

OFFICE FOR DIVINE WORSHIP

FEBRUARY 2024

Website for the Office for Divine Worship

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EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL INFORMATION FOR THE ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

<https://www.phillyeucharisticrevival.org/>

Please see the link below for sheet music for the hymn of the Eucharistic Revival, Let the Earth Acclaim (in English and Spanish):

https://www.eucharisticrevival.org/post/sheet-music-available-for-new-eucharistic-hymns?_hsmi=283496485&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-8yfd0ViHAKXN5FZT2DCEnq-P0agJI9G0394neBfjHvvMS-XjEdilKOITMkYbLjbajvfP0hHylbgj_MMSXFRXxQ1IcCIA

LITURGICAL AND CIVIC CALENDAR ITEMS

FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

Friday, February 2, 2024

The Blessing of Candles using one of the two forms in the *Roman Missal* should be scheduled to take place at Mass on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord.

WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE

Thursday, February 2, 2024

(Celebrated in Parishes in the US on February 3-4, 2024)

World Day for Consecrated Life is a day of prayer for men and women who make public vows to “imitate Christ more closely, striving for the perfection of charity in the service of the Kingdom of God.” (*Code of Canon Law, canon 573*). World Day for Consecrated Life is observed by the universal Church on February 2; however, in the United States for parishes to fully celebrate this important day, it is transferred to the following Sunday.

Resources for parish celebrations of the World Day for Consecrated Life can be found on the USCCB website at:

<http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/vocations/consecrated-life/world-day-for-consecrated-life.cfm>.

MEMORIAL OF SAINT BLAISE, BISHOP AND MARTYR, AND BLESSING OF THROATS

Saturday, February 3, 2024

The blessing of throats should be observed according to the directives and with the prayer found in the *Book of Blessings*, Chapter 51. It is also possible for the blessing of throats to follow the celebration of Mass.

MEMORIAL OF SAINT JOSEPHINE BAKHITA NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR SURVIVORS AND VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Thursday, February 8, 2024

The United States Bishops encourage the clergy and faithful to pray on this day for all those affected by human trafficking. Additional information on the observance of this day of prayer in the parish can be found here: <http://www.usccb.org/about/anti-trafficking-program/day-of-prayer.cfm>.

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (MEMORIAL OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES)

WORLD DAY OF THE SICK

Sunday, February 11, 2024

Blessed Pope John Paul II in 1992 established *World Day of the Sick* in conjunction with the Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes. Although the Memorial is not observed liturgically this year, a remembrance of the sick in the announcements and in the Universal Prayer is especially fitting this day.

LOOKING FORWARD
TO LENT, THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM AND EASTER TIME 2024

ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

Ashes are distributed **only** on Ash Wednesday and **not** the days before or after. The directives and texts in the *Roman Missal* are to be faithfully observed. In other words, to distribute blessed Ashes without some announcement of God's Word seriously compromises the meaning of the sacramental. When ashes are provided for the homebound, they should be carefully packaged in an appropriate container and not in a tissue. Also, a form for imposition should be provided, modeled on the *Roman Missal's* instructions for the distribution of blessed ashes outside Mass.

CONFESSIONS DURING LENT

Lent provides an excellent occasion to catechize about the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, to follow more faithfully the form for *The Order for Reconciling Individual Penitents (Chapter I)* and *The Order for Reconciling Several Penitents with Individual Confession and Absolution (Chapter II)* in the *Order of Penance*.

The *Order of Penance* (formerly the *Rite of Penance*) is a revision of the first English translation of the 1973 Latin edition. The revision only affected the translation and not the structure of the rites. **Its first use date was Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2023. It has been mandatory for use since the Second Sunday of Easter or Divine Mercy Sunday, April 16, 2023. No other English translation may be used.**

Resources for the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, based on the revised *Order of Penance*, are available on the website of the Office for Divine Worship prior to Ash Wednesday, <http://www.odwphiladelphia.org/sacred-liturgy/archdiocesan-guidelines/>.

WAY OF THE CROSS AND BENEDICTION OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT

Typically, the Way of the Cross, with the movement from station to station, does not take place in conjunction with exposition and benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Exposition with the reading of the Word of God and time for adoration and then Benediction may follow the Way of the Cross.

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. Additional information can be found on the website for the Office for Divine Worship.

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 of the Office for Divine Worship. This letter provides helpful pastoral, theological and liturgical (as well as liturgical music) information for pastors and preparers of the Sacred Liturgy for Lent, the Sacred Paschal Triduum and Easter Time.

THE GLORIA IS SUNG AT ALL WEEKDAY WEDDING MASSES DURING LENT

According to the third—current—edition of the *Roman Missal*, the Gloria is sung, even during Advent and Lent, when the Ritual Mass for the Celebration of Marriage is used. The Penitential Act is always omitted during a Wedding Mass.

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*

**2024 Rite of Election of Catechumens
And of the Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates
Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2024 @ 3:00 PM

BUCKS COUNTY
CHESTER COUNTY
MONTGOMERY COUNTY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2024 @ 3:00PM

DELAWARE COUNTY
PHILADELPHIA NORTH
PHILADELPHIA SOUTH

- All correspondence and registration is conducted electronically. See the website for the Office for Divine Worship, under the heading *Christian Initiation*.

