

About the Liturgy of the Hours and iBreviary

The Divine Office, or Liturgy of the Hours (often referred to as the Breviary) is the official daily prayer of the Church. It is based on the tradition of praying at fixed times or hours throughout the day (hence the name, “Liturgy of the Hours”). Prior to the liturgical reforms of the Second Vatican Council, the office was prayed in Latin by members of the clergy and also used by members of various religious congregations. In fact, the arrangement of the “Hours” can be traced to monastic prayer routines. The structure of the pre-Vatican II Breviary consisted of Matins (a pre-dawn prayer); Lauds (Morning Prayer); the “Little Hours” of Prime (first hour), Terce (third hour), Sext (sixth hour), and None (ninth hour); Vespers (Evening Prayer); and Compline (Night Prayer).

The revised Liturgy of the Hours places special emphasis on Morning and Evening Prayer and retains Night Prayer. Matins has been replaced by the Office of Readings which may be used at any time of the day. The “Little Hours” have been replaced by Daytime Prayer which includes options for Mid-Morning, Mid-Day, and Mid-Afternoon.

The reform of the Liturgy of the Hours also makes it easier for more people to use it as their daily prayer. In addition to its use in personal prayer, communal celebrations, especially of Morning and Evening Prayers, are encouraged.

The basic structure of the prayer consists of psalms, canticles, scripture readings and intercessory prayer. These are arranged using a four week cycle of psalms and canticles with variations for the liturgical seasons and specific feast days.

The link on our parish web page will open a small window similar to the one on the right. The content in this window is provided by an Italian website. The first two lines contain links that take you to the supporting website. The next line (in the black band) contains links that change the content of this window. The current window lists a menu of the various “Hours” in the day’s Breviary. “Lecture” lists the readings of the day. “Prayers” provides a variety of other prayers. “Missal” contains the parts of the Mass. “More” provides options for language and date. The date is set automatically when the window is opened and the type of liturgical day (“Tipo”) and liturgical season (“Tempo”) are displayed. Shown: Weekday, Advent. However, since this comes from an Italian website, the date changes several hours ahead of American time zones. When praying Vespers or Compline, it may be necessary to change the date back using the options in the “More” menu. At the bottom are links (in Italian) for the Saints of the Day (I Santi di oggi)

iBreviary for: iPhone/iPad Android Mobile Support

[Breviary](#) [Lecture](#) [Prayers](#) [Missal](#) [More](#)

Breviary

Thursday, 16 December 2010

Tipo: Feriale - Tempo: avvento

Office of Readings

Lauds

Daytime Prayers

Vespers

Compline

[I Santi di oggi](#)