**OFFICE FOR DIVINE WORSHIP**

**MAY 2015**

**Website for the Office for Divine Worship**

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**LITURGICAL CALENDAR ITEMS**

**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**Sunday, May 10, 2015**

The American observance of Mother’s Day should in no way detract from this Sunday’s celebration of Easter. A petition in the Universal Prayer and the possible use of the Prayer over the People found in the *Book of Blessings*, nos. 1724-1728, provides for a suitable liturgical inclusion of Mother’s Day.

**SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD**

**Thursday, May 14, 2015**

The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord is a Holy Day of Obligation.

**ORDINATION TO THE SACRED PRIESTHOOD**

**Saturday, May 16, 2015**

On April 7, 2015, the USCCB released a report, based on data from a national survey of newly ordained priests, which emphasized the impact of support from family, school and parish communities on the decision to respond to the call to a priestly vocation. This weekend, in addition to the petitions added to the Universal Prayer for our newly ordained priests and for all priests celebrating the anniversary of their own ordinations, consider a bulletin announcement encouraging open discussions with young men and women regarding vocations to religious life and the priesthood. To read the USCCB report, visit <http://www.usccb.org/news/2015/15-055.cfm>**.**

**SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST**

**Sunday, May 24, 2015**

In some circumstances, consideration might be given to the *Roman Missal* provision for a prolonged celebration of Mass in the form of a Vigil on Saturday evening to pray urgently for the coming of the Holy Spirit.

“On Pentecost, the Sequence is prescribed only at Mass during the Day and not at the Vigil Mass. (If the Pentecost “Mass during the Day” formulary is used at the Saturday evening anticipatory Mass instead of the Vigil Mass formulary, then the Sequence is used)… The 2011 *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, no. 64, specifies that the Sequence is now to be sung before the Alleluia. Its placement today preserves a stronger connection between the Alleluia and the Gospel, and transforms the Sequence into a more contemplative meditation on the mystery of the day in preparation for the Gospel. The assembly remains seated, in a posture of meditation, for the Sequence, and stands when the Alleluia is begun. As there are only two days of the calendar when the Sequence is required, it might be of pastoral benefit for the priest on these days to alert the faithful to the Sequence and its meditative purpose as part of the introduction to the liturgy at the beginning of Mass. An extended explanation of the nature and history of the Sequence might even be included in the parish bulletin as a form of liturgical catechesis.” – USCCB Committee on Divine Worship Newsletter, Volume XLVIII, July 2012

**THE EASTER SEASON, DEVOTION TO THE BLESSED MOTHER AND THE MONTH OF MAY**

May is a traditional time to give special honor to the Blessed Virgin Mary, especially with May Processions and May Crownings. When these processions and crownings are combined with the celebration of Mass, it is more fitting for them to precede the celebration of Mass or follow the Communion Rite of the Mass. On the Sundays of Easter, the celebration of Easter is primary when there are devotions in honor of the Blessed Mother.

**ARCHDIOCESAN MAY PROCESSION and MARIAN CONCERT**

The Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul will host the Archdiocesan May Procession on Sunday, May 3, 2015 at 2:00 pm. The Archdiocesan Choirs will offer a Marian Concert on Sunday, May 10, 2015 at 3:00 pm in the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul. Please see the attached document containing proposed parish bulletin announcements for these events.

**OTHER CALENDAR ITEMS**

**NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER**

**Thursday, May 7, 2015**

The National Day of Prayer is an annual observance held on the first Thursday of May, inviting people of all faiths to pray for the nation. It was created in 1952 by a joint resolution of the United States Congress, and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman. For more information, visit <http://nationaldayofprayer.org/>.

**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*.

**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 24, 2015, 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 has been 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.

**MASSES FOR THE NEOPHYTES AND ALSO A PENTECOST CELEBRATION**

**During the Easter Season**

The *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* provides helpful guidance for the pastoral care of the newly baptized adults at Easter:

# 247 Since the distinctive spirit and power of the period of postbaptismal catechesis or mystagogy derive from the new, personal experience of the sacraments and of the community, its main setting is the so-called Masses for neophytes, that is, the Sunday Masses of the Easter season. Besides being occasions for the newly baptized to gather with the community and share in the mysteries, these celebrations include particularly suitable readings from the Lectionary, especially the readings for Year A. Even when Christian initiation has been celebrated outside the usual times, the texts for these Sunday Masses of the Easter season may be used.

# 248 All the neophytes and their godparents should make an effort to take part in the Masses for the neophytes and the entire local community should be invited to participate with them. Special places in the congregation are to be reserved for the neophytes and their godparents. The homily and, as circumstances suggest, the general intercessions should take into account the presence and needs of the neophytes. 5

# 249 To close the period of postbaptismal catechesis, some sort of celebration should be held at the end of the Easter season near Pentecost Sunday; festivities in keeping with local custom may accompany the occasion.

**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, and 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 these sessions.
* 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.

**PRESENTLY SCHEDULED UPCOMING WORKSHOPS**

**WORKSHOP FOR THOSE INVOLVED IN BAPTISM PREPARATION CANCELED**

The workshop for those involved in Baptism preparation scheduled for Wednesday, May 6 at Epiphany of Our Lord Church, Plymouth Meeting has been canceled.

**WORKSHOP FOR SPANISH-SPEAKING**

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION**

* Thursday, May 7, 2015 7:00 – 9:00 PM

Saint William Parish, Philadelphia

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

*or call the Office for Divine Worship.*

**PREPARING LITURGIES WITH CHILDREN WORKSHOPS**

* Wednesday, May 13, 2015 4:30 – 6:30 PM

Archdiocesan Pastoral Center, Philadelphia

* Wednesday, May 20, 2015 4:30 – 6:30 PM

Archdiocesan Pastoral Center, Philadelphia

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

*or call the Office for Divine Worship.*

**REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL HOLY OILS**

If during the year, additional Holy Oils are needed for sacramental use, please contact the Rector at the Cathedral, 215-561-1313.

**LINK TO INFORMATION ON MASS IN THE EXTRAORDINARY FORM**

A new link has been added to the Sacred Liturgy tab of the Office for Divine Worship website to provide easy access to information about celebrating Mass in the Extraordinary Form.

**OTHER POINTS**

**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](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 latest news**

**on Liturgical Music in the Archdiocese** visit:

[*http://www.odwphiladelphia.org/liturgical-music*](http://www.odwphiladelphia.org/liturgical-music).

**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 April 2014,

[*http://www.usccb.org/about/divine-worship/newsletter/upload/newsletter-2014-04.pdf*](http://www.usccb.org/about/divine-worship/newsletter/upload/newsletter-2014-04.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/)*.*