

INTRODUCTION TO EVENING PRAYER

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH – BRIDGEPORT, PA

Welcome to St John the Baptist Catholic Church's daily Evening Prayer. By calling in and prayerfully participating in this reciting of the Divine Office, you are joining yourself with the official liturgical prayer of the universal Church. There are several different forms of the Office in use throughout the Church. At St John the Baptist, we use the form prayed in the Ordinariate of the Chair of St Peter. (If you would like to learn more about the Ordinariate, visit www.ordinariate.net.)

How to participate:

To find the service order, visit <http://prayer.covert.org>. It is perfectly acceptable to listen and quietly follow along with the order of Evening Prayer; but we encourage those who call in to participate by reciting certain parts of the order together with the second speaker, called the "Respondent". The Respondent generally represents the choir or congregation. However, since conference calls are not designed for multiple people to speak at once, all participants' microphones are muted except for the Respondent's and the first speaker's, the Officiant's. The Officiant will typically be one of our parish deacons. At the end of Evening Prayer, the microphones are unmuted for all to enjoy brief conversation and share prayer requests.

When to respond:

- The confession ("Almighty and most merciful Father..."), together with the Officiant.
- Any response marked with "People" or "R."
- The "Amen" at the end of any prayer.
- All of the canticles (*Phos Hilaron*, *Magnificat*, and *Nunc dimittis*), after the Officiant finishes the first line.
- The even-numbered verses of the Psalms. The Respondent begins the verse immediately after the Officiant finishes the previous one, and makes a short pause at the asterisk. (Note: when the website gives the option to select the Psalms either for the 30-day cycle or the 7-week cycle, choose the 30-day cycle.)
- The Apostles' Creed, together with the Officiant.
- The Lord's Prayer, together with the Officiant.
- The Marian anthem of the season, after the Officiant finishes the first line.
- **Exception:** the Scripture lessons are read either by the Respondent or the Officiant alone.

Gestures of prayer:

- A small sign of the cross—with the thumb over the lips—is made when the Officiant says, "O Lord, open thou our lips."
- The full sign of the cross is made at all other times that the cross appears: "O God, make speed to save us," the beginning of the *Magnificat* and *Nunc dimittis*, the end of the Apostles' Creed, the Grace, and the Commemoration of the Departed.
- A bow of the head is made for the doxology: "Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost."