

**OFFICE FOR DIVINE WORSHIP
APRIL 2015**

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LITURGICAL CALENDAR ITEMS

NOTES FOR HOLY WEEK AND THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM

Communities Combining for the Sacred Paschal Triduum

In the introduction to the Sacred Paschal Triduum, the *Roman Missal* states,

2. For a fitting celebration of the Sacred Triduum, a sufficient number of lay ministers is required, who must be carefully instructed as to what they are to do.
3. The celebrations of the Sacred Triduum are to be carried out in cathedral and parochial churches and only in those churches in which they can be performed with dignity, that is, with a good attendance of the faithful, an appropriate number of ministers, and the means to sing at least some of the parts. Consequently, it is desirable that small communities, associations, and special groups of various kinds join together in these churches to carry out the sacred celebrations in a more noble manner.

Funerals during the Triduum

On Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday, a Funeral Mass may not be celebrated. On these days the body of the deceased may be brought into the Church for a *Funeral Liturgy Outside Mass* using the *Order of Christian Funerals*, Part I, Chapter 4. A Mass for the Dead for the deceased should be offered as soon as is convenient after Easter Sunday.

Additional Information for Liturgical Preparation

The *Circular Letter Concerning the Preparation and Celebration of the Easter Feasts (Paschale Solemnitatis)*, by the Congregation for Divine Worship, January 16, 1988, is posted on the website for the Office for Divine Worship. This letter provides helpful pastoral, theological and liturgical (as well as liturgical music) information for pastors and preparers of the Sacred Liturgy for Lent, the Sacred Paschal Triduum and Easter Time.

Time of the Easter Vigil

The Easter Vigil is not an anticipated Mass for Easter Sunday and it may not take place at the regularly scheduled time for the anticipated Mass. The Easter Vigil should not begin before nightfall. It may be helpful to know that sunset, according to the US Naval Observatory Astronomical Applications Department, occurs at 7:28 PM on April 4, 2015.

CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

The Office for Divine Worship has the responsibility for direction, guidance and support of pastors and those who collaborate with them in the formation of adults for Christian Initiation. Additional information on Christian Initiation for adults can be found on the website for the Office for Divine Worship, under the heading *Christian Initiation*.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THE EASTER VIGIL

In accord with the US National Statutes for the Catechumenate (November, 11, 1986) no. 33, Archbishop Chaput asks that you note:

Only the adult elect, that is, the unbaptized catechumens elected at the Rite of Election, are to be fully initiated with Baptism, Confirmation and reception of the Body and Blood of the Lord at the Solemn Paschal Vigil, according to the rites outlined in the *Roman Missal*. Children may also be baptized at the Easter Vigil.

Baptized non-Catholic Christians are to be received into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church on Palm Sunday or Easter Sunday or any Sunday of Easter Time. In fact, this reception can take place almost any time during the Church Year according to the rite outlined in the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* (cf. RCIA, nos. 473-504). No additional permission is required for this Reception of Baptized Christians in the Full Communion of the Catholic Church.

For many parishes, this practice continues to represent an innovation that requires catechesis on the dignity of Baptism and the avoidance of any confusion between candidates for Baptism and baptized Christians.

Candidates for the Reception into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church should be encouraged to participate in the Easter Vigil, especially with a distinct place to sit among the faithful and acknowledged by the priest celebrant.

RECEPTION OF BAPTIZED CHRISTIANS INTO THE FULL COMMUNION OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

The *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* allows for people baptized in another Church or ecclesial community, although never treated as catechumens, to benefit from the doctrinal and spiritual formation of the unbaptized. Additionally, the use of the Combined Rites for catechumens and candidates gives the candidates an important sense of the Sacred Liturgy and participation with the Church leading to Confirmation and Communion. However, many candidates do not require a full program parallel to the catechumenate. Therefore, the directives provided in the US National Statutes for the Catechumenate for Reception into Full Communion (nos. 30-37) should be increasingly observed.

Preparation and celebration of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation for baptized non-Catholics are an essential element of their Reception (See RCLA, no. 482).

Reception of Candidates and Valid Baptism and Conditional Baptism

All non-Catholic Christians seeking full communion must be validly baptized. The following norm is to be observed in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia with regard to the reception of candidates into the full communion of the Catholic Church:

Baptism is the doorway to all of the Sacraments. Therefore, the sacred minister needs moral certitude that a person was baptized with the Trinitarian formula and the triple water pouring/immersion before other Sacraments are celebrated. This moral certitude requires more than the evidence of a baptismal certificate and must be the case in each individual circumstance. Such moral certitude can often be readily obtained through inquiry with the candidate. When moral certitude is lacking, a conditional Baptism is necessary (see Canon 869 and National Statutes for the Catechumenate 37).

Additional information on valid baptism and conditional baptism can be found on the website for the Office for Divine Worship.

