

OFFICE FOR DIVINE WORSHIP

DECEMBER 2021

Website for the Office for Divine Worship

Website: www.odwphiladelphia.org

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MOST CURRENT LITURGICAL DIRECTIVES WITH REGARD TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC FOR THE ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

Please see the website of the Office for Divine Worship,

<http://www.odwphiladelphia.org/home-page/news/>

for regular updates.

LITURGICAL and CIVIC CALENDAR ITEMS

RECURRING INFORMATION

ONGOING PRAYER FOR THE DIOCESAN PHASE OF THE SYNOD 2023

The following intention is recommended for the Universal Prayer (first category) for occasional use for Sundays throughout the Diocesan Phase of the Synod (October 2021-April 2022).

*For the Diocesan Phase of the next Synod of Bishops,
that this consultation with the members of our local church
will bear fruit in a greater commitment to living out the demands of the Gospel*

*as we journey together with Christ as the Head of his Body, the Church.
Let us pray to the Lord/Lord, hear our prayer.*

*Por la Fase Diocesana del próximo Sínodo de Obispos,
para que esta consulta con los miembros de nuestra iglesia local
dé frutos en un mayor compromiso de vivir las demandas del Evangelio
mientras caminamos junto con Cristo como Cabeza de su Cuerpo, la Iglesia.
Roguemos al Señor / Te rogamus óyenos.*

ONGOING PRAYER FOR HEALING AND PEACE FOR OUR CITY AND COUNTRY

The following intention may be included in the Universal Prayer (second category) regularly for Sundays.

*For the eradication of all forms of racism among all peoples
and that all will open wide their hearts with the love of God and neighbor
so that healing and peace will mark our way of life.
Let us pray to the Lord/Lord, hear our prayer.*

*Por la erradicación de todas las formas de racismo entre todos los pueblos
y que todos abran sus corazones con el amor de Dios y del prójimo
para que la sanación interior y la paz marquen nuestro estilo de vida.
Roguemos al Señor/Te rogamus óyenos.*

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.

TIME OF THE EASTER VIGIL 2022

The Easter Vigil is the first Mass of Easter Sunday and not in any way to be considered an Anticipated Mass for Easter Sunday. This is why the discipline of the Church insists that it should not begin before nightfall in any circumstance. It may be helpful to know that sunset, according to a variety of models, occurs approximately at 7:40 PM on April 16, 2022. This information is provided at this time to assist with calendar planning for 2021-2022. **In general, given the variable date for Easter, it seems best to schedule the Easter Vigil each year for 8:00 PM or later.**

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday, November 28, 2021

Please note the Lectionary cycles for 2022 are:

- *Sunday Cycle – Year C*
- *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. According to the *Book of Blessings*, the Advent Wreath can be placed in any suitable location in the church, including the narthex. If it is in the sanctuary, then it should not obscure the altar or the ambo or impede the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy.

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

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.

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL OF OUR LADY OF LORETO

Friday, December 10, 2021

Pope Francis 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: <https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year-and-calendar/our-lady-of-loreto>.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday, December 12, 2021

The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe is not observed this year since it coincides with the Third Sunday of Advent, which cannot be displaced. It is possible to commemorate Our Lady of Guadalupe with some of the liturgical music, in the homily and the Universal Prayer. The *Las Mañanitas* may take place as usual on December 12, 2021.

SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD, CHRISTMAS

Saturday, December 25, 2021

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 time for Vigil Masses for Christmas in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia is no earlier than 4:00 PM, without exception. There is no requirement to celebrate an evening Mass on Saturday, December 25, 2021. All Masses celebrated on Saturday evening, December 25, 2021, would be the *Christmas Mass during the Day*. Both the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord and the Sunday Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, are days of precept, days of obligation. However, the Nativity of the Lord is of a higher rank on the Table of Liturgical Days. If someone has already attended Mass for Christmas, at the Vigil or earlier in the day, then the Saturday evening Mass would satisfy the obligation for Sunday.

On Saturday evening, December 25, 2021, Evening Prayer is Evening Prayer II for the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord.

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Saturday, January 1, 2022

The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, is observed as a Holy Day of Obligation, except when it falls on a Monday or Saturday as it does this year.

