

**OFFICE FOR DIVINE WORSHIP  
DECEMBER 2017**

**Website for the Office for Divine Worship**

**Website: [www.odwphiladelphia.org](http://www.odwphiladelphia.org)**

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With Archdiocesan Responsibilities

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LITURGICAL CALENDAR ITEM

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Sunday, December 3, 2017**

The Blessing of an Advent Wreath may take place at the conclusion of the Universal Prayer on this Sunday. See *Book of Blessings*, Chapter 47, Order for the Blessing of an Advent Wreath. The Advent Wreath needs only to be blessed once, perhaps at the Anticipated Mass for the First Sunday of Advent.

*As we approach the beginning of another year of the Liturgical Calendar, please note the Lectionary cycles for 2018 are:*

- *Sunday Cycle – Year B*
- *Weekday Cycle – II*

**SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION  
OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

**Friday, December 8, 2017**

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the patronal feast of the United States of America, is *always* a Holy Day of Obligation, even if it falls on a Monday or Saturday.

**SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)**

**Monday, December 25, 2017**

The Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord is *always* a Holy Day of Obligation, even if it falls on a Monday or Saturday

**4:00 P.M. is the earliest time in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia for a Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord.**

**FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH**

**Sunday, December 31, 2017**

Scheduled Evening Masses observe the Feast of the Holy Family. *A day of obligation trumps the order of precedence found in the Table of Liturgical Days in favor of the benefit of the faithful to fulfill their obligation for Mass.*

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**

**Monday, January 1, 2018**

The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, is not observed as a holy day of obligation this year.

**FEAST OF SAINT JOHN NEUMANN**

**Friday, January 5, 2018**

The commemoration of Saint John Neumann enjoys the rank of a *feast* in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia for both the celebration of Mass and the Divine Office. Therefore, both at Mass and for the Liturgy of the Hours those features proper to a *feast* are observed.

**BLESSINGS RELATED TO ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS**

- The rite for the blessing of an Advent Wreath, a Manger or a Nativity Scene, a Christmas Tree, and of homes during the Christmas season, are found in the *Book of Blessings*. The introductions to these various blessings offer helpful pastoral and liturgical information. The provided blessings for an Advent Wreath and a Manger or Nativity Scene maintain an important balance and perspective with regard to these elements of devotion and the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy.

- Priests and deacons may consider, in conjunction with Advent, using the *Rite for the Blessing of a Child in the Womb*, published by the United States Conferences of Catholic Bishops in 2012. For more information on this Rite and to order in English or Spanish, see: <http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/prayers/pro-life-blessings.cfm>

## COLDS AND FLU

### AND THE CELEBRATION OF THE SACRED LITURGY

- ❖ Ministers of Holy Communion should wash their hands before Mass begins, or even use an alcohol based anti-bacterial solution in the pew before distributing, and after purifying their fingers after the distributing Holy Communion;
- ❖ People feeling ill should avoid receiving Communion from the chalice.

Priests are encouraged to use good pastoral common sense to allay the fears of the faithful during cold and flu season. An example of this might include refraining from the use of the Sign of Peace during the celebration of Mass and reminding the faithful not to receive the Precious Blood if they are ill.

## 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*.

- For the current Christian Initiation Information Periodic Mailing, see: <http://www.odwphiladelphia.org/christian-initiation/>.

## UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

### LITURGICAL FORMATION WORKSHOPS

2017-2018

### LECTORS AND EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

*Since 2008, the Office for Divine Worship has provided workshops throughout the fall and spring all throughout the Archdiocese of Philadelphia for Extraordinary Ministers and Lectors. These have in some instances been very well attended and in other instances poorly attended. For 2017-2018, the Office is experimenting with a new approach to the workshops.*

**For Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:**

Thursday, March 15, 2018, 7:00 - 9:00 PM

Cathedral Chapel, 18<sup>th</sup> Street and the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia, PA 19103

Presenter, Father Dennis Gill, Director of the Office for Divine Worship

**For Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion for the Sick:**

Saturday, February 3, 2018, 10:00 AM-Noon

Cathedral Chapel, 18<sup>th</sup> Street and the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia, PA 19103

Presenter, Father Dennis Gill, Director of 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.

