

**OFFICE FOR DIVINE WORSHIP
MARCH 2016**

Website for the Office for Divine Worship

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**OBSERVANCE OF THE EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY
ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA**

*December 8, 2015, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
through November 20, 2016, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
(50th Anniversary of the Closing of the Second Vatican Council)*

*Remember to incorporate aspects of the Jubilee Year of Mercy into all areas of parish activities;
particularly as you finalize your plans for Lent, the Sacred Triduum and Easter Season.*

*Please see the separate mailing on the Jubilee Year of Mercy
and the celebration of the Sacrament of Penance during Lent.*

*Parishes are encouraged to arrange for pilgrimages to the Cathedral Basilica and the Shrines
in the Archdiocese to pass through the Holy Door of Mercy during the Jubilee Year.*

OBSERVANCE OF THE 24 HOURS FOR THE LORD

March 4 and 5, 2016

Pope Francis has directed in the Bull of Indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, *Misericordiae Vultus* that, "The initiative of '24 Hours for the Lord,' to be celebrated on the Friday and Saturday preceding the Fourth Week of Lent, should be implemented in every diocese." All parishes and institutions in the Archdiocese, with consideration for particular circumstances and schedules, are to open their churches and chapels for a period of 24 hours from Friday evening, March 4, through to Saturday evening, March 5, 2016, typically concluding with the

Anticipated Mass. The clergy and faithful are encouraged to encounter the mercy of the Lord in adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament, reserved or exposed, and with additional opportunities for the Sacrament of Penance during these 24 hours. Please promote this observance through the print, electronic and social media.

Website for Archdiocesan Observance of the Jubilee,
<http://archphila.org/mercy/>.

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 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.

LITURGICAL and CIVIL CALENDAR ITEMS

FEAST OF SAINT KATHARINE DREXEL

Tuesday, March 3, 2015

The commemoration of Saint Katharine Drexel is a proper Feast in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia with a Gloria and the specified texts in the *Lectionary for Mass*.

TRANSFER OF THE SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

Friday, March 25, 2016

Since March 25, 2016 is Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday), the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, normally assigned to this day, is transferred to Monday, April 4, 2016. The Optional Memorial of St. Isidore, Bishop and Doctor of the Church, is omitted this year.

LENT, THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM AND EASTER TIME

CONFESSIONS DURING LENT

Parish resources to promote a better understanding and preparation for the celebration of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation can be found on the website for the Office for Divine Worship.

WAY OF THE CROSS AND BENEDICTION OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT

Typically, the Way of the Cross, with the movement from station to station, does not take place in conjunction with exposition and benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Exposition with the reading of the Word of God and time for adoration and then benediction may follow the Way of the Cross.

VEILING OF STATUES

In the dioceses of the United States, crosses in the church may be covered from the conclusion of the Mass for the Saturday of the Fourth Week of Lent until the end of the Celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday. Statues in the church may be covered from the conclusion of the Mass for Saturday of the Fourth Week of Lent until the beginning of the Easter Vigil. Additional information can be found on the website for the Office for Divine Worship.

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.

CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

CELEBRATION OF THE SCRUTINIES

AND PRESENTATIONS OF THE CREED AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Rites belonging to the Period of Purification and Enlightenment, RCIA nos. 138-205, found in the ritual book, *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*, are to be carefully observed for the Elect. Any questions regarding these rites may be directed to the Office for Divine Worship.

DAY OF REFLECTION

LENTEN RETREAT FOR ELECT AND CANDIDATES, GODPARENTS, SPONSORS, AND RCIA TEAMS

Saturday, March 19, 2016

Sponsored by Malvern Retreat House in conjunction with the Office for Divine Worship. The Retreat Director will be Monsignor Joseph T. Marino, Rector of Malvern Retreat House. See the attached flier for additional information or visit www.odwphiladelphia.org

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THE EASTER VIGIL

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 7:19 PM on March 26, 2016.

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 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 15, 2016, 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 will be 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.

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.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

**All Workshops for 2016
for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
and for Lectors can be found on the website
of the Office for Divine Worship (www.odwphiladelphia.org)**

OTHER POINTS

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

The *Gloria* is sung at all weekday Wedding Masses during Lent

With the introduction of the third edition of the *Roman Missal* the *Gloria* is sung, even during Advent and Lent, when the Ritual Mass for the Celebration of Marriage is used. The Penitential Act is always omitted during a Wedding Mass.

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.

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 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. The most recent newsletter available is August/September 2015.

<http://www.usccb.org/about/divine-worship/newsletter/upload/newsletter-2015-08-and-09.pdf>

For information on subscribing to the newsletter, visit:

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

FOR NEWS REGARDING LITURGICAL MUSIC IN THE ARCHDIOCESE, read the *Liturgical Musician* newsletter at: <http://www.odwphiladelphia.org/liturgical-music/>.

FOR PAST MONTHLY MAILINGS OF THE OFFICE FOR DIVINE WORSHIP visit: <http://www.odwphiladelphia.org/sacred-liturgy/monthly-mailings/>.