

OFFICE FOR DIVINE WORSHIP

DECEMBER 2020

Website for the Office for Divine Worship

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**MOST CURRENT LITURGICAL DIRECTIVES
WITH REGARD TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC
FOR THE ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA**

Please see the website of the Office for Divine Worship,
<http://www.odwphiladelphia.org/home-page/news/>
for regular updates, especially for Advent and Christmas.

**LITURGICAL AND SPIRITUAL RESOURCES
DURING THIS TIME
OF THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC**

Please see the website of the Office for Divine Worship,
<http://www.odwphiladelphia.org/home-page/news/>
for regular updates.

LITURGICAL and CIVIC CALENDAR ITEMS

ONGOING PRAYER FOR HEALING AND PEACE FOR OUR CITY AND COUNTRY

The following intention may be included regularly in the Universal Prayer (second category) for Sundays.

*For the eradication of all forms of racism among all peoples
and that all will open wide their hearts with the love of God and neighbor
so that healing and peace will mark our way of life.
Let us pray to the Lord/Lord, hear our prayer.*

*Por la erradicación de todas las formas de racismo entre todos los pueblos
y que todos abran sus corazones con el amor de Dios y del prójimo
para que la sanación interior y la paz marquen nuestro estilo de vida.
Roguemos al Señor/Te rogamos óyenos.*

THE PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL, THE ARCHANGEL

Many parishes and institutions within the Archdiocese have responded positively to pray the prayer to Saint Michael in conjunction with the celebration of Mass. You are reminded that this devotional prayer is to take place outside of Mass. It is not to be prayed as the concluding prayer of the Universal Prayer nor as part of the Communion Rite.

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. *This year, due to the Pandemic, the Vigil Mass for Christmas may begin as early as 2:00 PM.*

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 certainly can be modified.

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Sunday, November 29, 2020

As we approach the beginning of another year of the Liturgical Calendar, please note the Lectionary cycles for 2021 are:

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

The Blessing of an Advent Wreath may take place at the conclusion of the Universal Prayer on this Sunday. See the *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. According to the *Book of Blessings*, the Advent Wreath can be placed in any suitable location in the church, including the narthex. If it is in the sanctuary, then it should not obscure the altar or the ambo or impede the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy.

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

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

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. *During the Pandemic the obligation to assist at Mass on the Holy Day is dispensed.*

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL OF OUR LADY OF LORETO

Thursday, December 10, 2020

Pope Francis inscribed the celebration of Our Lady of Loreto in the General Calendar of the Roman Rite as an Optional Memorial. Information on the observance of this Memorial for the celebration of Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours can be found on the USCCB website: <https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year-and-calendar/our-lady-of-loreto>.

SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)

Friday, December 25, 2020

The Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord is *always* a Holy Day of Obligation, even if it falls on a Monday or Saturday. *During the Pandemic the obligation to assist at Mass on the Holy Day is dispensed.*

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

This year, due to the Pandemic, the Vigil Mass for Christmas may begin as early as 2:00 PM.

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Friday, January 1, 2021

The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, is observed as a Holy Day of Obligation. *During the Pandemic the obligation to assist at Mass on the Holy Day is dispensed.*

SAVE THE DATE

THE BIENNIAL ARCHDIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE

to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception
will be on Saturday, October 16, 2021

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>

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*.

Please see, <http://archphila.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Sacraments-of-Christian-Initiation-Easter-5-8-20.pdf>, for reminders about the Sacraments of Christian Initiation during the pandemic.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOPS FOR LITURGICAL MINISTERS

The calendar for 2021 workshops for liturgical ministers can be found on the website for the Office for Divine Worship. Register for these workshops at worship@archphila.org.

If any parish or institution would like a workshop for liturgical ministers, especially Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, please contact the Office for Divine Worship.

If a parish or institution conducts its own workshop for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, please contact the Office for Divine Worship for instructional materials and also to obtain the mandate letters from the Archbishop for the new Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

Plans are underway to provide virtual formation workshops in English and Spanish for Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. As soon as the materials are ready, additional information will be published. The virtual formation workshops will be available to everyone. Pastors will need to insure that proposed Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion view the virtual formation workshop and then submit their names to the Office for Divine Worship for the mandate letter from the Archbishop.

2021 WORKSHOPS

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion Workshop

Tuesday, March 9, 2021

Nativity of Our Lord Parish, Warminster

7:15 PM to 9:00 PM in Church

Please register at worship@archphila.org

Tuesday, April 20, 2021

Saint Andrew Parish, Drexel Hill

7:15 PM to 9:00 PM in Church

Please register at worship@archphila.org

**Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion
to the Sick Workshop**

Saturday, February 27, 2021
Cathedral Chapel
18th Street & Benjamin Franklin Parkway
Philadelphia, PA 19103
9:30 AM to 12Noon
12:05 Mass to follow
Please register at worship@archphila.org

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>.

ON-LINE COURSES ON THE SACRED LITURGY
AVAILABLE FROM THE LITURGICAL INSTITUTE AT MUNDELEIN

This is a new online liturgy program as a resource for both church professionals and the laity. This new online program extends the mission of the Institute to diocesan and parish professionals as well as interested individual Catholics. Composed of five one-hour classroom sessions followed by online quizzes, each course awards one-half Continuing Education Unit and brings a fresh, energized approach to the study of liturgical renewal.

For additional information, please see: <https://www.liturgicalinstitute.org/>.

LINKS TO HELPFUL INFORMATION

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.

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/>.