**OFFICE FOR DIVINE WORSHIP**

**JANUARY 2016**

**Website for the Office for Divine Worship**

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

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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)*

*The Jubilee Year of Mercy opened in the local Churches throughout the world on December 13, 2015,*

*the Third Sunday of Advent.*

Website for Archdiocesan Observance of the Jubilee,

<http://archphila.org/mercy/>.

**LITURGICAL and CIVIC CALENDAR ITEMS**

**THE OCTAVE DAY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD:**

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

**Friday, January 1, 2016, is a Holy Day of Obligation.**

**FEAST OF SAINT JOHN NEUMANN**

**Tuesday, January 5, 2016**

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.

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY**

**Monday, January 18, 2016 through Monday, January 25, 2016**

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity should have, if possible, petitions in the Universal Prayer for this intention. Also, when possible during this week the Mass for the Unity of Christians may be used with the readings of the day and green vestments.

*The Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity provides an excellent catechesis and resources for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at the following website:*

*http://www.vatican.va/roman\_curia/pontifical\_councils/chrstuni/weeks-prayer-doc/rc\_pc\_chrstuni\_doc\_20150526\_week-prayer-2016\_en.html*.

**SPECIAL DAY OF PRAYER**

**FOR THE DIOCESES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**Friday, January 22, 2016**

In all the Dioceses of the United States of America, January 22 (or January 23, when January 22 falls on a Sunday) shall be observed as a particular day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion. The liturgical celebrations for this day may be the Mass “For Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life” (no. 48/1 of the Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions), celebrated with white vestments, of the Mass “For the Preservation of Peace and Justice” (no. 30 of the Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions), celebrated with violet vestments.

*For additional information, see the USCCB website at:*

[*http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/resources/january-22-day-of-prayer.cfm*](http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/resources/january-22-day-of-prayer.cfm)*.*

*Intentions for the Universal Prayer for Respect Life can be found on the website of the Office for Divine Worship.*

**THE YEAR FOR CONSECRATED LIFE CLOSES NEXT MONTH**

The Year of Consecrated Life that began November 30, 2014 will end February 2, 2016. Pope Francis has encouraged those in consecrated life to “Wake up the world and be witnesses of a different way of doing things.” Throughout this year, all the faithful are encouraged to give thanks for the sacrifices and example of those in consecrated life and our youth are encouraged to discern a calling to the consecrated life.

*Resources to assist parishes in observing the Year for Consecrated Life are available from the National Religious Vocation Conference at:* [*https://nrvc.net/275/article/year-of-consecrated-life-parish-packet-and-other-resources-4924*](https://nrvc.net/275/article/year-of-consecrated-life-parish-packet-and-other-resources-4924)*.*

**WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE**

**Monday, February 2, 2016 (Celebrated February 6-7, 2016)**

World Day for Consecrated Life is a day of prayer for women and men who make public vows to “imitate Christ more closely, striving for the perfection of charity in the service of the Kingdom of God.” (*Code of Canon Law, canon 573*). World Day for Consecrated Life is observed by the universal Church on February 2; however, in the United States in order for parishes to fully celebrate this important day, it is transferred to the following Sunday.

*Resources for parish celebrations of the World Day for Consecrated Life can be found on the USCCB website at:*

[*http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/vocations/consecrated-life/world-day-for-consecrated-life.cfm*](http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/vocations/consecrated-life/world-day-for-consecrated-life.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**

**RITE OF ELECTION AND CALL TO CONTINUING CONVERSION**

**Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, Philadelphia PA**

**First Sunday of Lent, 2016**

*Saturday, February 13, 2016 at 11:00 AM for Chester and Bucks Counties*

*Saturday, February 13, 2016 at 3:00 PM for Delaware County and Philadelphia South*

*Sunday, February 14, 2016 at 3:00 PM for Montgomery County Philadelphia North*

All correspondence and registration will be conducted electronically. See the website for the Office for Divine Worship.

The Call to Continuing Conversion is meant for adults (and not children) who are baptized and will be received into Full Communion and/or Confirmation and/or Communion. Also, the Call to Continuing Conversion is equally meant for those already baptized who have not been practicing the Christian Faith but now are returning with the celebration of the Easter Sacraments.

**PARISH BULLETIN INQUIRY ANNOUNCEMENT**

The following is provided as a guide for parish bulletin announcements for the Inquiry Period of Christian Initiation. This announcement respects the various groupings of adults who are seeking information on the Sacraments of Christian Initiation:

**DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS**

**ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH**

Saint N. Parish offers year round opportunities for people seeking more information about the Catholic Faith, the Sacraments and living the Christian Life. These opportunities are for adults who would like to inquire about following Jesus and becoming a member of the Catholic Church, or, if you are already a baptized Christian, would like to become a Catholic, or, if you are already a baptized Catholic, would like to receive Confirmation and Holy Communion. There are many people like yourself inquiring and we are ready to answer your questions.

Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

**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.

**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.*

**UPCOMING WORKSHOPS**

**All Workshops for 2015-2016**

**for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion**

**and for Lectors can be found on the website**

**of the Office for Divine Worship (www.odwphiladelphia.org)**

**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*](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. The Coordinators Contact Form is available online as a [PDF](http://www.odwphiladelphia.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Coordinator-Data-Collection-Form.pdf) or [Word](http://www.odwphiladelphia.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Coordinator-Data-Collection-Form.docx) file.

**FOR THE MOST RECENT NEWSLETTER FROM THE USCCB**

Individual issues of the Newsletter are posted online 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/*](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/*](http://www.odwphiladelphia.org/sacred-liturgy/monthly-mailings/)*.*