

OFFICE FOR DIVINE WORSHIP

DECEMBER 2019

Website for the Office for Divine Worship

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LITURGICAL and CIVIC CALENDAR ITEMS

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.

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, December 1, 2019

As we approach the beginning of another year of the Liturgical Calendar, please note the Lectionary cycles for 2019 are:

- *Sunday Cycle – Year A*
- *Weekday Cycle – II*

The Blessing of an Advent Wreath may take place at the conclusion of the Universal Prayer on this Sunday. See *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.

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Observed on Monday, December 9, 2019

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.

This year December 8th falls on a Sunday. The Second Sunday of Advent displaces the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. However, the Solemnity is observed the next day, December 9th, but not as a Holy Day of Obligation when it is transferred.

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL OF OUR LADY OF LORETO

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

Pope Francis has recently 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:<http://www.usccb.org/about/divine-worship/liturgical-calendar/our-lady-of-loreto.cfm>.

SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)

Wednesday, December 25, 2019

The Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord is *always* a Holy Day of Obligation, even if it falls on a Monday or Saturday.

**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.**

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Wednesday, January 1, 2020

The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, is observed as a Holy Day of Obligation.

SAVE THE DATE

The Biennial Archdiocesan Pilgrimage
to 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>

COLDS AND FLU SEASON

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

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*.

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.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOP ON THE ORDER OF BAPTISM OF CHILDREN

The English Translation of the second edition of the *Order of Baptism of Children* has been approved for use in the United States and replaces the current English edition. The first use date of the revised ritual is February 2, 2020, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, and the mandatory use date is April 2, 2020, Easter Sunday.

All Priests, Deacons, DRE's, Catechists for Baptism, and Liturgical Musicians are encouraged to attend a workshop on this new ritual book on Tuesday, February 11, 2020, at the Archdiocesan Pastoral Center, from 1:30 to 3:30 PM. Please register at worship@archphila.org.

To pre-order the second edition of the *Order of Baptism of Children*, please open hyperlink below:
http://store.usccb.org/order-of-baptism-of-children-p/7-641.htm?utm_source=store-homepage&utm_medium=banner&utm_campaign=order_of_baptism

WORKSHOPS FOR LITURGICAL MINISTERS

The calendar for 2019-2020 workshops for liturgical ministers can be found on the website for the Office for Divine Worship. Register for these workshops at worship@archphila.org.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Thursday, January 16, 2020

Cathedral Chapel

7:00 to 9:00 PM

Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul

18th and Benjamin Franklin Parkway

Philadelphia, PA 19103

Parking Available

Please register at worship@archphila.org

Thursday, February 13, 2020

Saint John Neumann Parish, Bryn Mawr

7:00 to 9:00 PM in the Main Church

Please register at: worship@archphila.org

Thursday, March 26, 2020

Cathedral Chapel

7:00 to 9:00 PM

Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul

18th and Benjamin Franklin Parkway

Philadelphia, PA 19103

Parking Available

Please register at worship@archphila.org

Lectors

Wednesday, March 18, 2020

Cathedral Chapel

7:00 to 9:00 PM
Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul
18th and Benjamin Franklin Parkway
Philadelphia, PA 19103
Parking Available
Please register at worship@archphila.org

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion of the Sick

Saturday, February 8, 2020
Cathedral Chapel
10:00 AM to Noon
Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul
18th and Benjamin Franklin Parkway
Philadelphia, PA 19103
Parking Available
Please register 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.

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>.

From the Office for Liturgical Music

Today is Born our Savior! But wait... there's more.
An Overview of the Christmas Psalms (96, 97, 98)

The Book of Psalms has provided a rich treasury of texts that depict sorrow, joy, lament, thanksgiving, wisdom and praise. Often there are overarching themes shared by whole groups of psalms. Namely, the three psalms that come as a set for Christmas are often referred to as the “enthronement psalms.” God as King and Ruler of all permeates this specific group, invoking the faithful to sing joyfully in exaltation of the coming of Jesus Christ. Not only do we celebrate the birth of our Lord, but we celebrate his sovereignty over all the earth by joyfully singing his praise.

Nativity of the Lord: Mass at Midnight, Psalm 96
King of Kings: The Messiah is Born

“Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord.”

Sing a new song to the Lord! This certainly does not refer to new melodies or hymn tunes. We are called to sing a new song so that all the creatures of the earth – the plains, the sea, the heavens and the trees of the forest - may hear it! God’s rule embraces all things and encompasses the earth, clearly personified through the coming of the Messiah.

Nativity of the Lord: Mass at Dawn, Psalm 97
The Lord Rules with Righteousness

“A light will shine on us this day: the Lord is born for us.”

The verses of Psalm 97 bring much comfort. Rest assured, God rules with justice over all the earth, but he does so with righteousness. The kingdom of God rests on the foundation that God will rule with a pure heart, compassion and concern for his people. This affirmation of the Lord’s love encourages us to embrace fully the true presence of God in Jesus during Christmas.

Nativity of the Lord: Mass during the Day, Psalm 98
Salvation

“All the ends of the earth has seen the saving power of God.”

In the coming of Christ, we experience a call to remembrance of God’s promise of deliverance and salvation for his people. The Lord’s right hand and holy arm give the faithful great hope. In difficult times, the knowledge of God’s salvation revealed to us in the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus become a focal point in our Christian lives. The Lord will come and save us.

All this to say – it is of the utmost importance that the Christmas psalms be used appropriately. A “seasonal psalm” for every Christmas Mass doesn’t tell the entire story of a prophecy fulfilled, complete sovereignty, right judgment and a call to universal praise. I’d like to encourage you to follow through with your music directors to ensure that this sequence of psalmody be carried out in your own parishes.

“Experienced together, the three psalms are breathtaking and the connection to Christmas is natural. These psalms orient us to Jesus, both his coming to us and his righteous reign.”

-Martin Tel

Seek Him

Cathedral Basilica Christmas Concert

On December 8, 2019 at 3:00 PM the Cathedral Basilica will have its annual Christmas Concert.

It is not to be missed!

Repertoire to include “Seek Him that Maketh the Seven Stars” (Jonathan Dove), the riveting “*In Splendoribus Sanctorum*” (James Macmillan), Sir Christemas (William Mathias), the Advent Responsory (Richard Marlow) and much more! As always, we will perform some holiday favorites for all to join in singing.

Come and pause for an afternoon of reflection and prayer in anticipation of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

The concert will feature a chamber ensemble, choirs and organ!

For tickets, please visit:

<https://cathedralphilaconcerts.org/event/cathedral-choir-christmas-concert/>

Choirs at the Cathedral!

The Cathedral and Archdiocesan Choirs will be holding **open auditions** starting in January 2020.

Please contact cangelini@archphila.org to set up an appointment time.

The Archdiocesan Choirs do not conflict in any way with parish Mass obligations. Spread the word and have representation from your parish in the choirs at the Mother Church of the Archdiocese.

Choirs include:

Archdiocesan Children’s Choir (Ages 7-18)

Archdiocesan Adult Choir

Cathedral Choir

For more information on these choirs, please visit:

<http://cathedralphila.org/music/choirs-at-the-cathedral-basilica/>

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/>