

OFFICE FOR DIVINE WORSHIP

APRIL 2018

Website for the Office for Divine Worship
Website: www.odwphiladelphia.org

Contact information for the Office for Divine Worship

Phone: 215-587-3537 Fax: 215-644-3940
Email: worship@archphila.org

Reverend Gerald Dennis Gill, Director
fr.dgill@archphila.org

Ms. Charlene Angelini, Director of Liturgical Music for the Cathedral Parish
With Archdiocesan Responsibilities
cangelini@archphila.org

Mrs. Mary Ann Johnson, Executive Secretary
majohnson@archphila.org

Mrs. Barbara Chandler, Project Support Coordinator
bchandler@archphila.org

LITURGICAL and CIVIC CALENDAR ITEMS

THE TIME FOR VIGIL MASSES AND ANTICIPATED MASSES

The time for Vigil Masses and Anticipated Masses in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia is no earlier than 4:00 PM. This applies to Holy Days of Obligation as well, including Christmas.

THE MASS SCHEDULE FOR HOLY DAYS WHEN THE OBLIGATION IS SUSPENDED

In the United States, there are three Holy Days, Solemnities, when the obligation to participate in Mass is suspended when the observance falls on a Monday or a Saturday—the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God (January 1), the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (August 15), and the Solemnity of All Saints (November 1). In these instances, the Mass schedule can certainly be modified.

However, there should at least be the celebration of one Mass for the benefit of the faithful who desire to attend Mass.

SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

Monday, April 9, 2018

This Solemnity, usually observed on March 25, is transferred from its calendar day of March 25 to the first free day after Easter. March 25, 2018 was Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord. Palm Sunday and each day that follows until April 9 does not allow, according to the Table of Liturgical Days, the observance of the Solemnity.

APOSTLES' CREED DURING EASTER TIME

Consideration should be given to the use of the Apostles' Creed during Easter time as provided in the *Roman Missal*. The Order of Mass, number 19, states: *Instead of the Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed, especially during Lent and Easter time, the baptismal Symbol of the Roman Church, known as the Apostles' Creed, may be used.*

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 Sollemnitas*, 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 Sollemnitas*, 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).

CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

MASSES FOR THE NEOPHYTES AND ALSO A PENTECOST CELEBRATION DURING EASTER TIME

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.

All Neophytes are welcome to attend the Sunday 6:30 PM Mass at the Basilica on any Sunday of Easter Time. The first few pews will be reserved on the cathedral side for the Neophytes, their godparents and families.

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 RCIA, 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 20, 2018, 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 was distributed by e-mail and fax this past March 2018 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. Priests are reminded that only the 2016 revised *The Order of Confirmation* may be used to celebrate the Sacrament.

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.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOPS FOR LITURGICAL MINISTERS

The calendar of workshops for 2017-2018 for liturgical ministers has concluded. The calendar for 2018-2019 for liturgical workshops, including the Institute for Christian Initiation, can be found on the website for the Office for Divine Worship.

However, if any parish or institution would like a workshop for liturgical ministers, especially Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, over the next several months, please contact the Office for Divine Worship.

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), 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 attend.
- 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.

PASTORAL GUIDANCE

FOR THE USE OF APPROVED LOW GLUTEN HOSTS FOR HOLY COMMUNION AND THE MANNER OF DISTRIBUTION

- All parishes and institutions within the Archdiocese of Philadelphia are to have approved low-gluten hosts available for those with gluten allergies and intolerance.
 - *Hosts made from any other products than wheat (gluten) are not valid matter for consecration for the Body of Christ.*
- Those who wish to receive Holy Communion with a low-gluten host should inform the priest celebrant prior to the celebration of Mass.
- The low-gluten host is placed in a pyx reserved for this use and is brought to the altar when it is prepared for the Liturgy of the Eucharist.
 - *The pyx should be opened for the Eucharistic Prayer.*
 - *It is important to keep the low-gluten host separate from the other hosts to be consecrated at Mass.*
- Every effort should be made for those who receive a consecrated low-gluten host to be a part of the Communion Procession without making unnecessary distinctions among communicants. Typically, those who receive a consecrated low-gluten host would be among the first to receive from the priest celebrant or a deacon or an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion.
 - *The communicant never gives himself or herself Holy Communion.*
 - *The pyx is purified with the other sacred vessels after the distribution of Holy Communion or after the celebration of Mass.*
- In some instances, low gluten hosts may need to be consecrated for the sick and homebound. Likewise, these consecrated low gluten hosts should be contained in a pyx reserved for this use.
- In all instances, those with gluten allergies and intolerance should be invited to receive the Precious Blood especially when a low-gluten host is unavailable.

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.

FOR THE MOST RECENT NEWSLETTER FROM THE USCCB

Individual issues of the Newsletter are posted online around the fifteenth of the month approximately three months after they have been released to subscribers.

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

For information on subscribing to the newsletter, visit:

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

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