our God day and night.

They conquered him by the Blood of the Lamb
and by the word of their testimony;
love for life did not deter them from death.
Therefore, rejoice, you heavens,
and you who dwell in them.

Then the dragon became angry with the woman
and went off to wage war against the rest of her offspring,
those who keep God’s commandments and bear witness to Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

SEQUENCE (optional)

[At the cross her station keeping,
Stood the mournful Mother weeping,
Close to Jesus to the last.

Through her heart, his sorrow sharing,
All his bitter anguish bearing,
Now at length the sword had passed.

Oh, how sad and sore distressed
Was that Mother highly blessed
Of the sole begotten One!

Christ above in torment hangs,
She beneath beholds the pangs
Of her dying, glorious Son.

Is there one who would not weep,
‘Whelmed in miseries so deep,
Christ’s dear Mother to behold?

Can the human heart refrain
From partaking in her pain,
In the mother’s pain untold?

Bruised, derided, cursed, defiled,
She beheld her tender Child,
All with bloody scourges rent.

For the sins of his own nation
Saw him hang in desolation
Till his spirit forth he sent.

O sweet Mother! Font of love,
Touch my spirit from above,
Make my heart with yours accord.

Make me feel as you have felt;
Make my soul to glow and melt
With the love of Christ, my Lord.]

Holy Mother, pierce me through,
In my heart each wound renew
Of my Savior crucified.

Let me share with you his pain,
Who for all our sins was slain,
Who for me in torments died.

Let me mingle tears with you,
Mourning him who mourned for me,
All the days that I may live.

By the cross with you to stay,
There with you to weep and pray,
Is all I ask of you to give.

Virgin of all virgins blest!
Listen to my fond request:
Let me share your grief divine.

Let me to my latest breath,
In my body bear the death
Of that dying Son of yours.

Wounded with his every wound,
Steep my soul till it has swooned
In his very blood away.

Be to me, O Virgin, nigh,
Lest in flames I burn and die,
on his awful judgment day.

Christ, when you shall call me hence,
Be your Mother my defense,
Be your cross my victory.

While my body here decays,

May my soul your goodness praise,
Safe in heaven eternally. Amen. (Alleluia)

VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL

Cf Jn 19:25

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Standing by the cross of Jesus was
Mary, his mother,
inseparably joined to the redemptive work of her Son.

R. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

By the cross of Jesus there was Mary, his mother.

From the Gospel according to John
19:25-27

At that hour, standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother
and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas,
and Mary of Magdala.

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved,
he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son."
Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother."
And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

The Gospel of the Lord.

The Profession of Faith is said where solemnity is celebrated.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Father most holy,
accept the prayers and gifts of your people
and through the intercession of Our Lady of Sorrows,
who at the foot of the cross participated fully
in the sacrifice of the new covenant,
grant that becoming, an oblation pleasing to you,
we may make you a joyous offering of ourselves.
Through Christ our Lord.

PREFACE

The role of Our Lady of Sorrows, Woman of the New Covenant

It is truly right and just, to give you thanks,
and fitting to acclaim and proclaim your bountiful love,

holy Father, almighty and -powerful and eternal God,
through Christ our Lord.

In your providence you gave us your Son as Savior;
and by the cross, the Virgin Mary, most loving Mother,
was joined to him inseparably.

In view of the blood of our Savior
you preserved her from all stain of sin
and gave her to the human race
to serve the redeeming mission of Christ
as the new woman, exemplar of a new creation.

Exalted above the choirs of the angels and saints,
the Blessed Virgin intercedes with her Son for us,
who grieve for the burden of sin and sorrow.
but guided by the Holy Spirit,
journey toward our heavenly homeland,
where joy is full, beauty enduring and happiness everlasting.

And so, together with the angels and saints,
we sing with one voice the hymn of your praise:

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Blessed are you, Virgin Mother!
Your Son, Christ Jesus,
spotless Lamb,
has prepared for his spouse, the Church,
the new bread and wine of the wedding
banquet.

AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God, who nourished us
at the table of the body and blood of your Christ,
as we observe the memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows, Woman of the New Covenant;
through her motherly intercession, may we express by our lives
the Son's love and suffering,
which we have celebrated in these mysteries.
Through Christ our Lord.

