



# Prepare for Advent and Christmas!

**During Advent**, we not only prepare to remember God's first entrance into the world, but we also prepare for His Second Entrance – the Day of Last Judgement. We make ready by cleansing ourselves of sin and cleansing the world of all traces of our sin. We do the first through the sacrament of reconciliation, the second through the work of indulgences. When the John Paul II instituted special indulgences for Jubilee Year 2000 and Year of the Eucharist 2005, he signaled the *importance* of doing indulgenced works. Pope Benedict XVI re-iterated this with new indulgences in his first year as pope.

## What are Indulgences?

**God sent you and me** into the world in order to make the world a better place. Unfortunately, my sins make it worse. When I sin, I do two things: I take grace away from (1) myself and (2) the rest of the world. Because my sin takes away my power to be joyful, I do not have the power to treat others well. The sacrament of reconciliation restores *me* to a state of joyful grace, but the people I mistreated still suffer from my earlier lack of grace. How do I repair *that* damage? And I must repair that damage – God intends me to make the world a better place, and I must do His will. In fact, I cannot enter heaven until I have. The world must be free from the suffering my sins have caused.

**I have two choices** if I wish to heal the world: I can share in the healing work of the Cross either in Purgatory or through indulgences. An indulgence (partial or plenary) is a prayerful act I can do today that restores part or all of the grace the world *would* have enjoyed if I had never sinned. However, to be worthy of sharing in this healing work of Christ, I must first be in a state of grace.

**To perform a partial indulgence**, I need only be in a state of grace when doing the work.

**To perform a plenary indulgence**, I must be in a state of grace when doing the work, receive confession, receive the Eucharist, pray for the Pope's intentions (an Our Father and a Hail Mary is sufficient), and make an act of the will to love God and despise all sin, even the most venial.

## Indulgences for the Seasons of Advent and Christmas

**November 28<sup>th</sup>** – Start a novena. Participating in a publicly celebrated novena prior to the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is a partial indulgence.

**December 8<sup>th</sup>** - Participate in a formal prayer service in honor of Mary "or at least openly demonstrate devotion to Mary" by praying before an image of the Immaculate Conception on display for public veneration. The faithful should also recite the Lord's Prayer, the creed and a prayer to Mary.

**December 15<sup>th</sup>** – Start a novena. Participation in a publicly celebrated novena prior to the Solemnity of Christmas is a partial indulgence.

**December 25<sup>th</sup>** – Receiving the papal blessing to the City and the World, even by radio or television, may earn a plenary indulgence.

**December 31<sup>st</sup>** – Publicly praying the *Te Deum* as an act thanksgiving on the last day of the year may earn a plenary indulgence (see other side for text).

**January 1<sup>st</sup>** – Publicly praying the *Veni, Creator* on the first day of the year may earn a plenary indulgence (see other side for text).

Portions of this flier were taken from the *Keys to Grace, Calendar of Indulgences*.

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### Veni, Creator Spiritus

Come, Holy Spirit, Creator blest, and in our souls take up Thy rest;  
Come with Thy grace and heavenly aid to fill the hearts which Thou hast made.  
O comforter, to Thee we cry, O heavenly gift of God Most High,  
O fount of life and fire of love, and sweet anointing from above.  
Thou in Thy sevenfold gifts are known; Thou, finger of God's hand we own;  
Thou, promise of the Father, Thou Who dost the tongue with power imbue.  
Kindle our sense from above, and make our hearts o'erflow with love;  
With patience firm and virtue high the weakness of our flesh supply.  
Far from us drive the foe we dread, and grant us Thy peace instead;  
So shall we not, with Thee for guide, turn from the path of life aside.  
Oh, may Thy grace on us bestow the Father and the Son to know;  
And Thee, through endless times confessed, of both the eternal Spirit blest.  
Now to the Father and the Son, Who rose from death, be glory given,  
With Thou, O Holy Comforter, henceforth by all in earth and heaven.

Amen.

### Te Deum

We praise Thee, O God: we acknowledge Thee to be the Lord.  
All the earth doth worship Thee and the Father everlasting.  
To Thee all Angels: to Thee the heavens and all the Powers therein.  
To Thee the Cherubim and Seraphim: cry with unceasing voice:  
Holy, Holy, Holy: Lord God of Hosts. The heavens and the earth are full: of the majesty of Thy glory.  
Thee the glorious choir: of the Apostles. Thee the admirable company: of the Prophets.  
Thee the white-robed army of Martyrs: praise.  
Thee the Holy Church throughout all the world: doth acknowledge.  
The Father of infinite Majesty. Thine adorable, true: and only Son, Also the Holy Ghost: the Paraclete.  
Thou art the King of Glory: O Christ. Thou art the everlasting Son: of the Father.  
Thou having taken upon Thee to deliver man: didst not abhor the Virgin's womb.  
Thou having overcome the sting of death: didst open to believers the kingdom of heaven.  
Thou sittest at the right hand of God: in the glory of the Father.  
We believe that Thou shalt come: to be our Judge. We beseech Thee, therefore, help Thy servants:  
whom Thou has redeemed with Thy precious Blood.  
Make them to be numbered with Thy Saints: in glory everlasting.  
Lord, save Thy people: and bless Thine inheritance. Govern them: and lift them up forever.  
Day by day: we bless Thee. And we praise Thy name forever: and world without end.  
Vouchsafe, O Lord, this day: to keep us without sin. Have mercy on us, O Lord: have mercy on us.  
Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us: as we have hoped in Thee.  
O Lord, in Thee have I hoped: let me never be confounded.

Amen

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