

**OFFICE FOR DIVINE WORSHIP  
DECEMBER 2013**

**Contact information for the Office for Divine Worship**

Phone: 215-587-3537  
Email: [Worship@adphila.org](mailto:Worship@adphila.org)  
Website: <http://archphila.org/evangelization/worship/worship.htm>  
Reverend Gerald Dennis Gill, Director  
[fr.dgill@archphila.org](mailto:fr.dgill@archphila.org)

**Contact information for the Office for Liturgical Music**

Phone: 215-587-3696  
Email: [jromeri@archphila.org](mailto:jromeri@archphila.org)  
Website: <http://archphila.org/evangelization/worship/music/music.htm>  
Dr. John A. Romeri, Director of Liturgical Music

Mrs. Mary Ann Johnson, Program Coordinator and Secretary  
[majohnson@archphila.org](mailto:majohnson@archphila.org)

*Check the website of the Office for Divine Worship  
for a complete listing of workshops and programs for 2013-2014*

**LITURGICAL CALENDAR ITEMS**

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

**Monday, December 9, 2013**

The Solemnity is transferred this year because of the coincidence with the Second Sunday of Advent on December 8. The obligation to assist at Mass is not transferred.

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

**Wednesday, December 25, 2013, is a Holy Day of Obligation.**

Four PM is the earliest time in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia for a Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord.

**THE OCTAVE DAY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD:  
THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD  
Wednesday, January 1, 2014, is a Holy Day of Obligation**

**BLESSINGS RELATED TO ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS**

- The rite for the blessing of an Advent Wreath, a Manger or 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*.

## EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION FOR SPRING 2014

- **All Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are to have an appointment letter from the Archbishop.**
- 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.*

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

*Additional workshops for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion for Spanish speaking communities, to be announced through the Office for Hispanic Catholics, and for various ethnic communities, to be announced through the Office for Pastoral Care for Migrants and Refugees.*

***Important Notice for Pastors:***

*Under no circumstances are consecrated hosts to be reserved in peoples' homes during the day or overnight for the Communion of the Sick. Every possible arrangement is to be made that hosts for the Communion of the Sick are to be given to the Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion during the Communion of the Mass. If this is not possible, and with very good reason, then arrangements are to be made for the hosts to be obtained outside of Mass so that the Communion minister can then go immediately to the sick.*

**CANTOR TRAINING FOR SPRING 2014**

For more information and to register for *Archdiocesan Cantor Training*, see:

<http://archphila.org/evangelization/worship/music/forms/CantorTrainingRegistrationForm2013-14.pdf>

*Cantor Training for Spanish speaking communities,  
to be announced through the Office for Hispanic Catholics.*

**THE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL  
OF LITURGICAL FURNITURE AND ITEMS**

Parishes and institutions are strongly encouraged to contact the Archdiocesan Office for Closures, 215-587-3996, for the collection and proper disposal of all/any furniture and items associated with the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy which are no longer needed or in use.

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

Pastors are encouraged to publish aids 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>.