

**OFFICE FOR DIVINE WORSHIP
APRIL 2012**

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SOME LITURGICAL CALENDAR ITEMS

THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM

Adjustments to the rubrics for the Sacred Paschal Triduum

The third edition of the *Roman Missal* includes a number of adjustments to the rubrics for the celebration of the Sacred Paschal Triduum. These adjustments are summarized on the website of the Office for Divine Worship for your convenience at the following address: <http://archphila.org/evangelization/worship/resources/liturgy.htm>.

Please note: On Easter Sunday, the rite of renewal of baptismal promises is an option.

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 liturgical music) information for pastors and preparers of the Liturgy for the Sacred Paschal Triduum and Easter Time.

Time of the Easter Vigil

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 7:31 PM on 7 April 2012.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE ELECTION OF POPE BENEDICT XVI

Thursday, April 19

On this day it is fitting to remember with a petition in the Prayer of the Faithful the anniversary of the election of our Holy Father.

CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Check the following address for copies of the *Christian Initiation Information Periodic Mailings* with important information for those engaged with the formation of adults for the Easter Sacraments: <http://archphila.org/evangelization/worship/christian/christian.htm>.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THE EASTER VIGIL

In accord with the US National Statutes for the Catechumenate (11 November 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 Easter 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).

For many parishes, this represents an innovation that will require catechesis on the dignity of Baptism and the avoidance of any confusion between candidates for Baptism and baptized Christians.

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.

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, 27 May 2012 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 can be found on the website for 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.

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.*

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

- 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.
- 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.
- *Pastors are reminded to conduct the commissioning of new Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion according to the rite found in the Book of Blessings, Chapter 63.*

**The Fall schedule of Archdiocesan Formation Sessions
for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
can be found on the website of the Office for Divine Worship.**