

OFFICE FOR DIVINE WORSHIP

JUNE 2025

Website for the Office for Divine Worship

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JUBILEE YEAR 2025

Please see our archdiocesan website for the Jubilee Year, <https://archphila.org/hollyyear/>. This is the site for local information on the Jubilee Year—archdiocesan observances and resources.

Additional websites with information on the Jubilee Year:

<https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/it.html>

<https://www.usccb.org/committees/jubilee-2025>

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 CALENDAR ITEMS

ORDINATION AT THE CATHEDRAL BASILICA OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL

The Ordination of Permanent Deacons will take place on Saturday, June 14, 2025. Please include an intention in the Universal Prayer on the Sundays before the Ordination for those who will receive the Sacrament of Holy Orders.

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY AND FATHER'S DAY

Sunday, June 15, 2025

An intention in the Universal Prayer and the possible use of the *Prayer over the People* found in the *Book of Blessings*, nos. 1729-1733, provides for a suitable liturgical inclusion of Father's Day. Without prejudice to the liturgical and biblical texts of the day, the homily may also include a promotion of Christian fatherhood.

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST (CORPUS CHRISTI)

Sunday, June 22, 2025

All Parishes, Religious Houses, and Institutions where the Blessed Sacrament is reserved are asked to schedule a period of solemn exposition and adoration on *Corpus Christi*. Parishes, if possible, are also encouraged to have a Eucharistic Procession.

Exposition and a procession with the Most Blessed Sacrament follow the norms found in the ritual book, *Holy Communion and the Worship of the Eucharistic Mystery Outside Mass* (Revised 2024). It is also possible to have exposition and a procession with the Most Blessed Sacrament on a day near to the Solemnity, in anticipation or to recall its observance.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM WEEK

June 22 through June 29, 2024

WITNESSES TO HOPE

People of faith are committed to serving others in God's love in healthcare, child welfare, migration and refugee resettlement, education, and more. Religious freedom protects the space in which we can continue to serve. *Religious Freedom Week* begins June 22, the Memorial of Saints Thomas More & John Fisher. Join Catholics across the country to pray and act for the freedom to serve faithfully and with integrity.

Learn more at:

**ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEDICATION
OF THE CATHEDRAL BASILICA OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL
Monday, June 30, 2025**

This commemoration is observed all throughout the Archdiocese of Philadelphia with the celebration of the Eucharist and the Liturgy of the Hours (in all places). Inside the Cathedral Basilica, this observance is a Solemnity. Outside of the Cathedral Basilica, this observance is a Feast.

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.*

Additionally, Archbishop Nelson J. Pérez will confer the Sacrament of Confirmation for adult baptized Roman Catholics at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on **Pentecost Sunday, June 8, 2025, at the 11:00 AM Solemn Mass.**

- **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).** This delegation is required for the validity of the Sacrament in the case of a Roman Catholic candidate. Please send this request for delegation to the Office for Divine Worship.
- **The Archbishop gives this faculty to all priests of the Archdiocese to confirm adult baptized Roman Catholics, 16 years of age and older, on any occasion from Palm Sunday through Pentecost Sunday.** 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 this period specified by the Archbishop. *Priests are reminded that only the 2016 revised The Order of Confirmation may be used to celebrate the Sacrament.*

Candidates are to be at least sixteen years of age, who are already catechized in the faith, attend Mass regularly on Sundays, and, if married, validly married in the Church.

- *If for some serious reason, a school age baptized Roman Catholic—elementary and high school—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.*

Preparation for this Sacrament at the parish should include serious catechetical instruction on the Sacrament of Confirmation, an opportunity for the celebration of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation prior to the Sacrament of Confirmation, and the selection of a sponsor.

Please see the website of the Office for Divine Worship to register each baptized Catholic adult for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation on June 8, 2025. All registrations are handled electronically.

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 OCIA, no. 331). Archbishop Perez delegates the Office for Divine Worship to give this permission. Please contact the Office for Divine Worship for such circumstances.

If there are any questions about the celebration of Baptism in unusual or irregular circumstances, please contact the Office for Divine Worship.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOPS FOR LITURGICAL MINISTERS

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 of Philadelphia for the new Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

- **All Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, without exception, are to have a current appointment letter from the Archbishop of Philadelphia.**
- **Extraordinary Ministers who serve in institutions and schools throughout the Archdiocese of Philadelphia 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.

DISPLAY OF FLAGS IN CATHOLIC CHURCHES

There are no regulations of any kind governing the display of flags in Roman Catholic Churches. Neither the Code of Canon law, nor the liturgical books of the Roman Rite comment on this practice. As a result, the question of whether and how to display the American flag in a Catholic Church is left up to the judgment of the diocesan bishop, who in turn often delegates this to the discretion of the pastor.

The origin of the display of the American flag in many parishes in the United States appears to have its origins in the offering of prayers for those who served during the Second World War (1939-1945). At that time, many bishops and pastors provided a book of remembrance near the American flag, requesting prayers for loved ones – especially those serving their country in the armed forces. This practice has since been confirmed in many places during more recent conflicts.

The Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy has in the past encouraged pastors not to place the flag within the sanctuary itself, to reserve that space for the altar, the ambo, the presidential chair and the tabernacle. Instead, the suggestion has been made that the American flag be placed outside the sanctuary, or in the vestibule of the Church together with a book of prayer requests. It remains, however, for the diocesan bishop to determine regulations in this matter.

GUIDELINES FOR THE BUILDING AND RENOVATING OF CHURCHES AND CHAPELS IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia, in addition to what is described in the liturgical ritual books, follows the guidelines of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops for the building and renovating of churches and chapels. These guidelines are found in the USCCB document, *Built of Living Stones: Art, Architecture and Worship*, 2007, Fifth Printing, revised.

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 of Philadelphia 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/>.

Please consider spring cleaning your sacristies and storage areas for liturgical items no longer needed or in use. The *Liturgical Exchange* provides a great service within and outside the Archdiocese of Philadelphia for those looking to repurpose liturgical items for churches and chapels.

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.odwphiladelphia.org/sacred-liturgy/monthly-mailings/>.