**Scripture Insights**

Our Lord loves us and cares for us like a devoted and tender shepherd cares for his sheep. Each sheep is known individually to the shepherd. His loving authority over us brings peace and joy.

**Preaching Points**

**Parish Masses**
- Each of God’s children is known to the Lord, and he cares for us like an attentive shepherd cares for his sheep. Should one stray sheep be found, he rejoices in its return. Jesus rejoices in our reconciliation with him.
- God, who is all-powerful and eternal, holds us in his arms as his beloved. God, in his glory, has chosen to create us and love us.
- When God’s people stray from our Lord, he rejoices in their return.

**Masses with Children**
- Shepherds wisely and vigilantly care for their flocks. In much the same way, Jesus cares for us. He holds us close to his heart because he loves us.
- All people sin. When people sin, they are like the lost sheep, and Jesus rejoices when people turn away from sin and look toward him.

**Missal Options**
- Use the same form of the PA prayed on the Sundays of Advent.
- Continue to pray P-I of Advent.
- Use an Advent Collect to conclude the UP.
- Consider using EP-II.

**Song of the Day**

“A Voice Cries Out” by J. Michael Joncas (OCP)

**Other Rites and Customs**

Light two candles on the Advent wreath before Mass begins.

**Optional Memorial**

In 2019, Pope Francis approved the inclusion of the optional Memorial of Our Lady of Loreto to the General Roman Calendar. The house in which tradition holds Mary was born, raised, and encountered the angel Gabriel, is enshrined in the basilica of Loreto, Italy. This “House of Mary” was brought from Palestine to Loreto in the thirteenth century and is a place of pilgrimage for many Catholics. This memorial may be celebrated each year on December 10. In the decree signed on October 7, 2019, the prefect of the Vatican Congregation of Divine Worship, Cardinal Robert Sarah, stated: “This celebration will help all people, especially families, youth, and religious to imitate the virtues of that perfect disciple of the Gospel, the Virgin Mother, who, in conceiving the Head of the Church also accepted us as her own.” The BCDW has provided the following information for the celebration of this new memorial:

- New texts for the Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours will be prepared by ICEL and sent to the Holy See for translation.
- Until new texts are approved by the Holy See for Mass, parishes should use the formularies for Advent found in the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
- White vestments are worn.
- The readings may be from the SW, CBVM, or these readings from LM, 707–712: FR, Isaiah 7:10–14; 8:10 (707.7); Canticle of Mary (709.5); GA, Luke 1:28 (711.1), and G, Luke 1:26–38 (712.4).
- Additional information may be found on the BCDW website: http://www.usccb.org/about/divine-worship/liturgical-calendar/our-lady-of-loreto.cfm.