

# *The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception*

## First Readings- Taken from the Old Testament

Please make your choices from the following readings and refer to the reading number in the box above the reading:

**OT-1**

### **Old Testament Reading # 1 Genesis 1:26-28**

A reading from the book of Genesis

Then God said: "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air and the cattle, and over all the wild animals and all the creatures that crawl on the ground."

So God created man in his own image,  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them.

God blessed them saying: "Be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all living things that move on the earth."

God looked at everything he had made, and found it to be very good.

The word of the Lord.

## OT-2

### Old Testament Reading # 2 Genesis 2:18-24

A reading from the Book of Genesis

The LORD God said: "It is not good for man to be alone. I will make him a suitable partner for him." So the Lord God formed out of the ground various wild animals and various birds of the air, and he brought them to the man to see what he would call them; whatever the man called each of the would be its name. The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of the air, and all wild animals; but none proved to be a suitable partner for the man.

The LORD God cast a deep sleep on the man, and while he was asleep he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. The LORD God then built up into a woman the rib that he had taken from the man. When he brought her to the man, the man said:

"This one, at last, is bone of my bones  
and flesh of my flesh;  
This one shall be called 'woman,'  
for out of 'her man' this one has been taken."

That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one body.

The word of the Lord.

## OT-3

### Old Testament Reading # 3 Sirach 26: 1-4, 13-16

A reading from the Book of Sirach

Blessed the husband of a good wife, twice-lengthened are his days;  
A worthy wife brings joy to her husband, peaceful and full is his life.  
A good wife is a generous gift bestowed upon him who fears the LORD;  
Be he rich or poor, his heart is content, and a smile is ever on his face.

A gracious wife delights her husband, her thoughtfulness puts flesh on his bones;  
A gift from the LORD is her governed speech, and her firm virtue is of surpassing worth.  
Choicest of blessings is a modest wife, priceless her chaste soul.  
A holy and decent woman adds grace upon grace; indeed, no price is worthy of her temperate soul.  
Like the sun rising in the LORD'S heavens, the beauty of a virtuous wife is the radiance of her home.

The word of the Lord.

## OT-4

### **Old Testament Reading #4** **Proverbs 31: 10-13, 19-20, 30-31**

A Reading from the Book of Proverbs

When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls.  
Her husband, entrusting his heart to her, has an unfailing prize.  
She brings him good, and not evil, all the days of her life.  
She obtains wool and flax and makes cloth with skillful hands.  
She puts her hands to the distaff, and her fingers ply the spindle.  
She reaches out her hands to the poor, and extends her arms to the  
needy.  
Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting; the woman who fears the LORD is  
to be praised.  
Give her a reward of her labors, and let her works praise her at the city  
gates.

The word of the Lord.

## OT-5

### **Old Testament Reading # 5 Song of Songs 2:8-10, 14, 16a; 8:6-7**

A reading from the Song of Songs

Hark! my lover—here he comes  
springing across the mountains,  
leaping across the hills.  
My lover is like a gazelle  
or a young stag.  
Here he stands behind our wall,  
gazing through the windows,  
peering through the lattices.  
My lover speaks; he says to me,  
"Arise, my beloved, my beautiful one,  
and come!"

O my dove in the clefts of the rock,  
in the secret recesses of the cliff,  
Let me see you,  
let me hear your voice,  
For your voice is sweet,  
and you are lovely."

My lover belongs to me and I to him;  
He says to me:  
"Set me as a seal on your heart,  
as a seal on your arm;  
For stern as death is love,  
relentless as the nether world is devotion;  
its flames are a blazing fire.  
Deep waters cannot quench love,  
nor floods sweep it away."

The word of the Lord.