October 21

**SAINT GASPAR DEL BUFALO, PRIEST
Founder of the Congregation of the
Missionaries of the Precious Blood**

**Solemnity for CPP
Feast for ASC**

Gaspar del Bufalo was born in Rome on January 6, 1786. From his youth, motivated by apostolic zeal, he dedicated himself to the evangelization of the children of the needy, the people in the fields, the poor, the sick; with special attention to those languishing in hospices and hospitals. He became a priest of the clergy of Rome on July 31, 1808. During the Napoleonic upheavals, because of his loyalty to the Holy Father, he was exiled and then held in jail in the northern part of Italy. Returning to Rome after Napoleon's demise, at the request of Pius VII, he, along with a group of priests, dedicated himself to the renewal of the clergy and the Christian faithful through popular missions and spiritual exercises. Imbued with a deep devotion to the blood of Christ and intending to apply more efficaciously the fruits of redemption to souls, in 1815 he founded the Congregation of the Missionaries of the Most Precious Blood. His preaching bore fruit even in the lower part of the Lazio region plagued by banditry. With his advice, he inspired and encouraged Maria de Mattias to found the Congregation of the Sisters Adorers of the Blood of Christ.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Lord, my allotted portion and my cup,
You have made my destiny secure.
Pleasant places were measured out for me;
Fair to me indeed is my inheritance.

Psalm 16:5-6

The Gloria is said.

COLLECT

Almighty and merciful God,
who gave us an ardent witness
of love for you and for our neighbor
in Saint Gaspar del Bufalo, priest and
dedicated missionary of the Precious Blood of Christ;
through his intercession,
listen to the voice of the blood of your Son
which daily rises to you from the earth
in the painful cry of suffering humanity.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

FIRST READING

All the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah
52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of him who brings glad tidings,
announcing peace, bearing good news, announcing salvation,
and saying to Zion,
"Your God is King!"

Hark! Your sentinels raise a cry,
together they shout for joy,
for they see directly, before their eyes,
the LORD restoring Zion.
Break out together in song,
O ruins of Jerusalem!
For the LORD comforts his people,
he redeems Jerusalem.
The LORD has bared his holy arm
in the sight of all the nations;
all the ends of the earth will behold
the salvation of our God.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 96:1-3, 7-8a, 10

R. Your salvation, Lord, is for all peoples.

Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all you lands.
Sing to the Lord, bless his name;
announce his salvation, day after day.
Tell his glory among the nations;
among all peoples, his marvelous deeds. **R.**

Give to the LORD, you families of nations,
give to the LORD glory and praise;
give to the LORD the glory due his name! **R.**

Say among the nations: The LORD is king.
He has made the world firm, not to be moved.

he governs the peoples with equity. **R.**

SECOND READING

May the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great shepherd of the sheep, make you perfect in every good thing.

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews
13:12-15, 20-21

Brothers and sisters:

Jesus also suffered outside the gate, to consecrate the people by his own blood. Let us then go to him outside the camp, bearing the reproach that he bore. For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the one that is to come. Through him then let us continually offer God a sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name.

May the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great shepherd of the sheep by the Blood of the eternal covenant, Jesus our Lord, furnish you with all that is good, that you may do his will. May he carry out in you what is pleasing to him through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL

Lk 4:18

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Lord has sent me
to bring glad tidings to the poor,
to proclaim liberty to captives.

R. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Today this scripture is fulfilled.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
4:16-21

At that time, Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had grown up, and went according to his custom into the synagogue on the sabbath day. He stood up to read and was handed a scroll of the prophet Isaiah.

He unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring glad tidings to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.”

Rolling up the scroll, he handed it back to the attendant and sat down,
and the eyes of all in the synagogue looked intently at him.
He said to them,
“Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

The Profession of Faith is said where solemnity is celebrated

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Father most holy, may the bread and wine that we offer you,
as we celebrate the feast of Saint Gaspar,
be a sign of our life offered to you
in your service and that of our neighbor.
Through Christ our Lord.

PREFACE

The mission of Saint Gaspar del Bufalo.

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 in your providence you give us the joy
of celebrating the feast of Saint Gaspar,
faithful priest of the Church
for whom he stood fast in the face of adversity.
Sustained by the Virgin Mary,
he was a solicitous preacher of the Gospel
and untiring minister of the blood of your Son.
In imitation of Christ,
he became the brother, friend and defender
of the poor and the oppressed.

