



ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

Secretariat for Evangelization

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OFFICE for WORSHIP

December 2008

Dear Bishop, Monsignor, Father and Deacon,

SOME LITURGICAL CALENDAR ITEMS

December 8, 2008, Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Monday, December 8 is a Holy Day of Obligation.

The anticipated Mass on Sunday evening, December 7, may be the celebration of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.

January 1, 2009, Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God

Thursday, January 1 is a Holy Day of Obligation.

January 25, 2009, Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul

The Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments granted on January 25, 2008, the following special faculty for the Jubilee Year of Saint Paul:

Therefore, in force of the faculties attributed to this Congregation by the Supreme Pontiff, Benedict XVI, grants, in an extraordinary way, that next January 25, 2009, the Third Sunday "per annum", the singular churches can celebrate a Mass according to the formula *Conversion of St Paul, Apostle*, as found in the Roman Missal. In this case, the Second Reading of the Mass is taken from the Roman Lectionary for the Third Sunday "per annum", and the Creed is recited.

BLESSINGS RELATED TO ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

The form 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.

COORDINATORS OF LITURGICAL PLANNING

The Office for Worship is compiling a data base of those in our parishes entrusted with the coordination of liturgical planning. The purpose of this data base is to provide helpful and instructional liturgical information to those who assist pastors with the planning of liturgical celebrations. If your parish has the assistance of such a coordinator, please email the Office of Worship with this person's contact information. Thank you.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Pastors and chaplains are reminded to inform the Office for Worship if they are conducting their own training and to send to this office their request for new Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. Request forms can be found on the Office for Worship website. Letters of Appointment 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.

SAVE THE DATE!

A Workshop on Sing to the Lord!

A full day workshop on the USCCB document, *Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship*, is scheduled for Saturday, February 7, 2009, at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary. This workshop is designed for clergy, music ministers and anyone interested in the document. The new document replaces the previous documents, *Music in Catholic Worship* and *Liturgical Music Today*. The new document gives theological and liturgical directives on who, what, why and how to sing the Sacred Liturgy. More information will follow. Pastors, parish music directors and music ministers are encouraged to attend.

If you have any questions about any of the above points, please don't hesitate to give me a call at the office or send me an e-mail, frdgill@adphila.org. Please check the website for liturgical resources, especially Prayers of the Faithful for Advent and Christmas, and helpful liturgical links, <http://archphila.org/evangelization/worship.htm>.

Sincerely in the Lord,

Reverend Gerald Dennis Gill
Director