There is no requirement to celebrate an evening Mass on Saturday, January 1, 2022. All parish Masses on Saturday evening January 1, 2022, would be the Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord.

On Saturday evening, January 1, 2022, Evening Prayer is Evening Prayer I for the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord.

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>

SAVE THE NEW DATE

Upon the recommendation of the Pilgrimage Office at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington DC, the anticipated Archdiocesan Pilgrimage scheduled for this fall, Saturday, October 16, 2021, is re-scheduled for Saturday, October 15, 2022.

Planning details will follow. All parishes, religious communities and institutions are asked to mark the date to allow for the broadest possible participation of clergy and faithful from all throughout the Archdiocese.

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*

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.*

- **Priests of the Archdiocese need to request the faculty from the Archbishop once again as of September 1, 2021, to confirm Catholic adults (those who have completed fourteen years of age and older).**
- The 2016 edition of the *Order of Confirmation* must be used for the Conferral of the Sacrament. A copy can be provided by the Office for Divine Worship.
- The celebration of Confirmation is recorded in the parish Confirmation Register and at the church of Baptism.

PLEASE NOTE

Full Sacramental Initiation—Baptism, Confirmation and the first Reception of Holy Communion—apart from the Easter Vigil, outside of the immediate danger of death, requires the permission of the Archbishop (see RCIA, no. 331). Archbishop Perez delegates the Office for Divine Worship to give this permission. Please contact the Office for Divine Worship for such circumstances.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOPS FOR LITURGICAL MINISTERS

The calendar for Spring 2022 workshops for liturgical ministers are posted on the website for the Office for Divine Worship. Register for these workshops 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.

If a parish or institution conducts its own workshop for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, please contact the Office for Divine Worship for instructional materials and to obtain the mandate letters from the Archbishop for the new Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

The following resources is available from the Liturgical Institute at Mundelein for the formation of parish liturgical ministers, <https://liturgy.teachable.com/p/instructions-for-liturgical-ministers>.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion Workshops

Tuesday, February 15, 2022
Saint Thomas the Apostle Church
 Glen Mills, Pennsylvania
 7:00 to 9:00 PM in Church
 Please register at: worship@archphila.org

Tuesday, March 22, 2022
Saint John Bosco Church
235 East County Line Road
Hatboro, Pennsylvania
7:00 PM to 9:00 PM in Church
Please register at: worship@archphila.org

Liturgical Music Workshop

Wednesday, March 15, 2022
Saint Helena Church, Blue Bell, PA
7:00 to 9:00 PM in Church
Please register at: worship@archphila.org

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>.

ON-LINE COURSES ON THE SACRED LITURGY

AVAILABLE FROM THE LITURGICAL INSTITUTE AT MUNDELEIN This is a new online liturgy program as a resource for both church professionals and the laity. This new online program extends the mission of the Institute to diocesan and parish professionals as well as interested individual Catholics. Composed of five one-hour classroom sessions followed by online quizzes, each course awards one-half Continuing Education Unit and brings a fresh, energized approach to the study of liturgical renewal.

For additional information, please see: <https://www.liturgicalinstitute.org/>.

SPECIAL BUNDLES OF COURSES ON THE SACRED LITURGY DESIGNED
FOR THE ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

Please take a moment and look at the link below:

<https://liturgy.teachable.com/p/philadelphia>

The **Liturgical Institute** at Mundelein (at the University of Saint Mary of the Lake) has made available to the Archdiocese of Philadelphia a special bundle of their on-line courses at a most reasonable rate. These courses provide foundational information on the Sacred Liturgy for clergy and the lay faithful.

The summer may be an ideal time for many to take advantage of the opportunity to take these on-line courses. They are excellent refresher courses as well as new learning opportunities for liturgical ministers and catechists.

LINKS TO HELPFUL INFORMATION

FOR AN UPDATED SUPPLEMENT WITH NEW LITURGICAL OBSERVANCES FOR THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Contact Dominican Liturgy Publications:

<https://www.lulu.com/spotlight/athompsonatdsptdotcom> it is the second item on the page.

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/>.