And so, with all the Angels and Saints,
we praise you and acclaim without end:

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

There is no greater love than this:
to give one's life for one's friends,
says the Lord. **Jn 15:13**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, eternal Father,
who have nourished us with the bread of life
and the chalice of salvation,
through the intercession of Saint Gaspar
give us the strength to hold fast in our lives
to the mystery we have celebrated in faith.
Through Christ our Lord.

December 3

**SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER, PRIEST (1)
Patron of the Congregations**

**Feast for CPPS
Memorial for ASC**

Born in 1506 in Navarre (Spain), he came to know Saint Ignatius of Loyola while at the Sorbonne University of Paris. Ordained a priest in 1537 in Venice, he began his ministry in Rome. At the request of the King of Portugal, in 1541 he was sent a missionary to India; he began the journey with a crucifix, a breviary and a few personal belongings. At Goa he began his ministry for the sick, the poor and young people who called him the “big Father.” He managed to face all difficulties believing that “trust in God is a good antidote.” He went to Japan as well, where, with no knowledge of the language and customs, converted a small group of people to whom he referred as the “delight of my soul.” His dream to evangelize China vanished due to his death, in 1552 on the island of Sancian, while he was waiting to embark. In 1622, Pope Gregory XV declared him a saint. Saint Gaspar del Bufalo, preserved from blindness in his infancy through the intercession of Saint Francis, nourished such a devotion toward the great missionary as to make him his life’s model and patron of his missionary congregation. Saint Maria De Mattias also wanted “the glorious Saint Francis Xavier Protector of her Institute”, as she wrote in the Rules of 1838 and 1857. The Adorers of the Blood of Christ continue to nourish a filial devotion and to invoke him as their Patron.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Tell God's glory among the nations;
among all peoples, God's marvelous deeds.
For great is the Lord and highly to be praised.
Ps. 96: 3-4

OPENING PRAYER

God our Father, by the preaching of Francis Xavier
you brought many peoples of the Orient
to the light of the Gospel.
Give his missionary zeal to all who believe in you,
that your Church may rejoice in continued growth
throughout the world.
Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

The Gloria is said where feast is celebrated

FIRST READING

Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel!

From the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

9:16-19, 22-23

Brothers and sisters, if I preach the gospel, this is no reason for me to boast, for an obligation has been imposed on me; and woe to me if I do not preach it! If I do so willingly, I have a recompense; but if unwillingly, then I have been entrusted with a stewardship. What then is my recompense? That, when I preach, I offer the gospel free of charge so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel.

Although I am free in regard to all, I have made myself a slave to all so as to win over as many as possible. To the weak I became weak, to win over the weak. I have become all things to all, to save at least some. All this I do for the sake of the gospel, so that I too may have a share in it

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 117

R. *Lord, all nations of the earth will adore you.*

Praise the Lord, all you nations!
Give glory, all you peoples. R.

The Lord's love for us is strong;
the Lord is faithful forever. R.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Is 61:1

R. Alleluia, alleluia.
The spirit of the Lord is upon me;
He has sent me
to bring glad tidings to the lowly.
R. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Go into the whole world and preach the good news.

From the Gospel according to Mark

16:15-20

At that time Jesus, appearing to the Eleven, said to them, "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned. These signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will drive out demons, they will speak new languages. They will pick up serpents with their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not harm them. They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

So then the Lord Jesus, after he spoke to them, was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God.

But they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word through accompanying signs.

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord, receive the gifts that we bring
on the feast of Francis Xavier.
As his zeal for the salvation of all people
led him to the ends of the earth,
may we be effective witnesses to the gospel
and come with our brothers and sisters
to be with you in the joy of your kingdom.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Preface of Advent I

The twofold coming of Christ

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And also with you.

V. Lift up your hearts.

R. We lift them up to the Lord.

V. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R. It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Father, all-powerful and ever-living God,
we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

When he humbled himself to come among us as a man,
He fulfilled the plan you formed long ago
and opened for us the way to salvation.

Now we watch for the day,

hoping that the salvation promised us will be ours,
when Christ our Lord will come again in his glory.

And so, with all the choirs of angels in heaven,
we proclaim your glory
and join in their unending hymn of praise:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
God of power and might,
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.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON “Go out to all the world
and tell the good news:
I am with you always,”
says the Lord. **Cf Mk16:15; Mt 28: 20**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord God,
may this Eucharist fill us with the same love
that inspired Francis Xavier
to work for the salvation of all.
Help us to live in a manner more worthy
of our Christian calling
and so inherit the promise of eternal life.
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

(1) From the Missal and Lectionary, December 3.