PUBLICATION OF SUNDAY AND WEEKDAY READINGS  
FOR THE PARISH WEBSITE AND THE PARISH BULLETIN

Pastors are encouraged to publish resources for the Sunday and Weekday readings for Mass on the parish website and/or in the parish bulletin to foster a reading of the Word of God outside of Mass and also as a preparation for Mass. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops provides the following website which could be published:

<http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings>.

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:

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

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

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

## *Liturgical Music During Advent*

With Advent, our approach to Liturgical Music shifts in preparation for the coming of Christ. Advent is truly a “period of devout and expectant delight” (USCCB Liturgical Notes for Advent). Indeed, it is still appropriate for instrumental preludes and postludes with the overall feel being dimmed from the repertoire for Ordinary Time, Easter or Christmas. Moreover, Advent Music would not take on the same bare quality and tone as Lent, but it should differ greatly from Ordinary Time Repertoire. Just as Lent, Advent is a time of preparing and there is a penitential aspect which demands quiet introspection and an openness to conversion. All of the Liturgical Music choices should reflect the moderation of instrumental and organ use as prescribed in the GIRM.

With specific regard to Advent weeks 3 (Gaudete Sunday) and 4, the planning should be more directed to preparing for the Nativity of Our Lord. Gaudete Sunday is a week which lends to Rejoicing and Joy in anticipation of what is to come and the Anthems, Antiphons and Instrumental pieces should reflect that excitement.

Here at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, we will be singing an a cappella Ordinary (The Mass of St. Philip Neri, Jernberg). The Cathedral Choir will also make use of the Choir Stalls in the Sanctuary so that we may present a more authentic presentation while singing the Propers of the Mass. Ministers of Music should also create a balance between Choral offerings and antiphons/hymns which foster “full and conscious participation” from the congregation.

### *Here is a sample of what we will be presenting for Advent Week 1:*

Ordinary: Mass for St Philip Neri, Jernberg  
Memorial Acclamation: Save Us, Savior of the World Missal Chant  
Organ Prelude: Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645  
    Introit – Chepponis  
    Psalm 80 – Richard Rice  
    Alleluia – Paul French  
    Offertory: Creator Alme Siderum  
Offertory Choral Anthem: E’en So Come Quickly Manz  
    Communion Antiphon – James Biery  
Communion Choral Anthem – Ad te Levavi Palestrina  
    Recessional: Come Thou Long Expected Jesus  
Organ Postlude: Creator Alme Siderum, Marcel Dupré



## *Christmas Concert at the Cathedral*

*Spread the Word! Come hear the musical offerings of the Archdiocesan Adult Choir, Archdiocesan Boy and Girl Choir and the Cathedral Choir.*

*Performing works by Whitacre, Kodály, Lukaszewski, Poulenc and more.*

*Dec. 10, 2017*

*3:00 pm*

*For more information, please visit*

<https://cathedralphilaconcerts.org/events/>

## *Auditions*

Auditions will be held for the Archdiocesan Girl and Boy Choir

January 13, 2018 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

**ALL AUDITIONS ARE BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**

Please contact [archdiocesangirlandboychoir@gmail.com](mailto:archdiocesangirlandboychoir@gmail.com)

to schedule your appointment

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## *Archdiocesan Adult Choir*

This group of Archdiocesan Liturgical Musicians comes together each year to sing for all Major Archdiocesan Masses including Chrism Mass, Priesthood and Diaconate Ordination, and our Annual Christmas Concert.

Please contact [cangelini@archphila.org](mailto:cangelini@archphila.org) for an audition time after January 1, 2018.

## *Cantor Workshop*

Please let your cantors know we will be holding a Level 1 Cantor Workshop this coming February at:

St. Michael the Archangel Parish  
66 Levittown Parkway  
Levittown, PA 19054  
215-945-1166  
Feb. 6, 20, 27 from 7pm to 9pm



Future workshops will be offered at the following locations:

St. Monica's, Berwyn, PA - April 2018  
Annunciation BVM, Havertown, PA - July 2018