

**OFFICE FOR WORSHIP  
MARCH 2010**

**SOME LITURGICAL CALENDAR ITEMS**

**Please Note for the celebration of Christmas 2010**

*The Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord falls on a Saturday this year. For those parishes planning to schedule a Saturday evening Mass on December 25, the observance is that of Christmas Day.*

**FEAST OF SAINT KATHARINE DREXEL, VIRGIN**

**Wednesday, March 3, 2010**

The commemoration of Saint Katharine Drexel is a proper Feast in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. The proper texts for the celebration of the Eucharist and the Liturgy of the Hours can be found online at the Office for Worship website at the following address: <http://archphila.org/evangelization/worship/worship.htm>.

**SOLEMNITY OF SAINT JOSEPH**

**Friday, March 19, 2010**

Masses celebrated on the evening before, (March 18) are of the Solemnity either before and after Evening Prayer I.

The obligation to abstain from meat is not binding on Friday, March 19, the Solemnity of Saint Joseph. The law of the Church (Canon 1251) provides for this exception since the Solemnity overrides Friday Lenten observance.

Today is also the baptismal name day of our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI. A petition in the Prayer of the Faithful for his intentions is fitting on this day.

**SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD**

**Thursday, March 25, 2010**

Masses celebrated on the evening before, (March 24) are of the Solemnity either before and after Evening Prayer I.

**CELEBRATION OF THE SCRUTINIES  
AND PRESENTATIONS OF THE CREED  
AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

The *Rites Belonging to the Period of Purification and Enlightenment* (Numbers 138-205) found in the ritual book, *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*, should be carefully observed for the Elect. Any questions regarding to these rites may be directed to the Office for Worship or the Office for the Formation of the Laity.

**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. The United States Bishops approved this recovered practice in 2001.

### **THE RECEPTION OF THE HOLY OILS BLESSED AT THE CHRISM MASS**

The 2004 *Sacramentary Supplement* provides instructions and the form for the reception of the new oils at the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday. This same information can be found on the Office for Worship website,  
<http://archphila.org/evangelization/worship/worship.htm>

### **THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM**

#### **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 Worship. This letter provides helpful pastoral, theological and liturgical (as well liturgical music) information for pastors and preparers of the Liturgy for Lent, the Triduum and Easter time.

Notes for the celebration of the Triduum according to the revised rubrics found in the 2002 edition of the *Missale Romanum* can be found on the website of the Office for Worship and also the website of the Bishops' Committee for Divine Worship. These rubrics have the force of law for the universal Church since the promulgation of the typical edition of the 2002 *Missale Romanum* and will be incorporated into the new English translation of this same liturgical book.

#### **CELEBRANT OF THE LORD'S PASSION ON GOOD FRIDAY**

The nature and context of this Good Friday Liturgy requires a priest celebrant and can not be delegated to a deacon or a lay person.

#### **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 7:27 PM on April 3, 2010.

### **ROMAN MISSAL FORMATION**

**USCCB WEBSITE:** [www.USCCB.org/liturgy/romanmissalformation](http://www.USCCB.org/liturgy/romanmissalformation)

Priests are encouraged to check the USCCB website for additional information during this period of remote preparation for the reception of the new English Translation of the *Roman Missal*.

**See Notre Dame Center for Liturgy for:**

Web Catechesis for the Implementation of the new English Translation of the *Roman Missal*: <http://liturgy.nd.edu/webcatechesis/>

These videos and transcripts provide additional background catechesis for the implementation of the new translation.

### **ARCHDIOCESAN REGIONAL ASSEMBLIES**

Complete information on the three Archdiocesan Regional Assemblies on the revised English Translation will follow in the April Monthly Mailing and the Catholic Standard and Times. Please refer to the last month's mailing for times, dates and locations.

### **CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS**

#### **COMMUTATION OF THE PERIODS AND STEPS**

The *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* allows for a commutation and adaptation of the periods and steps for sacramental initiation which typically correspond to the observance of Lent and the celebration of the Easter Vigil. The Bishop can allow for such commutation and adaptation in exceptional circumstance. Cardinal Rigali grants such permission.

Numbers 34 and 331 in the ritual book, *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*, describe arrangements for an adapted process for Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

#### **CONDITIONAL BAPTISM**

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).

#### **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.

Additionally, Cardinal Rigali will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on Pentecost Sunday, May 23, 2010, during the 2:00 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 made available the website for the Office for Worship.

## **CONFIRMATION BY PRIESTS**

A pastor who foresees the genuine pastoral need to confirm a baptized Roman Catholic can do so only with the specific delegation of the Bishop (see Canon 882 and National Statutes for the Catechumenate 28-29). The request for such delegation is to be made in writing, including the name of the priest and the individual(s) prepared for the Sacrament of Confirmation. While the request is to be addressed to the Archbishop, the letter is directed to Bishop Maginnis.

## **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. *Pastors are reminded to conduct the commissioning of new Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion according to the rite found in the Book of Blessings, Chapter 63.*