

**Verse 2** – In Hebrew, the noun *shachar* means “dawn.” Here the Psalmist uses its verbal form to describe looking to God as the new day begins at dawn. The Psalmist acknowledges that the first thing of the day is to look with longing to God, the source of all blessing. From our earliest Christian sources, Psalm 63 (62) came to be known as “The Morning Psalm” with its opening line making reference to seeking God at dawn. Then in verse 2c, notice the more literal rendering of the Hebrew *basar* as “flesh,” rather than the more generic “body.” In the Liturgy of the Hours, Psalm 63 (62) is given a place of primacy on Sunday morning, and also used at Morning Prayer on feasts through the year.

**Verse 4** – This verse translates the important Hebrew word *hesed* as “love.” So often, this word in the Psalms is a reference to the covenantal love of God toward his people, a love expressed in fidelity, loyalty, and faithfulness. In its transmission from Hebrew into the Greek of the Septuagint (*LXX*), *hesed* was rendered *eleos*, most often rendered “mercy, compassion.” St. Jerome, certainly influenced by the *LXX*, rendered *hesed* in the *Vulgate* as *miseriordia*, which in English is often expressed as “mercy.” In *The Revised Grail Psalms*, *hesed* is translated in three different ways: mercy, loving mercy, and merciful love, depending on its context.

**Verse 7** – The expression “the watches of the night” refers to the two or three divisions of the night which marked the rounds of guard duty for the city or temple, during which the night hours were heralded. The verbal image painted here shows the Psalmist as one who, even as the progressive watches are announced through the night, remains awake reflecting on the wondrous ways in which God has protected and cared for him.

**Verse 8** – The “shadow of your wings” is a reference to the wings of the creatures on the Ark of the Covenant. It is an expression of divine protection, security, and presence. To be before God brings the assurance of divine assistance, as the Psalmist speaks of “those who seek to destroy [his] life” (verse 10).

Printed copies of *The Revised Grail Psalms* can be purchased from The Printery House of Conception Abbey ([www.PrinteryHouse.org](http://www.PrinteryHouse.org)) or GIA Publications ([www.GIAMusic.com/RGP](http://www.GIAMusic.com/RGP)). The GIA website also features an electronic version available for viewing, as well as licensing guidelines, and an expanded history of this new Psalter.

## **Changes and Corrections to the 2012 Liturgical Calendar**

Following the reception of the final texts of the *Roman Missal, Third Edition* from the Holy See, a number of changes are necessary in the 2012 edition of the *Liturgical Calendar for the Dioceses of the United States of America*, mostly involving various liturgical titles. In addition, Thanksgiving Day was mistakenly placed on Thursday, November 29 instead of its proper day, Thursday, November 22. For the benefit of liturgical publishers and our readers, the changes and corrections to the calendar are presented here:

### **DECEMBER 2011**

**8 Thu The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, white**  
**Patronal Feastday of the United States of America**  
*solemnity* [holy day of obligation]  
Gn 3:9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38 (689) Pss Prop

### **JANUARY**

**23 Mon Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children green/red/Mass: white/violet**  
*[Saint Vincent, Deacon and Martyr]*  
2 Sm 5:1-7, 10/Mk 3:22-30 (317) or, for the Day of Prayer, any of the following readings: Gen 1:1—2:2 (41) or 2 Mac 7:1, 20-31 (499) or Is 49:1-6 (587) or Rom 11:33-36 (121) or Eph 1:3-14 (104) or Eph 3:14-21 (476) or Col 1:12-20 (162) or 1 Jn 3:11-21 (208)/Mt 18:1-5, 10, 12-14 (414) or Mk 9:30-37 (134) or Lk 1:39-56 (622) or Lk 17:11-19 (144) or Lk 23:35-43 (162) or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14, 16-18 (755) or Jn 6:24-35 (113), or the *Lectionary for Ritual Masses* (vol. IV), the Mass “For Peace and Justice,” nos. 887-891

## APRIL

**15 SUN SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (OR SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY)** white  
*solemnity*  
Acts 4:32-35/1 Jn 5:1-6/Jn 20:19-31 (44) Pss Prop

## MAY

**10 Thu Easter Weekday** white/white  
*[Saint Damien de Veuster, Priest]*  
Acts 15:7-21/Jn 15:9-11 (288)

## JULY

**4 Wed Weekday** green/white  
*[Independence Day]*  
Am 5:14-15, 21-24/Mt 8:28-34 (379) or, for Independence Day, any readings from the *Lectionary for Ritual Masses* (vol. IV), the Mass “For Public Needs,” nos. 882-886, or “For Peace and Justice,” nos. 887-891.

**5 Thu Weekday** green/white/white  
*[Saint Anthony Zaccaria, Priest; Saint Elizabeth of Portugal]*  
Am 7:10-17/Mt 9:1-8 (380)

## AUGUST

**14 Tue Saint Maximilian Kolbe, Priest and Martyr** red  
*memorial*  
Ez 2:8—3:4/Mt 18:1-5, 10, 12-14 (414)

## NOVEMBER

**22 Thu Saint Cecilia, Virgin and Martyr** red/white  
*[For pastoral advantage, the proper Mass of Thanksgiving Day may be used. Readings are of the day (no. 500), or may be taken from the Lectionary for Ritual Masses (vol. IV), the Mass “In Thanksgiving to God,” nos. 943-947 (see esp. Sir 50:22-24 [943.2]/1 Cor 1:3-9 [944.1]/Lk 17:11-19 [947.6])]*  
*memorial*  
Rv 5:1-10/Lk 19:41-44 (500)

**29 Thu Weekday** green  
Rv 18:1-2, 21-23; 19:1-3, 9a/Lk 21:20-28 (506)

## DECEMBER

**8 Sat The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary,** white  
**Patronal Feastday of the United States of America**  
*solemnity* [holy day of obligation]  
Gn 3:9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38 (689) Pss Prop