- The Call to Continuing Conversion is meant for adults (and not children) who are baptized and will be received into Full Communion and/or Confirmation and/or Communion. Also, the Call to Continuing Conversion is equally meant for those already baptized who have not been practicing the Christian Faith but now are returning with the celebration of the Easter Sacraments.
- Parishes are encouraged to observe the *Sending of Catechumens for Election* (cf. RCIA, nos. 106-117) or the *Rite of Sending the Candidates for Recognition by the Bishop and for the Call to Continuing Conversion* (cf. RCIA, nos. 434-445) or the *Parish Celebration for Sending Catechumens for Election and Candidates for Recognition by the Bishop* (cf. RCIA, nos. 530-546), depending on the local circumstances, the week or so before the *Celebration of the Rite of Election of Catechumens and of the Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates*.

CELEBRATION OF THE SCRUTINIES AND PRESENTATIONS OF THE CREED AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

The Rites belonging to the Period of Purification and Enlightenment, RCIA nos. 138-205, found in the ritual book, *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*, are to be carefully observed for the Elect. Any questions regarding these rites may be directed to the Office for Divine Worship.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THE EASTER VIGIL

TIME OF THE EASTER VIGIL 2024

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 7:23 PM on March 30, 2024. In general, given the variable date for Easter, it seems best to schedule the Easter Vigil each year for 8:00 PM or later.

In accord with the US National Statutes for the Catechumenate (November, 11, 1986) no. 33, the Archbishop asks that you note:

Only the adult elect, that is, the unbaptized catechumens elected at the Rite of Election, are to be fully initiated with Baptism, Confirmation and reception of the Body and Blood of the Lord at the Solemn Paschal Vigil, according to the rites outlined in the *Roman Missal*. Children may also be baptized at the Easter Vigil.

Baptized non-Catholic Christians are to be received into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church on Palm Sunday or Easter Sunday or any Sunday of Easter Time.

In fact, this reception can take place almost any time during the Church Year according to the rite outlined in the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* (cf. RCIA, nos. 473-504). No additional permission is required for this Reception of Baptized Christians in the Full Communion of the Catholic Church.

For many parishes, this practice continues to represent an innovation that requires catechesis on the dignity of Baptism and the avoidance of any confusion between candidates for Baptism and baptized Christians.

Candidates for the Reception into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church should be encouraged to participate in the Easter Vigil, especially with a distinct place to sit among the faithful and acknowledged by the priest celebrant.

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, the Archbishop will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on Pentecost Sunday, May 19, 2024, during the 11:00 AM Solemn 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 distributed soon and then also 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). The Archbishop gives this faculty to all priests of the Archdiocese to confirm Roman Catholic Adults, 16 years of age and older, 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. *Priests are reminded that only the 2016 revised The Order of Confirmation may be used to celebrate the Sacrament.*

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.

COLDS AND FLU 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 distribution of 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.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOPS FOR LITURGICAL MINISTERS

The calendar for Spring 2024 workshops for liturgical ministers is posted on the website for the Office for Divine Worship. Register for these workshops at worship@archphila.org.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Tuesday, March 12, 2024
Epiphany of Our Lord Church, Plymouth Meeting
7:00 to 9:00 PM
Please register at: worship@archphila.org

Lectors

Wednesday, March 20, 2024
Mother of Divine Providence Church, King of Prussia
7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
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. If a parish or institution conducts its own workshop for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, please contact the Office for Divine Worship to obtain the mandate letters from the Archbishop for the new Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

The following resource 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

- **All Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, without exception, are to have a current appointment letter from the Archbishop.**
- **Extraordinary Ministers who serve in institutions and schools throughout the Archdiocese are typically commissioned for service in their parishes and likewise commissioned for service in the institution and/or school.**
- Candidates are to be fully initiated practicing Catholics, high school graduates, not in an invalid marriage, recognized for faith and devotion to the Holy Eucharist as well as for service in the parish/institution/school. Pastors/chaplains are reminded to be discerning in the invitation to members of the lay faithful to carry out this ministry.
- Pastors and chaplains are encouraged to send new Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to the archdiocesan formation sessions. Letters of Appointment from the Archbishop will then follow. *Veteran Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are also welcome to attend.*
- 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 Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion.
- All records of active Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are maintained by the parish/institution/school.
- **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/schools for which they are commissioned.

GUIDELINES FOR CHAPELS IN RECTORIES

The Office for Divine Worship, according to the Archdiocesan Policy Manual, has oversight for Chapels in Rectories. Pastors are asked to review these guidelines for

compliance. Please direct any questions or concerns about chapels in rectories to the Office for Divine Worship.

RECURRING INFORMATION

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.

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 be the celebration of one Mass at least for the benefit of the faithful who desire to attend Mass.

LINKS TO HELPFUL INFORMATION

THE LITURGICAL EXCHANGE

For information about the new Liturgical Exchange in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, please see: <https://www.liturgicalexchange.com/>.

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:

<https://www.usccb.org/committees/divine-worship/newsletter>.

FOR PAST MONTHLY MAILINGS OF THE OFFICE FOR DIVINE WORSHIP

Visit: <http://www.odophiladelphia.org/sacred-liturgy/monthly-mailings/>.