CONFIRMATION FOR ROMAN CATHOLIC ADULTS

The ordinary minister of the Sacrament of Confirmation for baptized Roman Catholics is the Bishop. Typically, this occurs during the pastoral visit of the Bishop to the parish. Every effort should be made to prepare Catholic Adults for Confirmation to participate in the parish celebration with the Bishop.

Additionally, Archbishop Chaput will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on Pentecost Sunday, May 24, 2015, during the 6:30 PM Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul. The candidates for this sacramental celebration are baptized Roman Catholics who have been properly catechized for Confirmation (and if needed, for the reception of First Communion). Information about this celebration for pastors and those who assist with the formation and reception of the Sacraments of Initiation has been distributed by e-mail in February 2015 to all parish Liturgy Contacts, parish Christian Initiation Coordinators, and DRE's, and can also be found on the website of the Office for Divine Worship.

If for some serious reason, a school age baptized Roman Catholic is unable to be confirmed by the Bishop during his pastoral visit to the parish, then this candidate, with the permission of the pastor,

may be presented for the Sacrament of Confirmation on Pentecost Sunday. The pastor's permission is to be included with the registration forms to be sent to the Office for Divine Worship.

A pastor who foresees the genuine pastoral need to confirm an adult baptized Roman Catholic can do so only with the specific delegation of the Bishop (see Canon 882 and *National Statutes for the Catechumenate*, nos. 28-29). Archbishop Chaput gives this faculty to all priests of the Archdiocese to confirm Roman Catholic Adults on any occasion from Palm Sunday through Pentecost Sunday. This delegation is required for the validity of the Sacrament in the case of a Roman Catholic candidate. If you have any questions about this faculty, please contact the Office for Divine Worship. There is no need for an additional letter requesting this faculty during the period specified by the Archbishop.

MASSES FOR THE NEOPHYTES AND ALSO A PENTECOST CELEBRATION During the Easter Season

The *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* provides helpful guidance for the pastoral care of the newly baptized adults at Easter:

247 Since the distinctive spirit and power of the period of postbaptismal catechesis or mystagogy derive from the new, personal experience of the sacraments and of the community, its main setting is the so-called Masses for neophytes, that is, the Sunday Masses of the Easter season. Besides being occasions for the newly baptized to gather with the community and share in the mysteries, these celebrations include particularly suitable readings from the Lectionary, especially the readings for Year A. Even when Christian initiation has been celebrated outside the usual times, the texts for these Sunday Masses of the Easter season may be used.

248 All the neophytes and their godparents should make an effort to take part in the Masses for the neophytes and the entire local community should be invited to participate with them. Special places in the congregation are to be reserved for the neophytes and their godparents. The homily and, as circumstances suggest, the general intercessions should take into account the presence and needs of the neophytes. 5

249 To close the period of postbaptismal catechesis, some sort of celebration should be held at the end of the Easter season near Pentecost Sunday; festivities in keeping with local custom may accompany the occasion.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

- **All Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are to have an appointment letter from the Archbishop.**
- Candidates are to be fully initiated practicing Catholics, high school graduates, validly married, if married, and recognized for faith and devotion to the Holy Eucharist as well as for service in the parish/institution.
- Pastors and chaplains are encouraged to send new Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to the archdiocesan formation sessions. Current Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are also welcome to these sessions.

- Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion typically serve for three years. Pastors/chaplains may renew terms, if agreeable and in consultation with the minister.
- Pastors and chaplains are reminded to inform the Office for Divine Worship if they conduct their own formation and to send to this office their request for new Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.
- Request forms can be found on the Office for Divine Worship website. Letters of Appointment from the Archbishop will then follow.
- Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are appointed for a three-year term and for the place where they are commissioned. Terms may be renewed if agreeable to both the pastor/chaplain and the minister.
- All records of active Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are maintained by the parish/institution.
- **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are commissioned after participation in a training session, according to the form found in the *Book of Blessings*, Chapter 63, “Order for the Commissioning of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.”**
- Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion only serve in the parishes/institutions for which they are commissioned.

**PRESENTLY SCHEDULED UPCOMING WORKSHOPS
REMAINING SPRING WORKSHOPS
FOR EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION**

- Saturday, April 18, 2015 10:00 AM – 12:00 Noon
Cathedral Chapel of Saints Peter and Paul, Philadelphia
- Thursday, April 23, 2015 7:00 – 9:00 PM
Saint Katherine of Siena, Northeast Philadelphia

*Register for this workshop directly online at the Office for Divine Worship website
or call the Office for Divine Worship.*

**REMAINING SPRING WORKSHOPS
FOR LECTORS**

- Wednesday, April 22, 2015 7:00 – 9:00 PM
Saint Katherine of Siena, Philadelphia

*Register for this workshop directly online at the Office for Divine Worship website
or call the Office for Divine Worship.*

**SPRING WORKSHOPS
FOR THOSE INVOLVED IN BAPTISM PREPARATION**

- Wednesday, April 15, 2015 7:00 – 9:00 PM
Saint Alphonsus Church, Maple Glen
- Wednesday, May 6, 2015 7:00 – 9:00 PM

