

HOLY HOUR FOR NEW YEAR'S EVE, DECEMBER 2019

Hymn: We are here to Praise you

Leader: We come to the close of the year 2019 and are on the threshold of New Year 2020, which calls for courage, hope, no more hatred and selfishness. Pope Francis tells us that "*whether the New Year will be good or not, depends on us choosing to do good each day*". We would be expected to build peace by **saying 'no'** to hatred and violence and 'yes' to fraternity and reconciliation.

As we come to the year-end, let us reflect on how God has been present in their lives.
Pause for 1 minute

Let us also thank the Lord for all signs of his generosity that we have seen in countless ways. **Pause for 2 minutes**

Let us stand as we listen to a reading from the Gospel of Luke

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:16-20 (To be proclaimed from the Bible) **silent reflection 5 minutes** (*Ask the members to be seated and reflect on the passage*)

REFLECTION: (At each bullet point pause for two minutes of silent reflection)

- When we gaze upon the manger, we are reminded how Jesus "wanted to be close to all those who felt lost, humiliated, hurt, discouraged, brokenhearted and frightened etc... Many may still carry burdens such as separation, loneliness, shame, hurt, guilt, despair. Are they any burdens that I am carrying and would like to surrender to the Lord? **(Pause and reflect)**
- There may be many of us who don't experience God's presence and love because we fail to realize that, we are his sons and daughters." In the year gone by how sensitive have I been to God's presence in my life? **(Pause and reflect)**
- Jesus' love and sacrifice challenges each one of us "*not to give*" up on people or life. Jesus inspires us through the crib to look ahead without complaining or being resentful. He teaches us not to think of ourselves or only look for shortcuts to fulfill our own selfish interest? What will my response be? **(Pause and reflect)**

- We are inspired through the crib to "*make room*" for others in our lives. This will include the lost, humiliated, hurt, discouraged, brokenhearted, frightened, those who are separated, lonely, those marginalized, those forced to migrate or beg etc... What can I do to help people grow and fulfill their dreams and aspirations in their life, community and the nation? **(Pause and reflect)**

Let us ask Jesus to give us a heart full of love and compassion so that we may move beyond selfishness and make room for others in our lives.

Let us Praise and Thank God, Our Creator and Redeemer.

Our response will be: Lord your love is eternal.

Psalm 138

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart;
I sing praise to you before the gods.
I face your holy Temple, bow down and praise your name
Because of your constant love and faithfulness, because
You have shown that your name and your commands are supreme.

R/ Lord your love is eternal

You answered me when I called to you;
With your strength you strengthened me.
All the kings in the world will praise you, Lord,
Because they have heard your promises.
They will sing about what you have done
And about your great glory.

R/ Lord your love is eternal

Even though you are so high above,
You care for the lowly and the proud cannot hide from you
When I am surrounded by troubles, you keep me safe.
You oppose my angry enemies and save me by your power
You will do everything you have promised;
Lord, your love is eternal.

Complete the work that you have begun

R/ Lord your love is eternal

INTERCESSIONS:

Leader: Our loving Father protects us and cares for us. Let us confidently offer our prayers.

Our response is: Lord, hear our prayer.

1. Lord, we pray for all people of good will that they may courageously confront terrorism and violence. Let us pray to the Lord...

2. Lord, we pray that in the New Year Christ's light shines forth and dispels the shadow of fear and confusion the world is currently enveloped in. Let us pray to the Lord...
3. Lord, help us to serve one another, to show love, compassion, care and support to those in need. Let us pray to the Lord...
4. Lord, we pray for all the people in the world that guided by the Holy Spirit, they may show tenderness in their word and speech, when dealing with others. Let us pray to the Lord...
5. Lord, we pray that in the New Year, like Christ, we may have an attitude of selflessness and openness to others. Let us pray to the Lord...

Leader: As one community let us pray the prayer that Jesus himself taught us. **Our Father**

Leader: Dear brothers and sisters let us say this prayer together.

Lord, at the beginning of this new year, let us imitate our Mother Mary, who teaches us that humility and tenderness are virtues of the strong and we don't have to mistreat others in order to feel important.

Lord, inspire us and strengthen us with your courage to take bold and hope-filled initiatives, in the year ahead. Help us to never work for our selfish interest and grant us the desire and strength to renounce self-promotion and superficial appearances. We ask this in Jesus name. Amen.

Closing hymn: I Just keep trusting the Lord or Count your Blessings

Archdiocesan Liturgy Committee