Epiphany of Our Lord Church, Plymouth Meeting

*Register for this workshop directly online at the Office for Divine Worship website
or call the Office for Divine Worship.*

**MATERIALS FOR LECTORS WHO USE LARGE PRINT OR BRAILLE
PLEASE CONTACT:**

National Catholic Partnership on Disability (NCPD)
415 Michigan Avenue, NE, Suite 95
Washington, DC 20017-4501
202-529-2933; 202-529-2934 (tty)
www.ncpd.org
Xavier Society for the Blind
212-473-7800
Xaviersocietyfortheblind.org

OTHER POINTS

Below are responses to inquiries to the Office for Divine Worship:

Full Initiation—Baptism, Confirmation and the first reception of Communion—apart from the Easter Vigil, outside the immediate danger of death, requires the permission of the Archbishop (see RCIA, no. 331). Archbishop Chaput delegates the Office for Divine Worship to give this permission. Please contact the Office for Divine Worship for such circumstances.

The Disposal and Replacement of the Paschal Candle

In the February 2010 (USCCB Committee on Divine Worship) *Newsletter* article, “Eighteen Questions on the Paschal Triduum,” two of those questions dealt with the appropriate specifications of the paschal candle and a suggestion for the case of mission churches and cluster parishes where only one Vigil will be celebrated, but where two or more paschal candles will be needed for the rest of the year. A question not covered in that article, but which has recently come to the Secretariat of Divine Worship, asks what the appropriate protocol is for old paschal candles.

The first response must be that they may not be reused. The paschal candle must be new each year and receive its blessing at the Paschal Vigil. *Paschale Sollemnitatis*, the 1988 Circular Letter concerning the preparation and celebration of the Easter feasts, states that the paschal candle must “be renewed each year” (no. 82). This does not mean that the old candle must be thrown away. Most suppliers of candles accept the return of used candles (and will sometimes even offer a discount for the exchange). These suppliers will then recycle the wax to produce new candles. If, for some reason, a parish is unable to recycle the candle wax, then the old paschal candle, as a blessed object (a sacramental) must be appropriately disposed of. This could involve burning the candle in a devotional manner (privately as opposed to publicly and liturgically) or even burying the candle in blessed ground. Candles are made to be burned, however, and it is better to find a way either to recycle or burn the wax.

As a reminder, *Paschale Sollemnitatis*, nos. 83 and 99, offers good advice regarding an option for the procession with the paschal candle during the Vigil, and regarding proper use of the candle after the Vigil for Easter and for the rest of the year:

83. The procession, by which the people enter the church, should be led by the light of the paschal candle alone. Just as the children of Israel were guided at night by a pillar of fire, so similarly Christians follow the risen Christ. There is no reason why to each response “Thanks be to God” there should not be added some acclamation in honor of Christ.

99. The paschal candle has its proper place either by the ambo or by the altar and should be lit at least in all the more solemn liturgical celebrations of the season until Pentecost Sunday, whether at Mass, or at Morning and Evening Prayer. After the Easter season the candle should be kept with honor in the baptistery, so that in the celebration of Baptism the candles of the baptized may be lit from it. In the celebration of funerals the paschal candle should be placed near the coffin to indicate that the death of a Christian is his own Passover. The paschal candle should not otherwise be lit nor placed in the sanctuary outside the Easter season.

Finally, the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* states the following regarding the use of incense for the paschal candle, “Three swings of the thurible are used to incense: the Most Blessed Sacrament, a relic of the Holy Cross and images of the Lord exposed for public veneration, the offerings for the Sacrifice of the Mass, the altar cross, the *Book of the Gospels*, the paschal candle, the Priest, and the people” (no. 277).

LINKS TO HELPFUL INFORMATION

MAKE SURE

YOUR PARISH RECEIVES THE MOST CURRENT INFORMATION

Please notify the Office for Divine Worship if there are any changes to the Coordinators serving as liaisons between your parish and the Office for Divine Worship. The Coordinators Contact Form is available online as a [PDF](#) or [Word](#) file.

FOR THE LATEST NEWS

ON LITURGICAL MUSIC IN THE ARCHDIOCESE visit:

<http://www.odnphiladelphia.org/liturgical-music>.

FOR THE MOST RECENT NEWSLETTER FROM THE USCCB

Individual issues of the Newsletter are posted online approximately three months after they have been released to subscribers. The most recent newsletter available is April 2014,

<http://www.usccb.org/about/divine-worship/newsletter/upload/newsletter-2014-04.pdf>.

For information on subscribing to the newsletter, visit:

<http://www.usccb.org/about/divine-worship/newsletter/>.

FOR PAST MONTHLY MAILINGS OF THE OFFICE FOR DIVINE WORSHIP visit:

<http://www.odnphiladelphia.org/sacred-liturgy/monthly-mailings/>.